

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 51 - NO. 8 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON February 2006

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 27-29

FORT DESOTO FIELD TRIP

Lois Robinson

We will leave at 8 am (bring a lunch) from Covenant United Methodist Church on Clyde Morris Blvd in Port Orange on Thursday, April 27 for a two-night trip to Ft. Desoto Park and surrounding bird areas near St. Petersburg. We will return Saturday April 29 around 6 pm.

We do not know for sure if Thursday night will be spent at Eckerd College but we will know by the last of February. Friday night will definitely be at Eckerd College. We will be going in 12-passenger vans.

The cost will be approximately \$225.00 and will include two overnights in St. Pete, 4 or 5 meals, and transportation. More information will come out in March and April. Money and reservations will be due in March 27th as Eckerd needs the list of names and exact number of rooms by then.

Those who have gone on this trip always find the number of species and the number of new life birds to be outstanding. Think Long-billed Curlew, Bobolinks, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Caracaras, unusual warblers, buntings, tanagers, and cuckoos. We will also visit Sawgrass Lake Park and Lake Seminole Park, two great birding sites in greater St. Petersburg. This is the peak of the spring migration so you will be bowled over! Call Lois Robinson, 760.8480, to register and for information.

RALLY FOR THE RIVERS

February 17-19, 2006 Event Features Field Trips, Art Show, Music Festival, and Smart Growth Workshop

Join us for the second Rally for the Rivers, a three-day event to promote restoration of the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers; increase environmental awareness; teach the principals of smart growth and empower activists. Sponsored by the Putnam County Environmental Council, most events are free and all are open to the public.

Come interact with candidates running in the 2006 election and demonstrate the economic value of nature-based tourism in a festive and fun atmosphere.

Scheduled events include:

SMART GROWTH WORKSHOP: Friday, February 17, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. A free, all-day growth management workshop at the Riverfront Inn in Palatka.

Space is limited; pre-registration is required. Call Margy Bielling at 352-685-2434 for more information.

RIVERFEST: Saturday, February 18, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. Join other restoration and conservation advocates at Palatka's Riverfront Park on the St. Johns River for an arts and crafts show with live music, food, storytelling, conservation seminars, St. Johns River cruises, information tables, and a very special raffle. This will be your chance to speak one-on-one with candidates who are running in 2006 for state and federal offices. Contact Karen Ahlers at 352-546-3560 or pcecriverrally@hotmail.com

FIELD TRIPS: Saturday and Sunday mornings, February 18-19: Over 50 field trips, mostly free and led by experts will be offered for adventurers of all types. Contact David Zeigler at davidpzeigler@aol.com or 352-546-4715.

OCKLAWAHA RIVER WRAP PARTY: Sunday afternoon, February 19, 1:00 pm. Join event organizers, volunteers, and fellow Rally participants for a relaxing afternoon on the banks of the Ocklawaha on the southwest side of Rodman Dam for boat rides, music, food, and campfire fun.

Bring something to contribute to the soup pot or a dish for the table and your own drinks, a blanket or chair for comfort, binoculars, cameras, musical instruments ... whatever it takes to help you wrap up the weekend and wind down.

Last year, the Rally brought 1,500 people from 34 Florida counties, seven states, and six countries. With the help of Audubon and other conservation organizations, PCEC successfully demonstrated that nature-based tourism does pay. PCEC calculated that the two-day event had an overall economic impact of up to \$288,000.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Riverfront Inn in Palatka. Call 386-328-3481 to make your reservations at the event rate of \$60-\$75, good through February 2, 2006. Be sure to mention the Rally to ensure the conference rate.

Go to the Florida Defenders of the Environment website at www.fladefenders.org/riverrally.html for more information, including lists of camping and dorm-style accommodations, area restaurants, and field trips. Participants are encouraged to sign up for field trips soon. The most popular trips tend to fill up fast.

Hope to see you there!

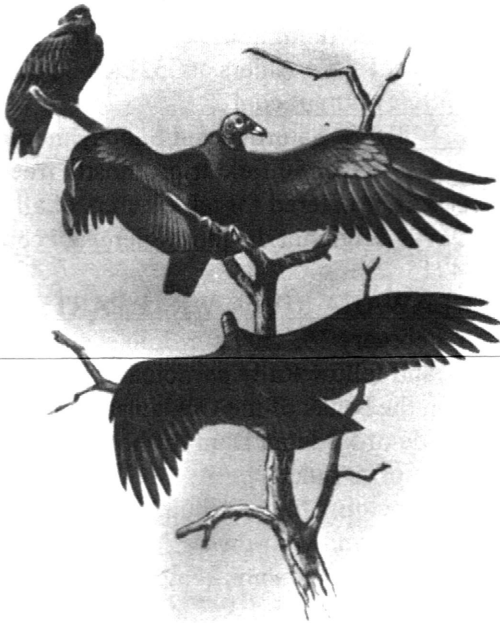
February 20 Program Meeting

VULTURES AND THEIR SCAVENGER FRIENDS

Paula Wehr

The vultures of Florida are part of a distinct group of birds with a "gruesome" diet. When you get to know the natural history of New World vultures, their true character will surprise and delight you. These birds deal with death everyday, and the curiosity they exhibit today searching for some fast-road killed-food is a behavior acquired in thousands of years. Armed with excellent eyesight and sense of smell, a body built for soaring, and behaviors that make the most of their natural abilities, they find and dispose of carrion throughout Florida.

Learn more about these birds and other scavengers, as we explore the cycle of life, and death, in this presentation devoted to this group.



Steve DeCresie is a Florida naturalist. He was born in the Tampa Bay area and grew up camping, biking, and hiking throughout Florida's varied landscape and has been studying these habitats for the last 19 years. Finding ways to bring Florida's natural wonders to the uninitiated has earned him the nickname "Nature Nerd." Armed with facts about nature and a collection of photographic images of our flora and fauna, he has integrated them into an enjoyable way to learn about nature. He has taught workshops and classes focused on developing naturalist skills for groups of all ages. Steve is currently employed at the Central Florida Zoological Park. He also teaches High School Environmental Science for Home School and for summer field biology camps for the Orlando Science Center. His current research projects focus on Florida box turtle, ecological relationships of lichens and tree snails, and the reproduction of endangered Florida native wild cotton.

Don't Forget The Backyard Bird Count February 17-20

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Lois Robinson

Just count the number and species of birds you see in your backyard, around the neighborhood, and any birding trip you take any time during Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, the 17th through the 20th. Then log on to www.birdsource.org/gbbc and record your findings. Be sure you enter your zip code so the location of your spotting will be correct. If you take any digital pictures during the Count, send them to Paula Wehr at paulawehr@bellsouth.net and she can post them on our website.

Why we should take this bird count seriously? These observations help the ongoing study of bird populations and how they wax and wane each year. They focus on the environmental factors that seem to be contributing to particular results. The more we know about birds, the more we are able to help them in their ongoing struggle for survival. Also this is an introductory citizen science program that will bring attention to our Chapter and its activities. The News-Journal usually publishes an article highlighting what we are trying to accomplish.

Thank you for participating. Call Lois Robinson, 760-8480 for more information.

JANUARY BOARD MINUTES

Action Items:

- Board approved a bid of \$505+ for 4 signs to be erected at the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary in the Halifax River south of the Dunlawton Bridge.
- Board moved to place the memorial bench in memory of Carlton Smith and Angelo Cerrito at Lake Woodruff. Subsequently the Lake Woodruff Wildlife Refuge staff turned down our offer to place the bench there because the bench construction would differ from those at the Refuge now. Officials at Port Orange accepted our offer to place the bench at Buschman Park.
- Board voted \$150 to sponsor the Native Plant Society Association Conference. The local Pawpaw Chapter is hosting the event.

Reports:

- Golden Dog sales made a total profit this fiscal year of \$446.45. The Chapter checking account balance is \$10,777.13.
- Volusia County Councilman Jack Hayman, who has jurisdiction of the Port Orange area of Volusia County, has given our Chapter the go-ahead for our signage project for the Halifax River Islands. David Hartgrove reported that Island #3 has no birds on it at present, a very unusual occurrence.
- The bird feeder we maintain at Sugar Mill Gardens has been repaired. The Board is planning to put up a Martin House in Ormond Central Park, if permitted.

Halifax River Audubon Christmas Bird Count Count Area: 7 -mile radius of Tomoka River Bridge on I-95

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	BIRD	9	2	1	11	3	Eagle, Bald
1	3	2	5	4	Loon, Common		1	1	1		Harrier, Northern
21	12	14	14	13	Grebe, Pied-billed	1	2	3	1		Hawk, Sharp-shinned
	6				Grebe, Horned	2	2	6	2	2	Hawk, Cooper's
82	423	11	3	4	Gannet, Northern	21	17	24	38	21	Hawk, Red-shouldered
1		27	20	1	Pelican, American White				1		Hawk, Broad-winged
73	238	84	189	115	Pelican, Brown	21	7	5	5	1	Hawk, Red-tailed
98	205	175	203	81	Cormorant, Double-crested	45	26	25	13	12	Kestrel, American
27	20	18	18	20	Anhinga			1			Merlin
				1	Bittern, American	1			1		Peregrine
28	21	20	31	13	Heron, Great Blue			2			Hawk, <i>species</i>
32	29	24	37	20	Egret, Great	50	36	67	67	84	Turkey, Wild
14	1	19	31	4	Egret, Snowy		2				Bobwhite, Northern
9	20	15	23	12	Heron, Little Blue	1					Gallinule, Purple
3	5	1	12	2	Heron, Tricolored	14	26	21	10	14	Moorhen, Common
84	110	368	103	74	Egret, Cattle	44	21	22	9	65	Coot, American
1	6	5	1	1	Heron, Green					4	Crane, Sandhill
69	200	276	125	169	Ibis, White	31	2	1	13	13	Plover, Black-bellied
38	23	8	51	23	Stork, Wood	104	76	91	127	56	Killdeer
1					Goose, Canada		2	2			Oystercatcher, American
				1	Scoter, Surf	2	1			1	Yellowlegs, Greater
2		9	6		Duck, Wood			1			Yellowlegs, Lesser
		3			Wigeon, American	46		10		47	Willet
38	10		3	23	Mallard	2	1	3			Sandpiper, Spotted
-	3				MallardXMuscovy Hybrid	187	112	58	110	47	Turnstone, Ruddy
15					Teal, Blue-winged	316	40	6		62	Knot, Red
				55	Teal, Green-winged	430	221	149	248	243	Sanderling
17	2807	1	103		Scaup, Lesser		2				Sandpiper, Western
	12	4	11	28	Merganser, Hooded	36					Dunlin
5	8	2	7	3	Merganser, Red-headed	16					Sandpiper species
				2	Duck, Ruddy	74	2	3		12	Snipe, Wilson's
15		6	29	13	Duck, Muscovy	1382	1057	627	2378	1349	Gull, Laughing
50					Duck species	370	1753	1155	828	848	Gull, Ring-billed
92	85	146	133	195	Vulture, Black	20		7	10	18	Gull, Herring
265	93	269	137	173	Vulture, Turkey	3	2	1	6	6	Gull, Great Black-backed
26	5	12	19	3	Osprey	75					Gull species

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	BIRD
3		2			Tern, Caspian
161	66	159	33	153	Tern, Royal
24	35	43	26	107	Tern, Sandwich
					Tern, Common
8	43	5	13	7	Tern, Forster's
1		8			Tern, species
	5				Skimmer, Black
757	752	514	1002	620	Pigeons, Rock
109	76	71	76	59	Collared-Dove, Eurasian
294	271	127	213	352	Dove, Mourning
	6				Ground-Dove, Common
1					Owl, Barn
4	4	6	2	2	Screech-Owl, Eastern
1	1	2			Owl, Great Horned
4	3	6	1	1	Owl, Barred
		1			Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
29	10	8	13	8	Kingfisher, Belted
4	1	7	1	1	Woodpecker, Red-headed
49	55	20	36	22	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
2	5	2	10	3	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
17	22	18	7	7	Woodpecker, Downy
2					Woodpecker, Hairy
6	1	3	1		Flicker, Northern
15	14	8	27	4	Woodpecker, Piliated
29	36	18	14	16	Phoebe, Eastern
180	857	812	54	5260	Swallow, Tree
2					Swallow, Northern Rough-winged
28	48	32	47	21	Jay, Blue
56	49	39	27	66	Crow, American
184	11	98	32	261	Crow, Fish
67	26	17	18	3	Crow, species
2	6	5	2	5	Chickadee, Carolina
3	16	7	21	13	Titmouse, Tufted
				1	Nuthatch, Red-breasted
6	11	21	6		Nuthatch, Brown-headed
20	46	16	17	7	Wren, Carolina
3	21	16	4	5	Wren, House
		1			Wren, Sedge
32	128	27	27	18	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
13	29	17	14	19	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray

10	22	19	5	8	Bluebird, Eastern
	10	6			Thrush, Hermit
755	1339	1007	834	1625	Robin, American
25	65	35	20	16	Catbird, Gray
79	73	52	63	23	Mockingbird, Northern
	1				Thrasher, Brown
	66				Pipit, American
	223		135		Waxwing, Cedar
45	40	29	23	11	Shrike, Loggerhead
490	439	135	340	532	Starling, European
2	18	17		5	Vireo, White-eyed
1	11	6	3	6	Vireo, Blue-headed
2	4	3	3	1	Warbler, Orange-crowned
1					Warbler, Yellow
728	1659	1416	822	632	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
3	2	1	4		Warbler, Yellow-throated
7	61	41	12	17	Warbler, Pine
1	2	1			Warbler, Prairie
73	65	39	36	32	Warbler, Palm
2	2	2		1	Warbler, Black-and-white
5	18	7	6	7	Yellowthroat, Common
1					Warbler, species
33	83	32	50	26	Cardinal, Northern
1	6	13	1	4	Towhee, Eastern
	29	25	7	2	Sparrow, Chipping
				1	Sparrow, Field
			2		Sparrow, Vesper
	5	6	19	35	Sparrow, Savannah
				1	Sparrow, Song
	9	9	3	1	Sparrow, Swamp
	1				Sparrow, White-throated
147	197	182	18	109	Blackbird, Red-winged
6		3	4		Meadowlark, Eastern
230	81	208	57	54	Grackle, Boat-tailed
84	285	129	110	9	Grackle, Common
35	136	56		85	Cowbird, Brown-headed
	1				Oriole, Baltimore
1	60	17	34	18	Goldfinch, American
			1		Finch, House
81		13	22	1	Sparrow, House

2005 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATA

Daytona Beach

29.25 degrees North, -81.1167 degrees West

Count Date: December 18, 2005

Participants: 11 - # Party hours: 38.0

Species: 101

Low temp: 48 - High temp: 63

AM weather: cloudy, light rain

PM weather: cloudy, light rain

Compiler: David Hartgrove

Other participants: Michael Brothers, Chandra Bruce, Matt Bruce, Kevin Doxstater, Rachel Ramsey, Paul Rebmann, John Roessler, Ken Russell, Ray Scory, and Larry Wallberg.

National Audubon total count for year 106

Country completed: 543

Total birds reported: 21,855,104

CALENDAR 2005-2006

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

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

Friday, February 3

Halifax River Field Trip. Paynes Prairie, near town of Micanopy in Alachua County. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson and Granada Blvds, Ormond Beach. 6:30am. Led by David Hartgrove, 386 788-2630. Bring lunch. (1-3)

Thursday, February 16

Orange Audubon Society Program Meeting. "Landscaping for Wildlife" by Neta Villalobos-Bell & Richard Poole. Meet at Leu Gardens in the Camellia Room, 1920 North Forest Ave. Orlando. 7:00 pm. Call 407-246-2620 for directions.

Friday, February 17

West Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Cummer Road Birding. Contact Vivian Taylor at 734-1390.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, February 17-19

Rally for the Rivers. See article.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, February 17-20

The Great Backyard Bird Count Returns for its Ninth Season. See article.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday, February 18-20

Everglades National Park Birdfest. Contact Broward County Audubon Society at 954-776-5585 or browardaudubon.org.

Saturday, February 18

Orlando Wetlands Park Festival, Christmas. Experience the world's first large-scale wetlands treatment system, a magnet for all types of wildlife. Features include birdwatching tours, photo shoots, bicycle tours, native plant walks, bird banding and mist-netting demonstrations, wildlife shows, historic reenactments, live music, Native American demonstrations, and bus tours will travel along the

wetland berms. Contact Mark Sees, 407-568-1706, www.nbbd.com/festivals/OrlandoWetlands.

Monday, February 20

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Learn to Love Vultures" by Steve DeCreise. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm. See article.

Tuesday, February 21

Pawpaw Native Plant Society program. "Flora of Volusia and Flagler Counties" by Paul Rebmann, photographer. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Saturday and Sunday, February 25-26

Halifax River Field Trip. Wakulla Springs State Park, Wakulla County. Meet at Daytona Beach Water Treatment Plant, east side of LPGA Blvd. 6:00am. Led by Carol Branch, 386 226-8588. No more reservation accepted.

Tuesday, February 28

West Volusia Audubon Society program meeting. "A Year in North America" by Roger Kessler, Photographer. Woman's Club of DeLand, 128 West Michigan Ave., DeLand. 6:30 pm. For Information call Laura Cash, 626-2329.

ST JOHNS RIVER 3-DAY ECO-HERITAGE TOUR

Join St. Johns Riverkeeper for a 3-day Eco-Heritage cruise along the St. Johns River between Jacksonville and Sanford! Each day, passengers enjoy spectacular scenery, delicious lunches, fascinating speakers and historical reenactors. We will stop along the way to visit interesting and beautiful places, such as Trout Creek, Mount Royal, and Silver Glen Springs. Experience the true beauty and essence of the St. Johns River. Learn about its history, flora and fauna from naturalists, authors, historians, storytellers, and a third generation native Floridian! The next trips are scheduled for April 18-20 from Jacksonville to Sanford and April 21-23 from Sanford to Jacksonville. Your reservation includes: boat travel, ground transportation, lunch, entertainment, and overnight accommodations. Enjoy this once in a lifetime experience for \$515 per person. For more information, call Jeanne Shaw at 904-270-0340.

Out of the hells of the sun, the needful and terrible emptiness of the spaces, comes all we know – the infinite individuality of every leaf in the wood, the holy beauty of the thrush's song, the sensitive ear of the listener.

-- A Book of Hours, by Donald Culross Peattie

Welcome to new Halifax River Audubon Chapter members Barbara and Douglas Brown, Kevin and Maria Hayworth, Gaston Hayworth, David E. Hess, Kathy Pernat, and Christine Reinhard.

REPORT FROM CANAVERAL

Willie Burns

David Hartgrove's Christmas Bird Count this year still holds the record for the worst weather for a birding event of any kind in this area. The Canaveral Seashore National Park (Cana) survey on January 14th was a miserable day, cold and windy, but not even close to the cold rain the earlier counters suffered through!

Three of us, Barb Kieran, Rachel Ramsey, and I (Willie), spent the morning in a pickemup truck in the Cana Back Country. The temperature was in the mid forties and it was very windy. Mosquito Lagoon was covered with large rolling breaking waves, far more serious than white caps.

It may have been a good thing that the rest of the team had to cancel out. Riding in the back of the truck would have been unpleasant. The wind had blown out most of the peeps and songbirds. Last year's horde's of Towhees and Catbirds weren't there; there was only one each that we could find.

We drove to the end of pavement in the Northern District of Cana, at Parking Lot 5. There law enforcement Ranger Rob opened the gate to give us access to the rough sand road that runs behind the dune all the way to the south end of the Park. We drove four miles south, almost to the Broward County line, the Park's mid point.

The bays and marshes held large flocks of White Pelicans, Great Egrets, White Ibis, and Wiliets. A few Glossy Ibis and a Yellowlegs were there, along with many Hooded and a few Red-breasted Mergansers. Many birds were roosting or feeding in the lee of the mangroves, which put them clearly in our vision.

We were joined later in the morning by Ospreys, which seemed to wait for the sun to warm the day. As always the Turkey Vultures were up before the Blacks. We saw four Bald Eagles, including three doing an aerial ballet fairly close to us.

We found a few Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings on the beach at Lot 4, which has a nice high platform to overlook the beach and ocean. A small foray into the hammock to Doris Leaper's former home produced nothing but wind, but the Feller's camp was where we found the Eagles out over the old channel.

We got a total of 35 species, the largest number being White Pelicans at 210. We counted 164 Ring-billed Gulls (no surprise there, but only one each Laughing and Great Black-backed Gull), 153 White Ibis, and 103 Great Egrets. Our "ancillary" list was one Bobcat and several Armadillos.

The Back Country is only accessible by special permit. Being out in the middle of it with no sign of habitation anywhere was truly breath taking. So was the wind. In some places we could see for miles across the marsh and lagoon to the woods of Merritt Island with nothing moving but waves and birds. Seeing the flocks of

birds burst into the air to circle a few times and land again was inspiring.

Afterwards, tired and cold but happy we adjourned to JB's Fish Camp for an excellent lunch.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

By now you've either read the article that appeared in the News-Journal, or seen for yourself that the 1,000+ birds that for so long graced Rookery Island, have disappeared. They were seen on the island on December 28th. But when we did the Ponce Inlet Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, January 1st, there were no birds to be seen.

When we did the Fall Migration Count last September, I counted over 750 Brown Pelicans alone. Add several hundred White Ibis that roosted each night on the island, another several hundred mixed egrets, herons and cormorants and their sudden disappearance makes for quite a mystery. Speculation has run rampant as to the cause of this event. Everything from the natural: predation by raccoons, to the highly unnatural: some developer's agents sprayed a substance on the island that caused the birds to leave, has been considered. It remains a vexing mystery.

Willie Burns and I took the "Passing Wind" over to the island twice, the second time News-Journal writer, Virginia Smith, joined us. The first time I walked the entire perimeter of the island and as far into the vegetation as I could without damaging the trees. I saw no evidence of the spraying of any strange substance. There were no masses of dead birds, no withered leaves, no odd odors, other than decaying guano. I did find the remains of one first year Brown Pelican, but it had died entangled in mono-filament fishing line. Apparently the bird had an experience with a fisherman who'd cut the line and the bird flew back to the mangroves with 100 or so feet of line trailing behind. Starvation is not a pretty way to die. But this probably happens a couple of times a year on the island. This bird's death struggles would not be the source of stress causing an entire colony to pick up and move. A couple of hungry raccoons could cause such an event I've recently learned and as I said, we did find raccoon tracks

I knew that raccoons could be the cause of a nesting colony to fail. And this was certainly a successful nesting colony, when nesting was going on. At this time of the year though the island is a roosting, feeding and resting spot. Two different sources have told me that hungry raccoons can empty a colony and since we found tracks, the next step is to try trapping them. If the aroma of a can of cat chow will entice them into a trap, we'll remove them out to somewhere west of I-95. The birds did leave the island after the freeze of 1983 killed off the mangroves and they returned when things got better. Hopefully, they will again. We'll keep you posted.

THE BIG 'UNS: AVIAN GARGOYLES

by Bob Windish in Peligram, newsletter of Pelican Island Audubon.
September 2005.

People have been known to lose their lunch just looking at them! Victor Hugo's Quasimodo is a beauty contest winner when compared to these guys! Dr. Frankenstein's monster could be considered a Hollywood leading man when stacked up against these descendants of old *Teratorius incredibilis* who flapped around the America's a few million years ago. Yet, these Ugly Ducklings of the bird world are one of nature's valuable creatures, and, when on the wing, they're as graceful as any of our favorite feathered friends.

Condors! Both the California version, *Gymnogyps californianis* and its Andean cousin, *Vultur gryphus*, are the ugliest of all birds capable of flight. With a body length of some 50 inches, a wing span reaching that of 11 feet, and weighing a good 25 pounds, condors are also the world's largest flying species. (Only the wandering albatross has a slightly longer wing, but the total mass of the sea bird's appendage is thinner.)

Condors possess a repulsive looking, grotesque, and featherless head, as do the vultures of the Old World to which they are not related. (Neither are the turkey and black vultures of the U.S. incidentally.) The Californian's facial skin is a vivid pink while the Andean's complexion is a dark gray color. Each has a sharp, hooked beak for tearing at flesh and around their necks are tufts of downy feathers like a collar, our western bird's black, while the South American's is white. Under the wings, the scheme is reversed, frontal plumes being opposite colors. Over both birds' bodies, however the plumage is the same, a dull, sooty charcoal and black lacking in any sheen or radiance.

The U.S. bird, which once extended its range from Oregon to Nevada and New Mexico, and which scientists believe possibly included the entire North American continent before the arrival of Europeans, is now limited to a small area of Southern California in the mountains northeast of Los Angeles. The Andean variety, which is slightly larger and which has also reduced its numbers due to man's incursion, fares better and soars above the peaks from Venezuela to Chile's Patagonia and almost to the tip of South America's Tierra del Fuego, the Land of Fire.

Condors are a picture of beauty as they fly over hundreds of square miles in search of food, using thermal drafts that lift them from the ground and which they slide upon in circles. They have been recorded as high as 15,000 feet drifting over thunderstorms but usually stay around 2,000 feet easily spotting a meal on the ground.

Carrion eaters, they serve nature by plunging their heads into carcasses, consuming what other predators pass up. Their heads have adapted to baldness since they

cannot preen themselves there of the decaying matter that accumulates on that part of their body as it does in other places.

While the condor's diet is composed mainly of carrion, they have been known to snare live lambs, young llamas and goats, deer and other animals that have been wounded by hunters. They will also eat dead fish, young seals, shellfish, eggs and sea birds such as petrels and gulls. They are often shot because they have a special liking for the eggs of guano producing cormorants whose manure is highly prized as fertilizer.



Condors have a very slow reproduction rate. They breed only starting at about six or seven years of age and, while they mate for life, and can live for more than 50 years, the female lays but one egg every two years. Nests are in a bare rock on a mountain ledge and incubation lasts from seven to nine weeks, with both sexes handling the nesting duties. The young chick remains

with its parents up to a year before going out on its own. For several years it can be distinguished from an adult because it retains a coat of downy feathers on its head and neck. It gradually loses this down when it begins to feed on its own.

Early scientists felt there was some form of communication among condors signaling the discovery of food on the ground when they saw flocks of 20 or more eating together. Others like Charles Darwin originally believed it was the odor of decomposing matter that attracted the birds. It was James Audubon, however, who argued against that theory when he covered a long dead carcass with a tarpaulin and placed a dummy animal nearby. The condors attacked the decoy proving they, like all birds, have a poor sense of smell. It is now held that sight is the main factor in detecting food especially among birds of prey. As the first condor descends to the dead matter, others simply watch it and then join the feast.

While the Andean species is surviving despite man's interference, California's condors have been destroyed almost to the point of extinction. There are known to be only 40 surviving in the wild. They have been shot simply because they present a large target or because it was felt they spread disease. May have also died when they ate the carcasses of poisoned wolves and coyotes.

Fortunately, two sanctuaries have been established in the Los Padres National Forest in the Sierra Madre mountains north of Los Angeles and east of Santa Barbara and conservationists believe the California condor can exist in balance if illegal shooting is stopped and if the birds are left in peace.

Others are concerned, however, about the proposed dam to be established in the reserve that will set up a recreational facility for water skiing and camping which might eventually doom the birds to extinction.

THE PELICAN

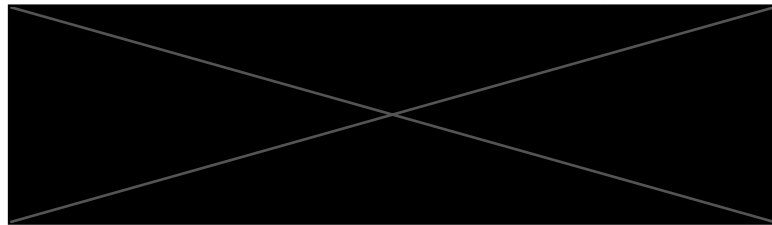


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Lois Robinson	Recording Secretary	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
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Paula Wehr	Corresponding Secretary	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
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Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Kevin Doxstater	At-Large Class of 2007	212-4319	kevdox@mindspring.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole4184@aol.com
Hartgrove David	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
	Field Trips		
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Paula Wehr	Hospitality, Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Gina Holt	Ways and Means	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
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	Phyllis Lamborn	(386) 423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.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

FEBRUARY 2006

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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.

Thanks to Paula Wehr and Fran Carr for the delicious refreshments provided at our Chapter's January program meeting.

THE PELICAN

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



VOL. 51 - NO. 9 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON March 2006

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Once again the regulatory agency chartered with enforcing the state's growth management policies, such as they are, has abdicated its responsibility. I know, you're saying to yourself, "So what's new about that?" Well this is one issue we thought we had a good chance of winning, especially after the first hearing. I'm referring to the extension of Tomoka Farms Road from LPGA Boulevard to SR 40. Originally, the County's growth management staff was against this plan. They brought forth cogent arguments against it to the County Council prior to the vote authorizing transmittal of the request for an amendment to the County's Comp Plan. As you'll remember, the County Council then voted against transmittal, to the cheers of the large group of voters there to speak out against the plan. Later that same night, after the room had long since emptied of voters, one of the original votes against the plan asked to revote the issue. This time it squeaked by and the voters awoke to read in the morning paper that they'd been had.

Since that time back in 2001, I and other members of the Environmental Council of Volusia/Flagler have sat through several mediation meetings called by the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Present in the room have been attorneys for the County, the developers, our guy, the ever-ready Dennis Bayer, and members of the planning departments of Daytona Beach and Ormond Beach. The first hint we had that there was a weakness in the knees of the DCA folks was when they announced that they were backing off their requirement to demonstrate that the road was a necessary addition to the County's transportation infrastructure. Since the road's construction will open the area to development and since the Tomoka River, an Outstanding Florida Waterway, is so close by, in order for the DCA to authorize the amendment, it's required that there be an overwhelming need for the road demonstrated on the part of the developers. This extra step is required under both the state and the county growth management acts. Since that hasn't been done, the plan should be dead in the water. Instead, our arguments have been ignored and the county staff that was so averse to this plan has become its biggest promoter. We have been notified that the DCA intends to authorize the amendment, paving the way for the road's construction. They have added a couple of extra hoops for the developer and the county to jump through but it's nothing more than window dressing. We could press for the issue to be submitted to an

administrative law judge but that would require money, quite a bit of it apparently. We will keep you advised on the issue. But it doesn't look good.

Something that does look good is the sight of all of those birds back on Rookery Island. The morning of the Daytona 500 I stopped by there while working and estimated 85 to 100 pairs of Brown Pelicans setting up nesting sites. The Great Egrets are already incubating eggs. The Double-crested Cormorants and the Cattle Egrets are engaged in courtship behaviors and the place is well on its way to being what it was for so long. It is an enduring mystery as to why the birds left in the first place. Some people have speculated that the birds left instinctively, knowing that the place was so foul from all of the years of droppings, etc., that it needed time to "rest" before nesting season began in earnest. Personally, I doubt that explanation but it's as good as any I can come up with. Whatever the reason for the birds' exit, let's rejoice in their return. After all, this island is going to be the centerpiece of our new sanctuary and its proximity to Port Orange Causeway Park makes it accessible to all. The new signs we had made announcing to boaters their entrance to and exit from the sanctuary are sitting in my garage waiting for a day when the weather and our schedules will allow us to install them. Stay tuned for announcements on this front too.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, April 27-29

FT. DESOTO & ST. PETERSBURG FIELD TRIP

Lois Robinson

You are invited for the time of your life. We are going to Ft. DeSoto and other birding spots in the St. Petersburg area on this three-day birding trip. We will visit at least two or three birding spots in the St. Petersburg area mentioned by Bill Pranty in his book, A Birder's Guide to Florida: Bonner Park, Sawgrass Lake County Park and Weedon Island State Preserve and, of course, twenty-four hours at Ft. DeSoto.

We leave at 8 am: bring your lunch and an excited birding spirit. We will leave our cars at Covenant United Methodist Church on Clyde Morris. The cost is \$235 for two nights, van transportation and five meals. You will be responsible for your lunch on Saturday. We should be home on Saturday around 5 or 6 pm. Registration and payment need to be in to Lois Robinson by March 26 so we can make the final registrations for two overnights.

Any questions you may have direct to Lois Robinson at 760-8480.

BIRDS OF PREY CENTER 2005

Gina Holt

During 2005, sixteen different species of raptors were admitted from 31 Florida counties with a total of 576 injured raptors and vultures. 224 were released back to the wild including 12 Bald Eagles. Twenty four raptors are still pending so additional releases should occur in the near future.

An admissions summary features: 7 American Kestrels, 45 Bald Eagles, 7 Barn Owls, 47 Barred Owls, 19 Black Vultures, 54 Cooper's Hawks, 102 Eastern Screech Owls, 20 Great Horned Owls, 2 Merlins, 17 Mississippi Kites, 67 Ospreys, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 146 Red-shouldered Hawks, 30 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Short-tailed Hawk and 11 Turkey Vultures.

Releases have included: 12 Bald Eagles, 21 Barred Owls, 4 Black Vultures, 2 Barn Owls, 11 Cooper's Hawks, 52 Eastern Screech Owls, 6 Great Horned Owls, 16 Mississippi Kites, 21 Ospreys, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 66 Red-shouldered Hawks and 12 Red-tailed Hawks.

Other dispositions: 24 pending release, 3 permanently injured and are residents of the Center now, 16 permanently injured were transferred to other facilities, 8 transferred for continued rehabilitation care and were eventually released, 31 were dead on arrival, 270 died or had to be humanely put to sleep due to the severity of their injuries. For 2005, the Center's average return rate was 41% of all admissions (less DOA's).

Interesting cases of 2005:

- Red-tailed Hawk number 9 was shot in the eye; the pellet in its pupil was surgically removed by Dr Heidi Denis in January.
- Hatched (and raised) a Great Horned Owl egg, # 33, which was removed from a Cape Canaveral launch pad. The baby, once grown was later released with another orphan owl.
- Bald Eagle # 47 recovered in seven days after becoming violently ill from eating rotten meat at a local landfill.
- Valentines Day - a 5-day-old Eastern Screech Owl, # 53 was rescued from the clutches of a kitty cat. (February is very early for screech owls to be nesting.)
- Great Horned Owlets #91 and #92 were reunited with their family after their tree was cut down in March. Volunteer climber rebuilt a nest in an adjacent tree and put the owlets up so the adults could continue their care.
- Our first baby Red-shouldered Hawk #140 arrived in April and was one of only 156 Red-shouldered Hawks seen in 2005.
- In May, 107 raptor patients were admitted (too many tales to tell this month).
- Four fledgling Cooper's Hawks, #s 305-309 all from the same neighborhood, were found convulsing and

died shortly after arrival; death was caused by pesticide poisoning.

- 17 Mississippi Kites were rescued (14 were babies blown out of their nests by Hurricane Dennis in July). All but one was released in August.
- The number of electrocution cases in August (a total of 5) was considerably more than normal; even an Eastern Screech Owl #446 was admitted with electrical burns.
- Great Horned Owl #488 was finally rescued, in September, after living in a retirement community for three months with only part of a wing. The bird somehow lost part of its wing and was seen nightly climbing up low, horizontal limbed trees and "hopping" down on insects to survive.
- Out of ten Bald Eagles that were admitted in October six were hit by cars, one was hit by a plane; only one survived.
- Bald Eagle #539 was attacked by an Osprey and actually died from internal injuries (that was one mad Osprey).
- Baby Barn Owl, #557 was our last baby of the year. His nest box fell down, killing his sibling.

TOMOKA REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR

Lois Robinson

Don Picard, President of Southeast Volusia

Audubon sent the following message to our chapter. Our judges from Halifax River Audubon were Ken Russell and Ken Hanson. Thank you for representing our Chapter in this event.

On Saturday the 21st of January, five judges from the three Audubon Societies of Volusia County examined 47 projects at the Tomoka Regional Science Fair and awarded four cash prizes for projects involving topics of interest to the Audubon Societies. The cash prizes were \$100 for best Senior and Junior divisions and \$50 for the second prizes in each division.

The winners are:

- First Prize Senior: Jeff Ziolkowski, Matanzas High School. The Effects of Water Temperature on Coral Survival.
- Second Prize Senior: Charlene McLaughlin, Spruce Creek High School. Oil Clean-up, a Sticky Situation.
- First Prize Junior: Danielle Patterson, New Smyrna Beach Middle School. Do Common Erosion Practices Work Against Storm Surges?
- Second Prize Junior: Donald Smith, DeLand Middle School. How Safe is the Water? A Qualitative Analysis of Local Sources.

Our congratulations go to these and all the other students who made the cut at their local school science fairs and who participated in the Regional Fair.

VULTURES AND THEIR SCAVENGER FRIENDS

Paula Wehr

No one would have guessed that Steve DeCresie is the self-described "Nature Nerd" when he walked into Sica Hall on Monday, February 20, looking every bit the dashing nature adventurer, complete with an Indiana Jones hat in brown suede. He began photographing birds as a young boy, and volunteered to work in a bird rehab center as a young man. This led to a job in the largest bird rehab hospital in Florida where we worked with everything from wrens to eagles and pelicans. He is currently a horticulturalist as Central Florida Zoo in Sanford.

Buzzard or Vulture? Steve explained that the word buzzard comes from the Middle English/Old French word *buteo*, which means inferior hawk. In other parts of the world—Europe and Africa—most hawks are called buzzards. The word *hawk* is used strictly for accipiters.

Vultures have a long history. In the age of the pharaohs, the vulture was the first bird ever to be protected by law. Harming a vulture was punishable by death. Many members of Egyptian royalty used vultures as their totem.

Bird guides currently list twenty-two vultures, worldwide; 15 Old World and 7 New World. The Old World species are related to eagles. They have strong talons, keen eye sight and sharp bills. Black and Turkey Vultures, found almost everywhere in Florida are part of the New World vultures and are in the same order as herons and storks. They have feet like storks which can perch but can't be used to kill prey. Also, like storks, they love to soar. Other birds in the New World order are Andean and California Condors and the Greater and Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures, found in South America.



Jerry Kerschner

Soaring vultures high in the sky can easily be identified by noting that Turkey Vultures look black from their wingtips to the tips of their wings, with the secondary feathers (trailing edge of the wing) appearing a much lighter grey. The wings of Black Vultures show light grey/white on the wing tips only. The remainder of the wing looks uniformly black from the air.

Both Turkey and Black Vultures lay eggs on a clearing on the ground. Both males and females incubate the eggs. The young emerge as grey fluff balls. After the first molt, they turn dark grey. Young birds have head

feathers. As they age, they lose more feathers on their heads and down their necks. After three years, they look like other adults with featherless heads. Vultures live about 15 years in the wild but may live 25-30 years in captivity.

Both Black and TVs live in packs and help each other to hunt. Roost sites can be swamps, cell phone towers, groups of large trees, etc. Vultures spend their days searching for food, soaring, bathing and resting. They have one of the best senses of smell in the avian world. They ride thermals which are created as hot air builds up, breaks away and floats on air currents. Thermals have edges, so vultures try to stay inside the ball of hot air and drift with it, using virtually no energy to move over the countryside. When they smell food, they will drop right out of the thermal and investigate. When one vulture drops out, others follow to investigate what is of interest to the first vulture.

All vultures have innate curiosity, which helps them survive. When food is found, the social hierarchy takes over, with the older, more experienced vultures eating first. They eat carrion, but only fresh carrion. Vultures must learn by watching, or by trial and error, when food is too badly decomposed to be eaten. Because they don't have sharp beaks, they often cannot eat a carcass if the skin hasn't been pierced by whatever event killed the animal. Experienced birds will know how to get to the best parts of the animal. Younger birds wait to eat. They remove meat by standing on the carcass and ripping off pieces. Vultures can eat up to 10-20% of their body weight. This large amount of food is stored in a crop where it is digested, over time, while they rest. After eating, vultures like to bathe thoroughly to remove the smelly remains of the meal from their feathers. After bathing, they return to a roost site to preen, spread their wings to dry their feathers and to sleep. Roost sites can be a place of conflict as birds fly in and out, knocking others off a specific spot in order to obtain a best resting place.

Both Black and Turkey Vultures use urohydrolysis (defecating on their own feet and legs) to cool off and heal wounds. Their feces contain uric acid which disinfects, and may keep insects from biting. This habit, however, leaves a great amount of "white wash" on the roost site.

While vultures can kill prey, they only attempt to do so if the prey is very weak and/or defenseless. Juvenile vultures can be very destructive as they develop survival skills in civilized areas. They play the "grip and rip" game with windshield wipers on cars, remove shingles from roofs and weather stripping from around doors. When approached, they may hiss loudly, and Black Vultures have been known to make a barking sound.

It's easy and entertaining to watch vultures. Try it; you'll like it!

CALENDAR 2005-2006

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

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

Thursday, March 2

Flagler Audubon Society program meeting.

"Ichthyology – All the Questions You Were Afraid to Ask" by Jim Wharton, Fort Pierce Marine Reserve. Flagler Hospital Meeting Room A or B, SR100 just west of 195. 7pm.

Sunday, March 12

Halifax River Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange.

4:00pm. Led by Kitty Albee, 386 254-8246. (1)

Monday - Friday, March 13 thru 17

West Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Spring trip to Gainesville area. Reservations required. Contact Vivian Taylor at 734-1390.

Thursday, March 16

Orange Audubon Society Program Meeting. "The St. Johns River: A Photographic Journey" by Milton Heiberg. Leu Gardens in Camellia Room, 1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando. 7:00 pm. Call 407-246-2620 for directions.

Saturday, March 18

Orange Audubon Society field trip. Wekiwa Springs State Park. Guided driving trip. Call 407-644-7850 for information.

Monday, March 20

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Birds of the Alligator Farm" by Amanda Whitaker, Bird and Mammal Curator, Alligator Farm, St. Augustine. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Tuesday, March 21

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program. "Butterfly Gardening with Natives" by Patty Bruda, Florida Master Gardener. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Saturday, March 25

Halifax River Field Trip. Smyrna Dunes County Park, New Smyrna Beach. Meet at east end of Courthouse Annex parking lot, City Island, Daytona Beach. 8:00am. Led by David Hartgrove, 788-2630. Bring lunch. (3)

Tuesday, March 28

West Volusia Audubon Society program meeting. "Beautiful Nature, Beautiful Music", by Kevin Doxstater, Photographer. Woman's Club of DeLand, 128 West Michigan Ave., DeLand. 6:30 pm. For Information call Laura Cash, 626-2329.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

The Treasurer reported \$11,283.92 in our checking account.

David Hartgrove gave a presentation to the Ponce Inlet Port Authority regarding our plans to put up signs

designating the boundaries of the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary. Either the Port Authority or Port Orange will pay approximately \$2,800 for the large sign that will be erected under the Dunlawton Bridge near the boat launch area that will tell about the Wildlife Sanctuary and Island #3. The Board moved to pay David the full \$532.50 cost of our 4 smaller signs to be erected at the north and south end of the Sanctuary. David, Willie Burns and Carol Branch will put the signs in place soon

David reported that the extension of the Tomoka Farms Road has not been stopped Now the county as well as DCA (Dept. of Community Affairs, Tallahassee), has signed on in favor of the extension. We, along with other environmental groups, will push for a hearing on this issue with an Administrative Law Judge.

David also reported that he has been going to the Bicentennial Youth Park every Tuesday since the first of the year to teach birding to Volusia County students.

The Purple Martin house will be erected in Central Park, Ormond Beach, in the near future. The memorial bench honoring Carlton Smith and Angelo Cerrito has been placed in Buschman Park.

Willie Burns will sell books and other items at the May 17-21 state-wide Florida Native Plant Society Conference hosted by local Pawpaw and Lyonia Chapters. He needs volunteers to assist.

David Hartgrove will check with Volusia County to see if they are interested in a grant from and other agencies offering monies to county-led projects for coastal habitat restoration and related proposals.

The Board voted to give our 50/50 raffle monies to the following entities in rotation: Marine Science Center. Dee Ann Snyder, Kathy Paynter and Phyllis Lamborn. All of these persons are working in the field of bird rehabilitation.

We have received a packet of Audubon Adventure handouts for children. They will be distributed at various festivals.

Welcome our new members Ms. Cathy A. Ackerman, Mr. Robert W. Anderson, Ms. Cynthia Avens, Ms. Donna Benson, Ms. Irene Berry, Ms. Leslie M. Chadwick, Mrs. Joan E. Charbonneau, Mr. Wayne Christeson, Ms. Ruth Clardy, Mr. Richard Cochran, Mrs. George V. Denny, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Richard Gentry, Harriett H. Hallock, Lorain Halsall, Linda Hawkins, Hyder Heather, Maxine Hibbard, Ms. Patricia Hummer, Carolyn and Mike Hunsaker, Mr. Robert M. Johnson, Mrs. Margaret Jones, Donna Lampe, Linda L. Lenk, Ms. Margaret Leone, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Martin, Mr. Thomas R. Meachem, Capt. and Mrs. F. A. Micara, Herbert and Susan Mossman, Ms. Marian Pope, Christine Reinhart, Mr. Victor Reneau, Ms. Carol Richardson, Nora C. Richardson, Mr. Franklin Schade, W. B. Sharpe, Ms. Laurie Scherer, Mr. Daniel Snow, Mr. Jack C. Tancred, Mrs. Virginia B. Woltjen.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT SOLAR ENERGY

Lee Bidgood, from *The Skimmer*, February 2006
newsletter of Southeast Volusia Audubon Society.

Rarely does one law help to reduce three major threats. Yet Florida House Bill 713 could provide key progress toward reducing three serious threats to our health, safety, ecology and economy. Filed January 13 by State Representative Dorothy L. Hukill, the bill would provide financial incentives for citizens and businesses to install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. If the bill becomes law, the Sunshine State will have taken an important step toward becoming a leader in utilizing free energy from the sun. In addition to threat-reduction, solar energy development brings high-paying jobs. Many other states are ahead of us in developing solar energy.

Using more pollution-free energy would help to reduce the severity of three major threats:

I. Air Pollution, caused in large part by fossil fuel power plants, damages human health and adds to acid rain, hurting trees and crops. According to a study by the American Lung Association of Florida and other groups, Florida power plant pollution annually causes over 28,000 asthma attacks, 2,100 non-fatal heart attacks a, and over 1,400 premature deaths. Our state ranks third in such premature deaths. Nationwide, power plant pollution causes 38,000 heart attacks and 23,600 premature deaths yearly – worse carnage than 17,000 people killed each year by drunk drivers.

II. Rising fossil fuel prices need no elaboration.

III. Sea level rise is the most ominous threat to Floridians' safety and our ecology and economy. Greenhouse gas emissions from power plants and other worldwide sources are heating the globe. Warming seas expand and are fed by melting glaciers and ice caps. Continued unlimited fossil fuel burning will probably inundate coastal lands globally.

Warmer Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico waters have evidently strengthened hurricanes 10 percent in the last three decades, according to recent research. More frequent hurricanes are expected as part of a varying natural cycle. Whether global heating will also increase hurricane frequency is unclear.

Scientists forecast a two or three-foot sea level rise or even more, sometime this century, unless people curb greenhouse gas emissions, use energy more efficiently and switch to renewable energy sources. Higher sea levels would push storm surges and wave damage farther inland, flooding and destroying structures that might survive in present conditions.

Nature had recently demonstrated the fearsome impact of hurricanes upon human lives and property. We should visualize the additional damage that a Katrina or a Wilma would have caused had they arrived when sea levels were two or three feet higher.

Florida has the most vulnerable coastal property of any state. Our 1450 miles of coastline are only part of it.

According to a 1949 tidal lands survey report by the CIA (their latest), Florida had over 5,000 inland miles of tidal waterfront land. By now, that 5,000 mile figure must have increased enormously as developers have dug many more canals and filled tidal waters to create waterfront subdivisions. All the low-elevation structures along thousands of miles of tidal waterfront would be critically endangered by higher seas and stronger storms. Rising seas would cause more saltwater intrusion into wells. Despite attempts at beach renourishment, beaches would disappear wherever manmade structures block their retreat, damaging the economies of coastal counties.

Coastal marsh ecosystems would be destroyed by rising seas where manmade structures prevent their retreat to higher ground. Most of The Everglades freshwater ecosystem would become history, despite over \$8 billion pledged for preservation.

Even if many of us won't be around to witness it, two or three-foot and higher sea levels would be a terrible legacy for our descendants. To help prevent such a legacy, we can support renewable energy.

Among commercial types of renewable energy, solar has the highest potential for major use in Florida. Commercial solar PV technology is well-established with low maintenance costs and free fuel. A key disadvantage of solar power is the high cost of equipment for converting sunshine into electricity. Subsidy is necessary until higher volume, mass production, improving technology and competition drive down equipment costs. Our nation excels in that kind of effort. Meanwhile we urgently need House Bill 713.

The other limitation of solar power is its intermittent nature. Improving battery or other energy storage technology could reduce that limitation. Longer range, solar PV could generate hydrogen without pollution by electrolysis of water. Hydrogen is not an energy source, but scientists are developing ways to utilize it for storing and transporting clean renewable energy to applications such as fuel cells.

How long do we have before catastrophic sea level rise becomes inevitable: scientists don't know and guesses range widely. Let's not gamble by delaying the switch to renewables.

We need to assist the progress of House Bill 713 toward law by calling or e-mailing key legislators in the Florida House and Senate to demonstrate support. I plan to keep readers informed of the bill's status.

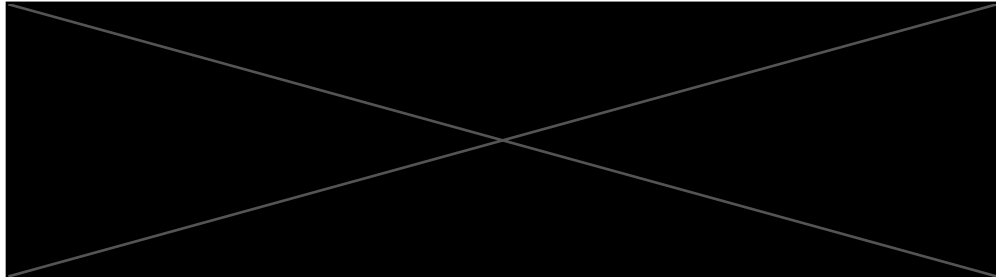


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	Historian, Publication Chair		
Reid Hughes	At-Large Class of 2006	252-5711	reidbhughes1@cs.com
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Bird Identification	Lois Robinson	760-8480	
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland, FL	(407) 644-0199	
Halifax River Audubon			www.halifaxriveras.org
Florida Rare Bird Alert			http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html

MARCH 2006

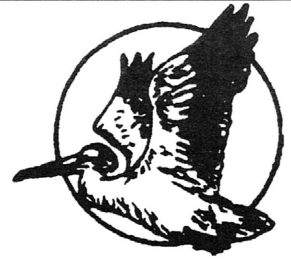
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
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The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
In Recognition of David Hartgrove
Thank you
THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL
and
COLONIAL COLONY
For support of our 2005-2006 activities

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 February 20 program meeting that were by hosts Marilyn Arkwell, Novetta Duffer, and Kay Moore.

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 51 - NO. 10 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON April 2006

CALENDAR 2005-2006

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

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

Saturday, Sunday, April 1-2

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park. 407-644-0796.

Wednesday, April 5

Sierra Club Meeting. Canaveral National Seashore Park Ranger will talk about activities, focusing on sea turtles. Parish Hall of St. Peter the Fisherman Church, 4220 Saxon Dr., New Smyrna Beach. 7:00 pm. Contact Pam Powell at 428-9312.

Sunday, April 8

Orange Audubon Society Birdathon. 407-677-5374.

Monday through Friday, April 10-14

"Exploring our Environment" Class. See article.

Wednesday, April 12

West Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Washington Oaks Garden State Park and Matanzas Inlet. Contact Vivian Taylor at 734-1390.

Saturday, April 15

Halifax River Field Trip. Alligator Farm, St. Augustine. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson and Granada Blvds, Ormond Beach. 7:30am. Led by John Roessler, 386 225-9826. Bring lunch. (2)

Monday, April 17

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Birds of the Tomoka Basin State Park" by Charles DuToit, Biologist, Tomoka State Park. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Tuesday, April 18

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program. "Field trips of the Pawpaw Chapter" review of past field trips and a preview of 2006 conference field trips.

Thursday, April 20

Orange Audubon Society Program Meeting. "Bats of Florida" by Laura Finn. Meet at Leu Gardens in the Camellia Room, 1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando. 7:00 pm. Call 407-246-2620 for directions.

Saturday, April 22

Orange Audubon Society field trip. Mead Gardens, in Winter Park for walking tour. 407-644-7850.

Saturday and Sunday, April 22-23

Halifax River Field Trip. Earth Day Bird Walks. Meet at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, US-1 north. Led by Willie Burns, 386 253-2150. Walks throughout both days. Bring food. Food also for sale. (2)

Tuesday, April 25

West Volusia Audubon Society program meeting. "Critters and Baby Birds: by Kathy Paynter, Wildlife Rehabilitator. Woman's Club of DeLand, 128 West Michigan Ave., DeLand. 6:30 pm. For Information call Laura Cash, 626-2329.

Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, April 27-29

Halifax River Field Trip. Fort DeSoto, See article.

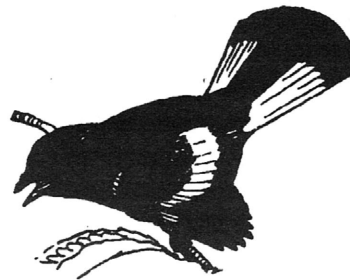
FT. DESOTO TRIP, APRIL 27-29

Lois Robinson

Here is our last Pelican notice regarding our trip to Ft. DeSoto. We have made some good changes you will want to know about. Because the number going is small and because viewing is better from car windows we have decided to drive our own cars. If you want to go and don't want to drive please call me at 760-8480 and we will make sure everyone has transportation.

Since we will be driving the cost will be considerably lower. For double room occupancy the cost will be \$75.00 and for single room occupancy the cost will be \$150.00. The cost includes two nights in the motel and 3 meals. You will be responsible for your other meals.

We will meet at 8 am at Covenant United Methodist Church, 3701 S. Clyde Morris Blvd., Pt. Orange, April 27. Thursday. Bring your lunch for the first day. I must have all reservations and money in by April 7th. The Ramada Inn will not hold any rooms longer than that date. Make your check out to Halifax River Audubon.



Redstart

We will visit Weedon Island Nature Preserve, Bonner Park, and if time permits, Freedom Lake Park and Sawgrass Park and then have 24 hours birding at Ft. DeSoto. We hope to see Ringed Turtle Doves at Weedon Preserve,

more migrating Warblers at Bonner Park in addition to numerous shore birds and wading birds. Remember we usually see Tanagers, Buntings, Cuckoos, Frigate Birds and many other species. You don't want to miss this trip.

For more information call me, Lois Robinson, at the above number.

LOST AND FOUND

The Appearance and Disappearance of Species in the Tomoka Basin - A PowerPoint Presentation by Charley DuToit, Park Biologist, Tomoka Basin State Parks

The beautiful Tomoka Basin is right in our own backyards. Join us at the April 17 program meeting to see pictures and hear descriptions of native plants and animals, as well as exotic invaders that have been discovered in the Tomoka Basin parks in the past two decades. Some of the local flora and fauna appear to be declining or have disappeared; but perhaps they are just out of sight, awaiting discovery by a biologist, park visitor, or perhaps a member of Halifax River Audubon.

Charley DuToit has worked as a field biologist for Florida State Parks for over 20 years. He has worked in state parks in North and South Florida, but most of his years have been spent in the Tomoka Basin at Tomoka State Park and Bulow Creek State Park. Charley did graduate studies at Ichetucknee Springs and received a Masters Degree in Botany from the University of Florida.

LOBBYING THE LEGISLATURE ON SOLAR ENERGY

Lee Bidgood

For Catherine and me, spending a day in the Florida State Capitol to lobby for HB 713, the solar energy bill, was a great learning experience. We learned good and bad news and encountered unknowns.

The beautiful Capitol with its attached House wing to the right and its Senate wing to the left reminded me of nothing so much as a gigantic space ship from some science fiction film. We discovered that inside this monster structure was indeed like being in another world.

In keeping with the space-flying theme, entering this huge structure was like boarding a flight to Saudi Arabia. You must empty all pockets and submit to careful metal detector scanning for weapons of individual or mass destruction. Once inside, we saw the true weapons of mass destruction, or more accurately, Florida destruction -- scores of scurrying lobbyists. The lobbyists plying their trade were similar within two different categories: beautiful, mostly tall women in very high heels dressed in low-cut dresses or tight-fitting pant suits; men ranging from silver-haired veterans to sprightly youngsters, all immaculately groomed in power suits of solid black, set off with multicolored ties.

One pleasant surprise in the Capitol was how friendly and helpful everyone seemed to two elderly and obviously confused visitors, trying to negotiate the endless labyrinth of multiple floors, inscrutably coded elevators, narrow corridors, sharp turns, cul-de-sacs and scrumptious suites tucked away in far corners. I could be cynical and say that elected officials were always pleasant and helpful because we could have been voters from their district, but it's likely that most politicians do

enjoy meeting people. The most helpful folks of all were the working men and women in the Capitol, including one cleaning lady who pushed her cart along while leading us to a particularly obscure elevator to our destination. Trying to find my way around in the Capitol wings made me feel rather like a retarded rat that flunked the maze test, unable to find the cheese.

All of the legislators that we met seemed very enthusiastic about solar energy and wanted to see it used more in Florida. Rep. Dorothy Hukill and her staff, especially Gonzalo Frias were quite appreciative of our support for her bill and helpful in setting up appointments with other legislators. We met with several key legislators or their aides: Sen. Paula Dockery, sponsor of SB 2478 which matches HB 713; Rep. Adam Hasner, sponsor of HB 1473, the omnibus energy bill filed in response to the Governor's request; Sen. Lee Constantine, who will file the Senate version of the omnibus HB 1473; Rep. Trudi Williams, an engineer who is very supportive of solar and whose husband is an electrical engineer and solar enthusiast.

We were disappointed to learn that Hukill's HB 713 is going nowhere, but she and her staff hope that its key provisions will be incorporated into the omnibus energy bill HB 1473 and the corresponding Senate bill.

Our day in Tallahassee ended with the 6 to 8 PM Energy IdeaRaiser organized by Rep. Ken Littlefield, Chairman of the House Utilities and Telecommunications Committee. A variety of energy viewpoints were expressed. I spent my two minutes urging that the omnibus energy bill include critical portions of HB 713, the defunct solar bill.

Officials and lobbyists for Florida public utilities and other special interests made pitches for various energy types. The lobbyist for FPL Group described how its subsidiary, FPL Energy, had become the largest producer of US wind power and why Florida had little or no potential for wind power. He did not mention solar energy. Spokespersons for Florida Progress and TECO described supposed virtues of "clean" coal and "cheap and reliable" nuclear power, but did not mention the forever deadly radioactive waste problem, or disclose that nuclear electricity is cheap only if government provides generous subsidies and liability insurance. A Florida Dept. of Agriculture official described promising results and surprisingly high potential for biomass and ethanol from farm crops. Professors told how research promised to develop commercial processes for converting crop wastes to ethanol or other renewable fuels.

At this point I have mixed feelings about the all-inclusive energy bill, HB 1473 pending in the Florida Legislature. Whether environmentalists should support it depends on the final mix of provisions in the bill. To get solar incentives, must we also endorse more coal plants and nuclear plants?

We shall see.



NOTE FROM DAVID HARTGROVE ABOUT SIGNS SOUTH OF THE PORT ORANGE BRIDGE

Check the website, www.halifaxriveras.org to see a photo. Click on the "photo" link on the home page.

The 2 gentlemen in the photo are John Roessler (in the overalls) and Bart Paulding. I was standing knee deep in the river so I couldn't figure out how to get into the picture I was taking too. This sign is one of two at this location. The other one faces south and advises boaters that they're leaving the sanctuary. These signs are at the north end, so this sign is facing north. There are 2 more at the south end placed in the same manner. We borrowed a special pile-driving device from Canaveral National Seashore, thanks to Mr. Burns. He too was supposed to go with us but had a meeting come up at the last minute. I had pre-drilled the signs themselves and we had a

cordless drill for the holes in the posts. Having 3 of us turned out to be a necessity and I didn't know Bart was coming until I got to the bridge. We shoved off from the dock at 7:10 and were off the boat and ready to leave the parking lot by 11:45. Now I've got to get some sleep before I go in to work the double shift to pay back the guy who worked for me last night so I could do this.

Kevin Doxstater is working on the design for the sign that will be placed in the area beneath the Port Orange Bridge. That one will have pictures, a map and a brief history of the Sanctuary. It will be paid for through a grant from the Ponce Inlet Port Authority. David

APRIL 2006 BOARD MEETING

There is \$10,218.80 in the Chapter checking account. Membership totals 520 including Chapter Only members.

Action Items:

- Board moved that the Chapter retain the profit, if any, from out of town field trips.
- Board voted donation of \$100 to the Florida Nature Conservancy.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove said that the sign we commissioned for installation under the Port Orange Bridge identifying the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary from local artist Butch Ambrose has not been done. Therefore he will contact the manufacturing company directly as they are ready to make the sign. The

Board approved the wording on the sign. David also gave the Board information on the status of the islands in the Sanctuary. Most of the islands are owned by the state. The Margery Law Trust Fund has the largest private ownership. The Murphy Land Trust, voted into law years ago, sought to put more land on the tax rolls and will play a role in the final distribution of land available for development on the spoil islands in the Sanctuary. This is in a state of flux at present.

Vice President Madeline Shaddix, presiding, appointed Barbara Kieran, Novetta Duffer and John Roessler to make up a nominating committee to replace retiring Board members. Barbara Kieran was named Chairperson. The election will take place at the May program meeting.

REPORT FROM CANA

Willie Burns

Canaveral Seashore National Park (Cana) contains hundreds of square miles of hammock (high ground with oaks, pines, palms, etc.), sedge islands (low grassy things), mangroves, oyster bars, sand bars, mud flats, and lots of water. The biggest water is about two and a half miles wide, twenty miles long, named Mosquito Lagoon. There is a barrier beach to the east, a long peninsula of more or less mainland to the west. Merritt Island NWR is to the southwest, NASA to the south.

Tuesday February 28 we used Cana's pontoon boat to clean some more camp sites, two of them on an island across the Intercoastal Waterway from Oak Hill, south of New Smyrna Beach. My friend Walt was very interested in the zigzag course we had to take to access the back side of the island, where the sites are. He was in my captain's license class and helps run tours at Cana.

Friday, he and I were planning on doing some work on the pontoon boat. We were in the midst of our projects when John Stiner, a naturalist and the head of Resource Management for Cana, showed up with Robert, an archaeologist. They were doing a survey of sites out on the lagoon. Their plan was to paddle a canoe out amongst the myriad islands to the sites.

We of course suggested they load the canoe on the front deck of the pontoon and let us carry them as far as we had water. Walt and I used the maps the ologists had to show them how to get to the sites, and how we could assist. John, one of my favorite people, was concerned about "bothering us when we were busy."

Hah!" Walt and I laughed. We could do most of our work out on the water while they were investigating archaeological sites.

So off we went to Orange Creek, happy as could be. Robert the archaeologist from the U.S. Dept. of the Interior office up in Tallahassee was just amazed that we knew the water and could follow a map. After I made them put on extra sunblock ("That was not a question," I said after handing them the Coppertone) we got them very close to their quarry, shell mound islands, and off they paddled up a little creek. Walt and I went to work on our little projects. After several hours we finished and wondered where the kids were (they are 53 and 40ish, respectively).

After another hour we were a little worried. "They can't get lost," said Walt, hopefully.

After a bit I replied gloomily, "They could wander for days out there if they didn't check landmarks. They are quite low on the water, below the mangroves."

So we motored slowly towards the next site, standing as high as we could on our boat to look for them. We could see for miles across the marsh and water. No kids. We motored slowly back and forth, then called Kristen at headquarters to ask if they had heard anything

from John. Nope, nothing. "You lost them?" asked Kirsten, a little incredulous.

"What happens if we lose someone?" asked Walt idly, trying not to show his concern. "Should we call Mike?" he asked, then, "we can't, he's not here today." Mike is the District Ranger and my good friend, who still laughs at me for getting The Truck Stuck.

"It is called marooning, under Admiralty Law. We're licensed captains," says I, not really worried but a little bothered that I had not carried my Talk Abouts to maintain contact. "I've got Mike's home phone at last resort, but, man, think of the paperwork..."

"Well, losing a naturalist is not that big a deal," says Walt, "but losing an archaeologist could be bad."

"Yeah, 'specially since he is from National..." By now we are both getting antsy.

Voila! Finally, there they were, heading towards the next site. We motored up there, nosing gently into the shell mound. John was ecstatic, as they had located several more unknown shell mound sites and mapped them. They were using a GPS to do the mapping. John had just gotten lost in the day. "Oh, darn, you guys missed lunch," he said apologetically. We just laughed, saying that as long as we now had them in sight we were enjoying the day, too.

Then we loaded them aboard again and motored part way back out Orange Creek. We dropped them at a canal that crossed Orange Island, a long narrow east to west old hammock with big trees. I cautioned them the canal may have been silted up a bit from the storms. And off we motored to run around the south east cape of the island to meet them at Sting Ray Island (from the air or on a map it looks just like a Sting Ray), their next stop.

The water got skinny (shallow) so we could not reach them, but we were within a quarter of a mile of the site across open but skinny water. They got there first, as we expected, despite dragging their canoe across the "canal," now virtually a trail of sand thanks to the storms of the last few years. After doing their survey thing they paddled out to us and got back aboard.

"Hey," says Walt, "someone carried a lot of water on board," pointing to a spreading puddle. Robert was wearing knee boots that were full of water, running out every time he moved. I suggested he could lie on his back and raise his legs over his head, which everyone thought was great except Robert. He pulled them off and poured almost a gallon of water from each.

We showed them another shell mound, also not on their list. It was too late in the day to survey, so we planned on taking them out again Monday. John was so happy he was almost exploding. They had surveyed far more sites than they expected and even found more sites. Instead of hours of paddling on a windy day they were relaxed. Our boat repairs were complete; Walt and I got to play on the water. What a great day.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT REPORT

Lois Robinson

As of this writing (February 23rd) here are some interesting statistics from this year's bird count. A total of 52,965 people have logged on and entered their bird counts for the past weekend, February 17 - 20. More will be received as the week goes by. In the USA we have observed a total of 580 species and counted 6,986,859 birds. As you look at the map on the web site (www.birdsource.org) you see the participants are well scattered all over the country with some in Canada and a few birders in Alaska. We still need more birders in Alaska to participate and that would raise the number of species found. The most frequently reported birds were the Northern Cardinal, the Mourning Dove and the Dark-eyed Junco and the most numerous birds counted were the Canada Goose, the Snow Goose and the European Starling. New York state submitted the most checklists. Florida was ninth. Texas reported the most species. Florida was third with 250 species. The most birds were counted in Texas. Florida was sixth in that category. Now the cities: Charlotte, N.C. had the most birders counting with 319 total. Rockport, Texas had the most species with 167.

Some of these categories may change a little as more statistics come in but the majority of the counts are in by this date. Another interesting web site is www.ebird.org. You can post your own life list on this site and do some other interactive activities. The pictures are fabulous too.

NEXT "EXPLORING OUR ENVIRONMENT" CLASS OFFERED IN APRIL

Are you curious about the coastal environment of NE Florida? Have you ever wished that there were a "summer camp" for adults? If so, "Exploring our Environment— from the ocean to the river" may be the perfect opportunity for you! Join biologists from the University of Florida, GTM Reserve, and many other locations as they team up to provide hands-on learning experiences in this one-week program. The next class will be April 10 – 14th 9am to 4pm at the GTM Reserve Marineland office.

The program combines field studies (outdoors), lectures and educational crafts (indoors). Topics covered include beaches, sea turtles, estuaries, water quality monitoring, invasive species, coastal uplands and marine mammals. The ways in which humans interact with the coastal environment will be a recurring subject throughout the program.

The cost for this class is \$100 and includes all supplies, coffee and drinking water. Lunch is not included in the registration fee—participants should bring a bag lunch each day. All participants must be 18 or older, please! Class size is limited.

Please make checks payable to Friends of Ag. Extension Foundation, Inc (FAEF) and send to: NE Florida Sea Grant Extension Program, 3125 Agricultural Center Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32092. For more information please call Maia McGuire at 904-209-0430 or Email: mprmcguire@ifas.ufl.edu

Editor's P.S. Those of our members who have participated in this class have raved about it. Lots of hands-on outdoors, and great teachers and labs.

ST. JOHNS RIVERKEEPER ECO-HERITAGE CRUISE

Anne Turner, from February 2006 *The Audubon Observer*, newsletter of the Duval Audubon Society.

Three years ago I read an article in the Sunday newspaper about the Riverkeeper's three day boat trip down the St. Johns River. I had heard many times that the river south of Jacksonville was very beautiful and pristine but I had never had a chance to see it. The next day I called and signed up for the trip. I went alone but came back with many new friends and a deep and lasting appreciation for the St. Johns River.

I enjoyed the many speakers and learned a great deal about the history of the river, the importance of the river in Florida literature and what life was like hundreds of years ago along its banks. Now being a bird watcher, I was able to listen, learn and count birds all at the same time! By the end of the trip I had a nice list of 67 species with bald eagles and swallow-tailed kites seen on two of the three days. The second day I counted a total of 127 ospreys, many making or sitting on nests.

Even though I have lived in Florida my whole life, this trip made me feel like I had just seen the real Florida for the first time. I could never have imagined a river so beautiful or a trip so well organized and entertaining. The following is information about this year's upcoming trip.

Join St. Johns Riverkeeper for a 3-day Eco-Heritage cruise along the St. Johns River between Jacksonville and Sanford! Each day, passengers enjoy spectacular scenery, delicious lunches, fascinating speakers and historical re-enactors. We will stop along the way to visit interesting and beautiful places, such as Trout Creek, Mount Royal, and Silver Glen Springs. Experience the true beauty and essence of the St. Johns River. Learn about its history, flora, and fauna from naturalists, authors, historians, storytellers, and a third generation native Floridian.

The next trips are scheduled for April 18-20 from Jacksonville to Sanford and April 21-23 from Sanford to Jacksonville. Your reservation includes: boat travel, ground transportation, lunch, entertainment and overnight accommodations. Enjoy this once in a lifetime experience for \$515 per person. For more information, call Jeanne Shaw at 904-270-0340.

March 20, 2006 Program

BIRDS OF THE ALLIGATOR FARM

Paula Wehr

The Alligator Farm, located on A1A in St. Augustine is home to hundreds of alligators, crocodiles and their kin, as well as several species of turtles. They live in the swamps rimmed by native live oaks, wax myrtles and elderberry trees that provide perfect breeding grounds for wading birds such as herons, egrets, ibis and storks. Amanda Whitaker, Bird and Mammal Curator at The Alligator Farm, presented a wonderful array of photographs of the breeding birds. Year-round, The Alligator Farm is the preferred roosting site for about ten species. In the wild, wading birds seek out a concentration of alligators because they provide protection from possums and raccoons that can decimate a roosting site. Raccoons will kill everything in the roost and then come back to eat.

White Ibis don't nest at The Farm but do roost (rest and sleep) there. Two Great Blue Herons stay in the rookery all day, every day, during the winter.

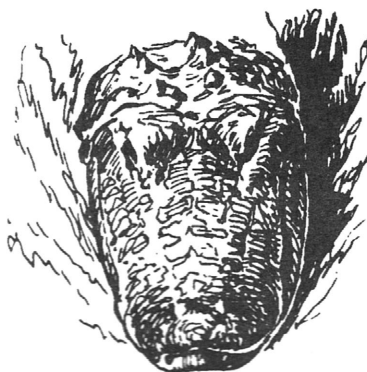
Approximately 150 Black-crowned Night Herons can be found during the day in the winter. They leave the roost during the nesting season. Yellow-crowned Night Herons roost in the trees during the day and leave to feed elsewhere at night. Roseate Spoonbills come and go; right now there are several juveniles at The Farm.

It's easy to tell when each species is ready to begin breeding. The feet of Wood Storks turn very pink. The Great Egret has green lores (the fleshy areas around the eyes) and beautiful display plumes called aigrettes. Snowy Egrets show red lores and red/orange feet (rather than the usual yellow.) Cattle Egrets have lavender lores; their bills become two-toned (red and yellow,) resembling a piece of candy corn. The feathers on the heads and chests turn buffy. The legs of Green Herons become bright orange. Tri-colored Herons display a bright blue bill with a dark tip. As beautiful as all these breeding enhancements are, they do not last very long. As soon as the eggs are laid, the colors fade to more normal hues. Prior to egg laying, however, courtship displays are common, showing off the beautiful plumage. Wood Storks are particularly amorous, snuggling, clacking bills, rubbing their bills and roosting side-by-side, touching each other.

Wood Storks build nests high at the top of the tallest trees. The male continues to add to his nest until the hatchlings fledge. It's a common sight, during nesting season, to see a Wood Stork flying with a very large stick, including all the branches and leaves, and dropping it into the nest. The female rearranges the nest to accommodate the new stick and continues to incubate the 3-4 eggs, which hatch in 24-31 days.

Sibling aggression is a natural part of the circle of life. The first and second chicks hatched will receive the

greater portion of the regurgitated fish that is provided by the parents and grow even stronger than the youngest chick. Cries of the siblings fighting within the nest stimulate the parents to bring food to the young. These same cries alert the alligators below that potential meals are waiting above them.



When the older chicks either kill the youngest chick or push him over the side of the nest, the alligators move in to feed. If no young birds fall into the water, the alligators leave the breeding grounds and other predators move in and kill all the young. Although this sounds harsh, it is a symbiotic relationship.

Green Herons have a different nest strategy than some other waders. They rely on camouflage, nesting low in the trees. The chicks are mobile very early in their lives. When the parents leave the nest to hunt for food, the chicks run along the tree branches and sit very still, hidden by the leaves. When their parents return with food, they all run back along the branch to feed at the nest. Adult Green Herons at The Alligator Farm have learned to wait until they see a human visitor throw food to the fish. When the fish come to the surface to eat, they have easy pickings for their own meal.

Spring at The Alligator Farm is a photographer's paradise. See www.alligatorfarm.com for details about the special pass that allows photographers into the park one hour prior to opening to the public. This pass is good between March 18 and July 18.

And ... Don't forget to join our Chapter field trip on April 15 to visit this wonderful place. Call trip leader John Roessler at 225-9826 for information.

SLATE FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Kieran, Committee Chair

The Nominating Committee that consisted of Barbara Kieran, Novetta Duffer, and John Roessler presents the following slate for election to the Halifax River Board Class of 2009:

Peggy Yokubonus
Morrell Robinson

Voting will take place at the April 17 program meeting. Nominations can be made from the floor at this time. Make sure you have the consent of any Chapter member person you wish to nominate.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

On Saturday, March 18th, President, John Roessler, Bart Paulding and I spent the morning installing signs at the north and south ends of the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary. The signs are placed on 2" PVC pipe and announce to boaters that they are entering or leaving (depending on their direction of travel) the sanctuary. Our Chapter's name is at the bottom of the sign. I have to say that we were all three amazed at how easily the project went. Having John's pontoon boat provided a stable platform from which to work, though the wind made for a headache or two. The original document establishing the sanctuary mandated that Audubon, at its expense, post signs at the boundaries. The old ones may have rusted or blown away. It'll be up to us to keep the new ones in place. A more expensive sign will be placed on land under the bridge. But thanks to the support of County Councilman Jack Hayman, it appears we'll get a grant from the Ponce Inlet Port Authority to cover its cost. We'll keep you notified on the progress of this part of the project.

There's an old saying to the effect that it's not a good idea to watch sausage or laws being made. In both cases you may not like what you see, even if you find the end product something enjoyable. State Rep. Dorothy Haskill tried to do the right thing. Early on in this year's legislative session she introduced HB 713, The Florida Solar Energy Incentive Program. As so often happens, someone else thought his bill was more important. In this case, that would be HB 1473, The Florida Renewable Energy Technologies and Energy Efficiency Act. Provisions in this omnibus bill streamline the siting process for new power plants and encourage power plant fuel diversity. In attempting to wade through the 82 pages of the original bill, I was unable to determine just how this fuel diversity is to be accomplished. Somewhere in the back of my mind I fear we may see increased use of nuclear, coal or even Orimulsion. This last one is even worse than coal if you can imagine it. Its name comes from the Orinoco River Delta in Venezuela where it's pumped up. A thick, tarry substance, it requires dilution and the use of emulsifiers to even get it out of the ground. If this stuff gets put into Florida's energy fuel mix, we're in for trouble.

Currently section 403.509 (3) of the Florida State Statutes requires operating and newly certified plants to, "Minimize through the use of reasonable and available methods, the adverse effects on human health, the environment, and the ecology of the land and its wildlife and the ecology of state waters and their aquatic life and serve and protect the broad interests of the public." In the interest of streamlining the certification process, this clause will be deleted. So, we take the good parts of a solar energy bill that provide rebates to purchasers of

solar cells, water heaters, etc. and they get paired with parts of a bill that perhaps assist in placing a power plant next to a wildlife refuge or an elementary school. Oh and it also reduces our ability to comment on it or to meaningfully object. For the powerful, it's not just whether or not you win or lose, it's how you can change the rules of the game to insure your victory.

FIELD TRIP BACK INTO HISTORY

Carol Branch

You missed it! Sorry!

Fifteen inveterate, eager, enthusiastic, sleepy birders gathered at the City of Daytona Beach Water Treatment Plant on LPGA at 7:30 am Saturday, February 25th. We were off to our overnight trip to Wakulla Springs Lodge and State park, 15 miles south of Tallahassee, which Rachel Ramsey had worked so diligently to arrange.

Sorry to disappoint you if you were expecting suspense, intrigue, or disaster ... everything went very well with David Hartgrove driving the rented van with nine passengers and John Roessler driving his private vehicle with four passengers and most of the luggage. The weather held through our stop at Ichetucknee Springs State Park where we ate our lunch and during the scenic boat tour of 3 miles of the Wakulla River when we arrived. Our boat driver, Patty, was young, enthusiastic, and well trained and we spotted many birds, alligators, and one brown water snake. The nesting Ospreys were alert to the presence of the Bald Eagle and put on a show for us.

We had our own table in the dining room and enjoyed a leisurely dinner but were unsuccessful later trying to entice the owls. Most everyone was fairly exhausted and retired about 9 pm, which was fortunate as we had a horrendous rainstorm about 10 pm with thunder and lightning. (It woke many of us up.)

Sunday dawned sunny and bright, and after breakfast we gathered our belongings and our personalized box lunches and headed over to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge for excellent birding and lunch. We reported an injured Bufflehead to Refuge Headquarters and they said they would do what they could to effect a rescue.

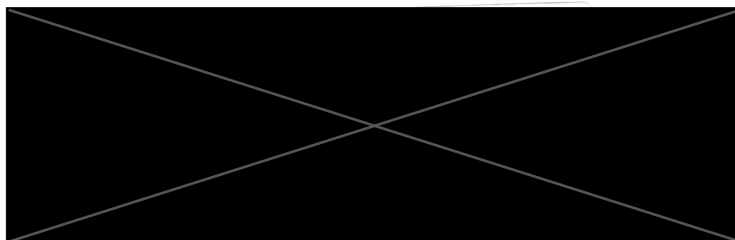
Lois Robinson kept the "official" bird list, and we ended up with 84 species including "life" birds for at least two of the participants. Highlights included lots of American Wigeons and a Red-breasted Merganser close up at Wakulla, both the night herons sharing a single clump of bushes, a beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker showing off, and Horned Grebes at the Lighthouse. Actually, if you have never experienced it, almost all the birds at Wakulla are "close up". One hardly needs binoculars but we thank David, John and Paula Wehr for their spotting scopes and patience to help the rest of us see some of the faraway species like the Oyster Catchers and Horned Grebes.

THE PELICAN



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Paula Wehr	Corresponding Secretary	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
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Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole4184@aol.com
Hartgrove David	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
	Field Trips		
Paula Wehr	Hospitality, Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Gina Holt	Ways and Means	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
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	Phyllis Lamborn	(386) 423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
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

APRIL 2006

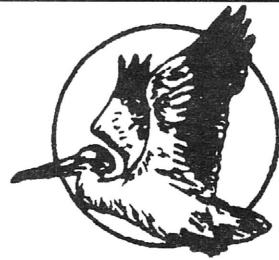
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For Your Information - All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach 32118. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

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 March 20 program meeting that were provided by hosts Irma Rice, DeeDee Blanchard, Joan Treves, and Carol Branch.

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 51 - NO. 11 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON May 2006

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Thursday, April 13th, our County Council voted to participate in the study being pushed by the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority to build a connector toll road from I-95 to SR 417. Of course the rationale for this is to provide relief for the beleaguered motorists stuck in I-4 traffic daily. If we had a governor and a state legislature that adhered to their oaths of office and obeyed the state Constitution, we'd be well on the way to having high speed rail adjacent to I-4 and eventually there would be thousands fewer cars on the road each day. But that's another argument for another time.

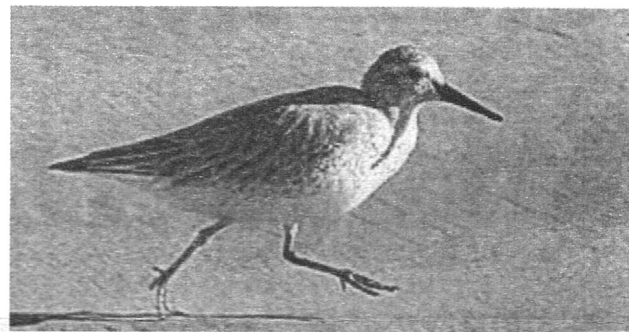
Three years ago, the Florida Turnpike Authority studied the issue and concluded that the immense construction costs (900 million dollars, and that was before oil hit \$70.00 a barrel and increased the cost of asphalt) would never be recouped and it would wreck the county's environmental corridor. This assessment was from an organization that builds roads at the drop of a hat, whether they're needed or not and whose director was once quoted as saying, "I love the smell of hot asphalt in the morning." What a joker.

We're told that this connector toll road will be a "limited access" roadway and that this will help discourage development along its route. I-4 is a limited access roadway. So much for the growth control abilities of limited access roadways. Quite simply, if this road is built, in thirty years Volusia will look like Broward County. For some in municipal government, this may seem both inevitable and desirable. The vast majority of us find this specter appalling.

The latest research into the Red Knot population holds dire predictions. This small bird weighs in at around 6 ounces and migrates an astonishing 15,000+ miles from arctic Canada to extreme southern South America. If current population trends aren't reversed, the bird could be extinct in four years. The problems began back in the late 1800's when hunters slaughtered hundreds of thousands commercially. It's hard to believe that back then, hogsheads of these birds were packed in brine for shipment to markets all over the country.

Now the problem is the massive increase in fishing for horseshoe crabs whose eggs are one of the Red Knots primary food sources. The crabs are used as bait for eels and conch. The horseshoe crab population has collapsed

so there are far fewer crabs to glide ashore at night to deposit their eggs along the edges of Delaware Bay. In the 1990's, there were as many as 100,000 crab eggs per square meter on the beaches of Delaware Bay. Last year that figure was down to 1,500 eggs per square meter. So, lacking sufficient fuel for the long, arduous journey, Red Knots drop from the skies into the Atlantic Ocean on their way from north of the Arctic Circle to Tierra del Fuego.



Red Knot

Photo by Jerry Kerschner

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering a ban on taking of horseshoe crabs, at least until the population recovers. The wails of commercial fishermen have filled the halls of Congress. Apparently, the lesson of the Passenger Pigeon's extinction is unheard of among the fishermen. The first attempt to estimate the unbelievable numbers of these birds was made by Alexander Wilson (for whom the Wilson's Plover and Wilson's warbler are named) in 1808. He saw a mile wide flight that darkened the sun for 4 hours and estimated their number at 2.25 billion. The last of the species (Martha) died in captivity 106 years later. In one spot in Michigan in 1874, up to 700,000 birds per month were shipped off to market.

At 540 million years, horseshoe crabs are one of the oldest species on the planet. Overfishing of this ancient species along Delaware Bay won't doom it to extinction. It's far too widespread to be wiped out by what's going on along the east coast of this country. But it will doom the Red Knots. They've evolved feeding on the bounty of horseshoe crab eggs each fall in that one spot along the shores of Delaware Bay. Let's hope the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission makes the right decision. They've heard from our chapter and many others on the issue.

CALENDAR 2005-2006

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

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

Mondays, May 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29

Washington Oaks Kayak Tours. See article.

Wednesday, May 3

West Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Alligator Farm, St. Augustine. Contact Vivian Taylor at 386 734-1390.

Wednesday, May 3

Ormond Beach Garden Club. "Using Color in the Garden" 11:00am to noon by Patricia Bronson, Designer at VerdeGo. Meet at VerdeGo, 4801 North US1, Bunnell. 10:00am-2:30pm.

Wednesday, May 3

Volusia/Flagler Sierra Club. See article.

Thursday - Sunday, May 11-14

First Coast Birding Nature Festival. St. Augustine. See article.

Saturday, May 13

Halifax River Field Trip. Spring Bird Count. Meet at east end of Courthouse Annex parking lot, City Island, Daytona Beach. 7:00am. Led by David Hartgrove, 386 788-2630. Bring lunch. (2)

Thursday through Sunday, May 11-14

First Coast Birding & Nature Festival. See article.

Monday, May 15

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Critters and Baby Birds" by Kathy Paynter, Wildlife Rehabilitator. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm

Tuesday, May 16

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program. Final conference preparations.

Thursday through Saturday, May 18-20

Florida Native Plant Society Annual State Conference. See article.

Thursday, May 18

Orange Audubon Society Program Meeting. "Conservation in the Green Swamp" 11:00am to noon by Marian & John Ryan. Chertok Nature Photography Contest Deadline. Meet at Leu Gardens in the Camellia Room, 1920 North Forest Ave. Orlando. 7:00 pm. Call 407-246-2620 for directions.

Saturday, May 20

Orange Audubon Society field trip. Viera Waste Water Treatment Plant. Driving tour along the berms. 407-644-7850.

Sunday, May 21

Halifax River Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge Port Orange. 5:00pm. Led by Kitty Albee, 386 254-8246. (1)

Tuesday, May 23

West Volusia Audubon Society program meeting. Annual Banquet. Lake Beresford Yacht Club, DeLand. For Information call Laura Cash, 626-2329.

Local Pawpaw Chapter is host

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

This year the Florida Native Plant Society will have its 26th Annual Spring Conference May 18-20 at the Shore Resort Spa-Hotel at 2637 S. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach Shores, FL 32118. Reservations can be made at www.shoresresort.com at the special rate of \$115.

Events include noted keynote speakers, concurrent sessions, and workshops. There will also be a native plant sale, a silent auction, and vendor displays, in addition to two dozen field trips to local parks, preserves, and refuges.

Here's just a sample of conference topics of interest to birders, naturalists, and conservationists:

- Gardening for Florida Butterflies
- Environmentally Responsible Landscaping
- Water Wise Landscaping
- Urban Designs Compatible with Successful Urban Forestry
- Plant Identification
- Restoration of Coastal Dune Systems
- Birds: How They Use Native Plants

If you would like a copy of the preliminary conference program, email donnadine8@yahoo.com

Willy Burns will man a Halifax Audubon booth at the hotel and requests volunteers to help sell Golden Dog books and products. Please contact him at 253-2150 if you can help out.

FIRST COAST BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL MAY 11-14

Hurry! The Field trips are filling up fast. Visit www.GetAway4Nature.com for more information. Lovers of northeast Florida's natural beauty will have an ideal opportunity to experience all the region has to offer when Florida's First Coast Birding and Nature Festival returns to St. Augustine May 11-14. With nearly 100 field trips, boat trips, workshops, seminars and special events to choose from, festival participants will not only get an up close look at nature, they will learn successful birding techniques from experts and discover how to use photography to capture outstanding images of the region's great outdoors.

For a full schedule of events, registration and more information on the First Coast Birding and Nature Festival, go to www.Getaway4Nature.com. A complete guide to the festival may be obtained by calling the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau at 800-653-2489.

LOST & FOUND

Paula Wehr

Charley DuToit, Park Biologist at Tomoka Basin State Park, began his April 17 presentation with a slide showing several people on their hands and knees in the sandy soil of the Park. No, they were not looking for a lost contact lens – they were taking part in an archeological survey. During this survey, and others done at the Park over the years, new species have been discovered and others have either disappeared or not been seen for long periods of time. The Tomoka Basin State Park includes the former Tomoka State Park and much of the land in the ten-mile corridor through Bulow State Park and Bulow Sugar Mill in Flagler County. In 1980 there were two park areas – Sugar Mill and Tomoka. Since that time, approximately 6,000 acres have been added.

A bird banding station established at the Park is run by Chapter member and licensed bander, Meret Wilson (who will speak to HRA at the June 19 meeting). As a result of Meret's efforts, additional species have been added to the Park's bird list. Formal surveys such as the Spring and Fall Migration and the Christmas Bird Counts are also included in the Park's "life list".

There are two eagle nests on the Park property. One nest was nearly destroyed by hurricanes, but within one week the eagles were carrying fresh material to rebuild. In 2003 and 2004, the parents successfully fledged 2 and 1 chicks, respectively.

Linear lakes connect to the Tomoka River by tidal creeks. Islands of trees are found in low, muddy lakes and huge air plants in these trees have been identified. A non-native bromeliad must be removed. It is surmised that the original plant was discarded by a volunteer, took root and spread.

A small population of Gopher Turtles lives in the Park. The habitat of the Tomoka Basin is not very suitable for the turtles and traffic on the Park's roads can be disastrous for them. Also, visitors drop off tortoises, not realizing that they put the native tortoise population at risk by potentially bringing in diseases.

A marsh survey to study small mammals was done by a grad student at UCF. The student used an ingenious method of affixing the spring trap to the top of a floating platform to capture the mammals. The marshes abound with rice rats, a tawny, medium sized rat that eats vegetation and bird eggs and swims very well. The cotton rat lives on the edges of the marsh. New to the Park is the round tail muskrat, which has awesome claws used to burrow into the wet soil. They make a good meal for the harriers and owls that fly low over the marshes.

Butterfly Orchids once were abundant in the Park. The 1980s' freezes destroyed almost every plant. There may be one plant remaining, high in an old tree. Visitors to the park are urged to contact the Park Rangers if they

see any Butterfly Orchids so the plants can be identified and added to the survey.

Most of the Loblolly Pines were stressed by a drought in 2001 and then killed by hoards of Southern Pine Beetles, a species new in Volusia County until then.

Following the hurricanes in 2004, there was an explosion of invasive Brazilian Pepper seedlings from seeds dispersed into openings created by wind-thrown native trees. This winter, 500,000 pepper seedlings were removed by hand or foliar application of herbicide. But not all effects of the hurricanes are harmful. The rising water allows floating ferns to travel to different areas. And when the water recedes, the ferns send roots into the mud making beautiful green patches on the flood plain.

In February 2005, an old world climbing fern was found in the park. It can reproduce by spore and by fragments of the plant. This fern is at epidemic stage in southern Florida and has traveled north to Volusia County with the hurricane winds. The fern is very flammable, increasing the fire risk in dry conditions such as we are encountering now. It can also smother the host trees.

The Park Service is continuing the work of filling in the mosquito ditches. Twelve miles of the approximately twenty-five miles of ditches in the park have been restored to shallow water habitat.

The cycle of appearance and disappearance of animals, birds, lizards, plants and animals continues on a daily basis. Be sure to visit the Park to camp, hike, kayak, bird or just relax. The main entrance is located at 2099 North Beach Street, Ormond Beach. For details visit <http://www.floridastateparks.org/tomoka/default.cfm>.

Program Meeting – May 15

CRITTERS AND BABY BIRDS

You won't want to miss our May 15 meeting. Kathy Paynter is licensed by the State of Florida to perform wildlife rehabilitation. She has been helping many different species of birds and mammals to recover from their injuries for the past thirty years. She states there is no formal school or educational program that teaches wildlife rehabilitation. She learned by working with a knowledgeable rehabber where she grew up in Pennsylvania. And she has worked with veterinarians in both Pennsylvania and Florida. Because wildlife rehabbers are not paid employees of the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission, she also has a fulltime job as a medical transcriptionist for Florida Hospital Fish Memorial. She considers herself lucky to be able to work from home, which allows her to continue with rehabilitation and still hold a paying job.

Kathy will bring some of her current patients and tell their stories, including interesting tidbits about rehabbing in general. She plans a question-and-answer style of presentation, so be prepared for an enjoyable evening.

THE SPRING MIGRATION COUNT

David Hartgrove

Saturday, May 13th, is International Migratory Bird Day. It's also the date for the Spring Migration Count. The North American Migration Count was begun over 10 years ago by a fellow named Jim Stasz at Pawtuxent National Wildlife Refuge, in Maryland. The idea was to have counts done all over North America on the same day to give a "snapshot" of the progress of migration across the continent. The Florida Ornithological Society has taken over as official sponsors of the NAMC here in Florida. The information collected will be posted on their web site and available to researchers from all over the world. So it's important work we'll be doing while having fun and learning a little more about the birds.

As usual with counts, this will be an all day affair but we can easily see to it that you're back to your car if you need to leave early. Bring your lunch and meet us at the east end of the City Island Court House parking lot at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 13th. We'll split up into teams and head out to our respective areas. Please, don't say to yourself, "They don't need me. I don't know a lot about birds, I just like to watch them." Participating in a count like this is how you learn more and have fun doing it. Please, come and join us.

Welcome to new members Ann Alberti, Kathe Angel, Eleanor Bannerman, Frances Bennett, Sonia Bernetich, Barbara Boland, Suzanne Conner, George D. Craigmile, Anthony and Edna W. DiPardo, Jerome Doliner, David J. Donovan, Georgia Ecret, Mary Engel, Dr. Harry Goldenschein, Bob and Annajean Hardesty, Marge Hardy, David F. Hess, J.S. Ingraham, Karen Jorgensen, Margaret Kirk, Winthrop H. Kretman, Christine Lannon, Margaret McClinsey, Bob North, David Reid, Ms. Betty Rogers, Charles Shields, David L. Simes, Arlene Taylor, Frank York.

May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th

"WINGS OVER FLORIDA" WASHINGTON OAKS KAYAK TOUR

Want to learn more about the world of birding and kayaking? Join us for a two-hour program and enjoy a leisurely paddle through one of Northeast Florida's most beautiful landscapes. While observing the area's migratory and resident birds, fish populations, and common aquatic plants, you will discover how they interact with the environment and maintain a vital balance.

The tour will launch from Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, last two hours, and be led by a professional kayak guide/naturalist. The tour fee is \$40 per person, which includes all needed kayaking equipment, kayaking instruction, park entrance fees and bottled water. Some suggested items to bring are a spare change of clothing, sunscreen, sun hat, sunglasses, camera and binoculars.

After the kayak tour, feel free to explore the park, which include ornamental gardens, nature trails, picnic area, coquina rock beach and newly renovated Visitor Center.

Dates for the tour are: May 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. Spaces are limited and deadline for registration is 24 hours prior to date. Payment is due upon registration by contacting Coastal Outdoor Center at (904) 471-4144. For tour departure times or more information visit the outfitters website at www.coastaloutdoorcenter.com.

APRIL BOARD MEETING

The Treasurer reported \$10,336.80 in our checking account. Our membership is 547, but some members will be purged for nonpayment of dues.

Board will plan next year's field trips and programs in May or early June, and requests that Chapter members offer suggestions for Chapter activities.

Board voted to rotate donations to each of the four bird rehabbers (see Minutes, February 2006) from the 50/50 raffle each month and give them whatever monies that come in on their month.

Board endorsed using electronic voting on issues that come up between Board meetings that cannot wait until the next meeting.

Board voted to give David Hartgrove permission to investigate the possibility of putting up a plaque in memory of deceased member Marie Oglesby on a Kiosk now on the premises in Rose Bay. Rose Bay is a natural environment studied and developed by students of Louise Chapman, science teacher at Mainland High School. Marie was a mentor of Louise Chapman when she began her work with her students. Rose Bay is located on US1 just south of Port Orange.

Sierra Club Meeting May 3

OYSTER POPULATION IN MOSQUITO LAGOON

The Volusia/Flagler Sierra Club will meet at City Island Library in Daytona Beach. The program will feature Anne P. Birch, Indian River Lagoon LCA Program Director for The Nature Conservancy. Anne will tell about a local effort to increase the oyster population in Mosquito Lagoon by placing specially constructed mats on the bottom of the Lagoon, upon which oysters may grow.

After her talk, attendees will make some mats designed for oysters to grow on. Anne will provide all materials, so attendees need only bring their enthusiasm and engineering skills. Not to worry, the mats are a simple, but ingenious design.

Due to the nature of the program, at the request of the speaker, mat makers will be limited to 25 participants. However, the number of supervisors observing the process is unlimited. The program begins at 7:00 p.m., but come early to socialize and enjoy light refreshments. For more information, contact Marsha Lewis at 386-258-1605.

SAVE THE DATE!
Audubon Assembly 2006
October 19-21

Due to the cancellation last fall, we are gearing up for a great event this October! Plan on joining us for a weekend of networking, education, advocacy and birding!

Location: Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort
 Special rate: \$89.99/night.
Reserve rooms now at 800-206-2724.
Special Audubon rate good through September 27 only.

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.

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.

ASSISTING BABY BIRDS

Or what to do with a stray youngster

It is the season for baby birds to wander away from their nest and/or lose their parents. For one reason or another, all baby birds aren't exactly ready to make it on their own. They end up on the ground with little ability to feed or protect themselves. If you locate a baby bird (or adult bird that is sick or injured), here are some suggestions on how to respond.

- Baby songbirds that have feathers and are hopping around are probably okay. Their parents keep feeding them for a couple of weeks after the fledglings have left the nest. LEAVE these birds alone unless they are in danger from pets or traffic. In this case, gently pick them up and put them in a nearby shrub or tree, then leave the area so the parents can go back to feeding them.
- Young ducks are easily "imprinted" on whoever is raising them. If they are treated like pets, they will never adjust to life in the wild. Put orphaned waterfowl in a covered, ventilated box lined with a paper towel (they eat strings of cloth towels). Place jar lids on the box floor with water, chopped lettuce, and/or cracked corn – no bread, please. A small untreated feather duster will comfort them. As soon as you can, take the bird to a licensed rehabilitator.
- Any bird of any age that has been attacked by a cat or dog should be taken immediately to a bird rescue facility for treatment to prevent infection.
- Naked, fuzzy, or partly feathered nestlings that have fallen to the ground but don't appear to be hurt can be cupped in your hands until they're warm, then put them back in their nest.

- If the nest is blown down or if you can't get to it, make an artificial nest out of a berry basket or plastic butter tub (punch holes in the bottom for drainage). Line the nest with pine needles, or dry grass (not green grass; it's damp) and fasten it to a shrub or tree in a sheltered spot. Then go away and watch from a distance to be sure the parents are caring for the bird, or check back to look for fresh droppings in the nest as a sign that the babies are being fed. For naked nestlings, however, substitute nests aren't warm enough for them to survive. Take unfeathered babies to a rehabilitator.
- Young songbirds need to eat every 20 to 30 minutes from sunup to sundown. If the bird truly seems abandoned after you have observed from a good distance for several hours, contact a rehabilitator.
- If the bird you see is an adult, pick it up gently in a cloth or paper towel and put it into a prepared box with a lid. Shoeboxes are a perfect size for small birds; larger birds can be placed in a cardboard pet carrier. Punch ventilation holes in the top and line the box with paper towels before picking up the bird. Put the box in a quiet room, away from pets and extreme temperatures. As soon as possible, take the bird to a rehabilitator.
- If you find a hawk, owl, or large heron/crane, don't try to handle it – these birds can injure you. Instead, call a rehabilitation facility for assistance.

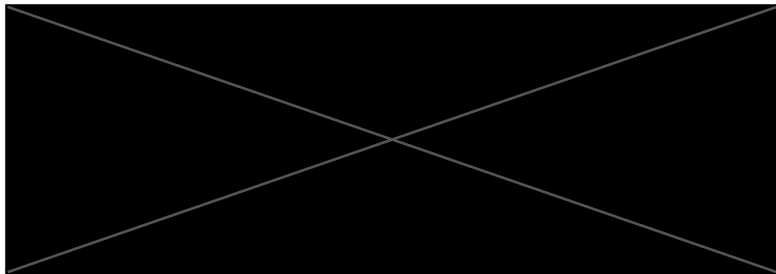
Information for this article was extracted from the Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research News (Newark DE), Spring 2005, by Charles Sample. Published in the West Volusia Audubon newsletter Wings & Things, March 2006.

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MAY 2006

President and Board

John Roessler	President	255-9826	owensl@codb.us
Novetta Duffer	Vice President	672-7745	nduffer@cfl.rr.com
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
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	Historian, Publication Chair		
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Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Phyllis Lamborn	(386) 423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	427-8265	huntforgloria@hotmail.com
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
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

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Thank you for the delicious refreshments at our Chapter's April 17 program meeting that were provided by hosts Ken and Caroline Russell, Lois binson, Mattie Null, and Donna Reese.

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 51 - NO. 12 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON June 2006

WELCOME TO THE BOARD

Ken Russell and **Ken Hanson** were voted in as your new Board members at the May program meeting. They will serve three-year terms.

KEN HANSON

Ken, born and raised in Illinois, joined the Air force in 1957, where he spent the next 26 years. He retired to Port Orange and taught Aero Space Science at the Mainland High School for the next 12 years. Now retired from this second career he can devote himself to his interest in the outdoors and especially in avian photography and kayaking.

He has been recognized for his volunteering with the National Park Service at the Canaveral National Seashore and the Seabird Rehabilitation Center at the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet. His photographs for were chosen for signage and publications of the Center.

Ken received his formal photographic education at the University of Alaska (Anchorage). He has given presentations on digital and avian photography to various interested groups in Volusia and Flagler Counties; the Shores Camera Club named him the 2004 Advanced Digital Photographer of the Year and he is also the past-president of that organization

He is the Bird Photography Forum Moderator for the "Outdoor Eyes Online Magazine", an online nature magazine with over 4400 registered users. The images in his online Avian Gallery, "Hawks Ridge Images", have received over 8000 hits and very positive reviews. Last but not least, he is a contributing member of the North America Nature Photographers Association.

KEN RUSSELL

Ken Russell is a retired corporate counsel who moved here three years ago from South Florida. He lives in Ponce Inlet.

Most of his career was spent at the headquarters of the US operations of Siemens AG in New York City, where he was the Deputy General Counsel of the U.S Legal Department. In 1998 he relocated to Boca Raton as General Counsel of the Siemens US telecommunications subsidiary.

Since retiring and coming to Volusia, he has been pursuing his interests in growth management and the environment. He has been a docent at the Marine Science Museum and a member of the Turtle Patrol and Washback Watchers. He has completed two Master

Naturalist courses. He is a member of VCARD, a graduate of the Volusia Citizens Academy and was involved in the Smart Growth initiative as a member of the Environmental and Development/Redevelopment subcommittees of the Smart Growth Implementation Committee. He is a member of the Volusia ECHO Advisory Committee and the Volusia Forever Advisory Committee. He is Ponce Inlet's representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. He has also taught international commercial law as an adjunct professor at Florida A&M College of Law.

Attention Members and Friends!

We have added a meeting to our regular nine monthly meetings. This is for our members who have not migrated north, who make up most of our membership. This is a trial run to see if we should continue a June General Membership Meeting. The program on bird banding at local Tomoka State Park is presented in another article in this issue.

TAKING THE REINS ON GROWTH

David Hartgrove

Tucked away in the Volusia County Charter is the possible solution to the problem of growth management here. Section 1302.2 gives the citizens of the county the power to amend the County Charter. If we're ever to have any enforceable growth management options, the Charter needs to be amended to provide the tools to do the job. That's just what VCARG, the Volusia Citizen's Alliance for Responsible Growth, intends to do. They have crafted two amendments that should help bring balance back to the growth management process. First, there's an amendment that seeks to prohibit increases in residential density in the 100-year flood plain. Second, there's an amendment to require a unanimous vote by the County Council for any rezoning or comprehensive plan amendments to the area listed in the 2006 Future Land Use Map as the Natural Resource Management Area. Please visit the VCARG web site: www.responsiblegrowth.net and read more about this important opportunity to make a difference. If at all possible, make a donation and or volunteer to help with petition signature collection. This is our chance to make a difference in the quality of life we pass on to future generations.

June 19 Program Meeting

BIRD BANDING AT TOMOKA PARK

Did you every wonder how researchers obtain information about individual birds? Or what information is gleaned from the bands found on bird's legs? Come to our meeting on June 19 to learn the answers to these and other questions.

Meret Wilson, whose specialty had been raptors for a number of years, became interested in songbirds in 1998 when she attended an AOL "Cybirder's Event" in Delaware. While working in the clinic at the Birds of Prey Center she came across an invitation to visit a banding station in Rock Springs, saw what they did and started training that week. For 6 years she trained with Richard Poole and Bob Wheeler, licensed banders at Rock Springs and Wekiva State Park. In 2004 she received her own license and opened up the Tomoka State Park Bird Banding Station.

The station is just completing its second full year of banding. The banding station is open during week days only because she is still a full time Medical Technologist at Fish Memorial in Orange City working Friday nights through Sunday evenings. The station has had wonderful assistance from the Park and individuals as well as organizations such as our Chapter where Meret is a member. The banding project is scheduled to continue for a total of 7 years.

We look forward to seeing you at our final monthly meeting before the summer recess.

WANTED – VOLUNTEER

The Chapter needs to recruit a member for the Board position responsible for distributing the educational programs Audubon Adventures to school children. The job description for chair is:

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 - By determining how many are needed.
 - By ordering them.
 - By seeing that the bill is paid in conjunction with the HRA Treasurer.
 - By seeing that teachers receive them.
3. The Chair will also promote and publicize Audubon Adventures in Chapter Meetings and in *The Pelican*.

4. The Chair will seek to promote an interest in the environment in schools whenever possible.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

The recent end of Florida Legislative session brought a mixed bag of news on the environmental front. Much will be made of the 310 million dollar deal lawmakers managed to hash out in the waning hours of the session to purchase 74,000 acres of the old Babcock Ranch, in Lee and Charlotte Counties. If the deal goes through as set up, it will be the largest purchase of endangered lands in the state's history. What we here on the east coast aren't hearing much about is the plan to construct a town for 45,000 new residents on the remaining 17,000 acres of the ranch. Local authorities there have one estimate of 1.1 billion dollars that taxpayers will have to subsidize in infrastructure costs if the town is completed as planned. At this point, no one knows what the outcome will be but it looks as if the 74,000 acres will soon be state conservation lands with a working cattle ranch still in place there.

The Outstanding Florida Waterway status of the Tomoka River took another hit on March 3rd when the Army Corps of Engineers office in Jacksonville authorized the final dredge and fill permit for the gigantic new, and soon to be relocated, First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach. In spite of cogent arguments demonstrating the lunacy of permitting this project in this place, the Corps apparently thought that if the St. Johns River Water Management District was willing to permit this atrocity, it wasn't the business of a federal agency to protect a state and local treasure. Combine this with the planned extension of Tomoka Farms Road north from LPGA Boulevard to SR 40 (yes, that one will almost certainly be approved too) and you have the recipe for the death of the river as we know it. It will still be a ditch capable of transferring storm water runoff from the acres of car lots along its eastern shore to the already polluted waters of Tomoka Basin and the Halifax River. And to those whose only experience with the river is when they cross over it rushing on their way to somewhere else, it will still look like a river. Its banks will become more trash strewn and it will no longer contain the second highest number of living aquatic organisms ever recorded in a fresh water body in the state. But these kinds of things continue to be the stuff of our rivers and lakes. Local, state and federal regulatory agencies are tasked with maintaining a healthy environment for our posterity and us. Unfortunately, the elected officials to whom these agencies must answer have been drinking the poisoned Kool aid of "progress and growth." Continuous growth, at the expense of any semblance of a quality of life, is the price we must pay for progress. Call me a Luddite but I've seen enough "progress" to last me a lifetime.

Welcome to our new Chapter members Mr. Sidney Blair, George Bollinger, Barb Cavender, Mary Cooper, Elaine DeLucia, Susan Downer, L.L. Eliksson, Janet H. Garrett, Robert Garrison, Mr. David E. Horrigan, Joy R. Kluess, Ms. Maria Lindsay, Mike McLaughlin, Ms Dana McNew, Launa T. Orr, Virginia Phillips, Natiliya Rowley, Ms. Lydia R. Schnee, David Thorp, Joe Vetter, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Washburn, and Caren G.G. Wilkie.

REPORT FROM CANA

Captain Willie Burns

Last week we (Capt. Walt and myself, Capt. Willie) got to take another survey tour of the Canaveral National Seashore Park. Kansas, actually Candace, is John Stiner's assistant environmentalist and resource manager. She and Margo Z. came up to go plovering.

Margo is a paid ornithologist from Palm Beach working for National Audubon specializing in plovers. She wanted to see if we had breeding habitat for Wilson's Plovers and if any plovers were on the scene. The first day we took a pickemup truck into the deserted backcountry of the park.

We roved all through the dike roads, busting through brush and small trees. Except for one Piping and two Wilson's, plovers were few and far between. We did hear one doing territorial call, but Margo felt there was really ~~nothing suitable for breeding habitat for Wilson's~~

On the beach we saw some Black-bellieds, and lots of Ruddy Turnstones. Ruddies are not a plover, by the way. They are similar and on the same page with plovers in most field guides but are in a separate Family. At the end of the day Walt drove Margo and Kansas to the south inlet park with the same result

The second day we took the pontoon boat out to survey islands in the lagoon as well as the water side of where we had been the previous day. Except for one pleasant sand bar filled with sandpipers, five Semi-palmateds, and one Wilson's, it was another "im-plover-ished" day. Yes, I invented that word, and a very suitable one it was!

We did see lots of Dolphins, many fish including some huge Redfish (almost five feet long), Speckled Sea Trout, Sting Rays, lots of Mullet jumping, and even some Tarpon.

The Wilson's need a large empty area near the water with no trees for predators to lurk in. The chicks are precocial, a big word that means they can walk as soon as they come out of the egg. Their parent birds do not feed them, merely leading them to the water's edge to feed on small creatures.

The Inlet Park has some suitable habitat, but there is not much in Cana. No large enough open space close

enough to the water. Margo was happy, since not having habitat fits in her research too.

We did see a few nice snakes, and several Rice Rats. We drove all the way to the County Line, halfway to the other end of the Park and eleven miles from the North Pole boundary with Bethune Beach. Two beautiful days with lots of birds, just not plovers.

Audubon of Florida Discovery - May 12

OLDEST LIVING ROSEATE SPOONBILL IN FLORIDA KEYS

His name is Enrico and his discovery will make the record books. At 16 years old, the oldest wild Roseate Spoonbill was recently discovered by Audubon of Florida researchers on Tern Key in Florida who were conducting a new Spoonbill Satellite Telemetry Project.

Audubon of Florida researchers from the Tavernier Science Center used a lot of patience and a little luck to recapture Enrico in April for the purpose of deploying a satellite telemetry transmitter on the bird. This is the first year Audubon is implementing a satellite-tracking program to follow breeding spoonbills of Florida Bay to unidentified and undiscovered nesting and foraging sites, over migration paths that are currently unknown.



Researchers first observed the bird in 2004 at the colony and feeding in a lake. Enrico was remarkable because he wore an identifying leg band with a green stripe across the top of it, and the band was placed above the joint on its leg. Since 2003, Audubon researchers have been placing bands below the joint on spoonbill chicks in Florida Bay.

Once Enrico was captured, scientists contacted the USGS Bird Banding Lab in Laurel, Maryland, to track down the bird's origins. Within a few weeks, the mystery was solved. Drs. George Powell and Robin Bjork, former researchers of Audubon's Tavernier Science Center on Tern Key, originally banded Enrico in 1990.

Audubon researchers look forward to tracking Enrico's movements via satellite telemetry, and to his possible return to Tern Key for the next breeding season.

For more information about Enrico or Audubon's Roseate Spoonbill Satellite Telemetry Project, please contact Jerry Lorenz at 305-852-5318.

From *Audubon Newswire*. Vol. 4, No 10.

MAY BOARD MEETING

The Treasurer reported \$10,148.30 in our checking account. Willie Burns presented a check for \$675.58 from Golden Dog sales at Washington Oaks, Sugar Mill Gardens and the Ormond Book Bash.

The new bird feeder at Sugar Mill Gardens is up and running. The Purple Martin house has been delivered to the city of Ormond Beach to be set up in a city park.

Paula Wehr reviewed the speakers she has lined up for next year's programs.

The June Board meeting (June 5) will be dedicated to planning next year's Field Trips. Members are invited to attend the meeting or send information to a Board member with a Trip suggestion.

- Board voted to set up a plaque at Rose Bay Park honoring deceased Chapter member Marie Oglesby, with wording at David Hartgrove's discretion.
- Board voted to donate \$80 to Jim Cox to purchase a mist net to capture birds (and release only) for his use at Tall Timbers Research Station in addition to his honorarium for the program he will present in the 2006-2007 Chapter year.
- Board voted to purchase a small, wheeled teacart for use at our refreshment table to facilitate coffee preparation at Chapter programs.
- Board voted to purchase five Audubon Adventure kits for educator Louise Chapman's use.

BIRDING TRIP TO FT. DESOTO

Lois Robinson

It is with a great deal of joy and satisfaction that I report on our birding trip to Ft. DeSoto and surrounding areas. Yes, it was hot, yes, it was dry but in spite of the heat we saw a total of 97 species and some life birds for several of the group of eleven intrepid birders.

After arriving in St.

Petersburg we lunched at Weedon Island State Preserve on the shores of Old Tampa Bay. The Preserve has canoe trails, boardwalks and an observation tower along with a Cultural and Natural History Center. It encompasses approximately 3,000 acres. Birding was not great there but it was an interesting place to visit.



As we approached Ft. DeSoto we stopped at several retention ponds and saw, among other great birds, a family of Mottled Ducks and one of Moorhens, Black-hooded Parakeets, and Roseate Spoonbills to name a few. Going on to Duck Pond (named by us) we saw more Redhead Ducks than any of us had seen at one time as well as

Lesser Scaups and America Black Ducks, Blue-winged Teals as well as many wading birds.

We spent one and a half days at Ft. DeSoto seeing warblers, buntings, one Cuckoo, and at least two Magnificent Frigatebirds. On the beaches were five species of terns, six species of sandpipers and four species of plovers. A stop at the Refreshment stand at the Fort helped us refortify ourselves with generous amounts of ice cream.

When we started home we went over the Sunshine Skyway Bridge and picked up Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, a Palm Warbler and a Common Grackle.

I forgot to mention a stop at Boyd Hill Nature Park on Saturday morning. We added two species of woodpeckers to the list and a Carolina Wren. Boyd Hill is a park of 245 acres with many trails and habitats and is part of the Florida Birding Trail. Several osprey nests are located in the park as well as one Bald Eagle nest. This area of the state has many lovely parks and is well worth visiting. We didn't begin to cover them all but what we did cover was very rewarding.

I am grateful to our drivers Willie Burns, John Roessler and Rachel Ramsey for the magnificent driving they did in traffic that was unbelievably difficult at times.

"Audubon Adventures"

WANTED - VOLUNTEER

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 - By seeing that teachers receive them.
3. The Chair will also promote and publicize "Audubon Adventures" in the Chapter Meetings and in *The Pelican*.
4. The Chair will seek to promote an interest in the environment in the public Schools whenever possible.

Saturday, June 17

AUDUBON PICNIC

Members and their guests are invited to a picnic at Barbara and Steve Kieran's home. The Kierans will provide meat, drinks, paper products, and utensils. You will bring your choice of a vegetable, fruit or dessert dish.

Come around 11:00, June 17. Bring chairs, binoculars and cameras (their yard is a bird haven) and get ready for great food and fun.



Directions to 1842 Old Tomoka Road:

- Go west on Granada Blvd in Ormond Beach (SR-40) under I-95. Or go to SR-40 turnoff on I-95.
- After about ¼ mile, turn left on Tymber Creek Rd.
- After about ¼ mile, turn left on Old Tomoka Rd.
- The Kieran home is the last house on the left.
- Lost? Their phone number is 672-2927.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY SPONSORS INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2006

New York, NY, May 12, 2006 - The National Audubon Society is joining forces with several conservation organizations, National Parks, National Forests, wildlife refuges, schools, communities, and a host of other groups for the 14th Annual International Migratory Day (IMBD), a celebration of migratory birds.

The theme of this year's International Migratory Bird Day is the Boreal Forest: Bird Nursery of the North. The Boreal Forest is one of the largest, intact forests left in the world and encompasses about 1.5 billion acres or 5.9 million square kilometers. It stretches from Alaska across Canada to the Atlantic Ocean. Over 270 bird species migrate long distances each spring to the Boreal region to nest and raise their young, from the United States, Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Ducks, shorebirds, warblers, and thrushes depend on the abundance of food and available nesting sites in the forest and the millions of lakes, ponds, and rivers that characterize the Boreal. An estimated 2 billion young are hatched in spring and summer.

KATHY PAYNTER ENTERTAINS HRA

Lois Robinson

Kathy Paynter gave us a detailed and glorious picture of the life of a Wild Bird Rehabber Monday night for our May program. We could not believe the

dedication and hard work it takes to take care of baby birds during the nesting months of April through July. The little ones need to be fed every half hour from early morning until midnight. When does she find time to sleep? Kathy says her husband is very supportive and cooks most nights as well as cleans house during her busiest season. Without this help it would be impossible for her to do this job. It is truly a labor of love. Bird Rehabbers are not paid, they rely on donations and their own funds but they do have to be licensed by the state and the federal government, which comes with its share of paperwork too.

Kathy brought several cages with baby Crows, baby Starlings, baby Downy Woodpeckers, baby Blue Jays and baby Screech Owls. She makes her own formulas with different formulas for different species. The Screech Owls were fed chopped chicken livers this night. They soon graduate to live beetles, lizards etc. and have to be able to catch prey for themselves before being released into the wild. Kathy has an outdoor aviary where older birds learn to catch prey and live outdoors before they are released.

Kathy's biggest helper is a male Blue Jay who has lost sight in one eye and cannot be released but he helps her raise several broods of babies each year.

A baby Opossum was the final showpiece. We did not know what good mothers Opossums are or how clean they are. Since Kathy doesn't have enough to do she is also a wild animal Rehabber and shares this task with another Rehabber in DeLand but she still likes to take in Opossums.

Thanks to Kathy for a great program and a great learning experience for all of us.

JUNE CALENDAR

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

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

Monday, June 5

Halifax River Audubon Board Meeting. Special invitation to members to help schedule Field Trips for 2006-2007 program year. Dickerson Heritage Library, 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach. 1:30pm.

Sunday, June 7

Volusia/Flagler Sierra Club. Terran Rosenberg of Marineland. "Marineland and Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins." Flagler Beach City Hall Council Chambers, corner 2nd and Central Sts. in Flagler Beach. 7:00 pm. Call Jane Mealy for info at 386-439-4811.

Saturday, June 17

Halifax River Audubon. Picnic for members and their friends. See article.

Monday, June 19

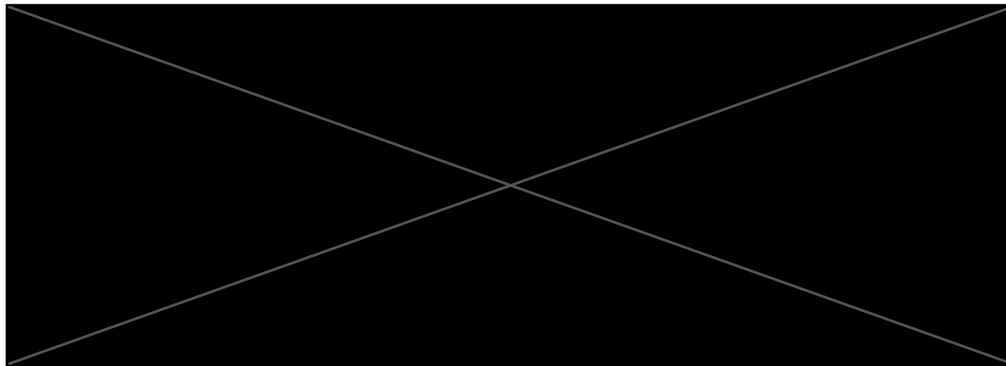
Halifax River Program Meeting. "Bird Banding at Tomoka Park" by Meret Wilson. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

THE PELICAN



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John Roessler	President	255-9826	owensl@codb.us
Novetta Duffer	Vice President	672-7745	nduffer@cfl.rr.com
Madelene Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer	673-1037	gmamini@cfl.rr.com
	Ways and Means		
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary	673-7619	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
Paula Wehr	Corresponding Secretary	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
	At-Large Class of 2007		
Carol Branch	At-Large Class of 2008	226-8588	jcbranch@voyager.net
Barbara Kieran	At-Large Class of 2008	672-2927	bkieran386@bellsouth.net
David Hansen	At-Large Class of 2009	761-7820	dhansen9@cfl.rr.com
Ken Russell	At-Large Class of 2009	561-243-1093	cjr-kjr@mindspring.com
Rosemary Cole	Audubon Adventures	756-1422	rcole4184@aol.com
Hartgrove David	Conservation Education	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
	Field Trips		
Paula Wehr	Hospitality, Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Gina Holt	Ways and Means	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jinjanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
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	

JUNE 2006

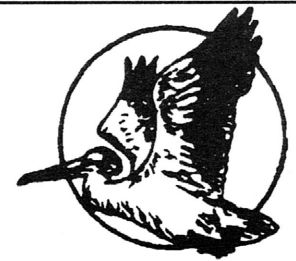
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Thank you for the delicious refreshments at our Chapter's May 15 program meeting that were provided by hosts Joan and Andy Anderson, Barbara and Steve Kieran, and David Hartgrove.

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 52 - NO. 1

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

July 2006

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

In this issue of the Pelican, we've included copies of two petitions to put amendments into the Volusia County Charter. Under our charter form of county government, citizens are empowered to do this. The charter also requires that every 10 years a Charter Review Commission review the effectiveness of the Charter to see if it needs to be amended to deal with current realities facing the county. One of the sub committees is assigned the task of "Protecting the Environmental Core."

The amendment they have drafted is at best, a cruel joke. Tucked into a lot of language that pays lip service to protecting the environmental heart of our county is a provision that sets a 10-year time limit on any protections at all. The idea is that County zoning and land development laws, being generally more stringent than those of the various municipalities, will be preeminent. But just so as to not to interfere with the development onslaught, 10 years after a parcel is annexed, development plans must be approved. This effectively nullifies all of the other flowery language that speaks about the importance of protecting the Environmental Core. Any developer wishing to carve up a portion of what is now fresh water recharge land can file his plans and sit on them for 10 years waiting for the time limit to run out. Then, approval of the plans, however egregious, is mandated under the charter.

If this sounds as stupid to you as it does to me, please sign the enclosed petitions and mail them off as soon as possible.

One will prohibit density increases in the 100-year flood plain. While this would seem like a "no brainer", there are those who make a fortune asking for and receiving permission to do just that. Case in point, the folks in Deltona who discovered several years ago that their homes had been built in an area originally designated a retention pond.

The other petition is to require a unanimous vote by the County Council for any zoning changes or Comprehensive Plan amendments in what is now called the Natural Resource Management Area. Convincing all 7 members that a bad idea is really good should be a hard nut to crack. Let's hope it works out that way.

Please, sign and mail in the petitions right now. First, make copies and have your spouse, your parents, your kids (as long as they're registered Volusia voters), and

your neighbors sign and mail them too. We can take back our destiny and that of our progeny. But we have to get moving and there's not much time.

CALENDAR 2006-2007

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

Wednesday, July 5

Halifax River Audubon Board meeting date has been changed due to July 4th holiday. Meet **July 5** at Dickerson Heritage Library. 1:30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Tuesday, July 18

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society Program. Michelle Moen, local environmental activist. "How growth affects the Volusia Conservation Corridor". Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, July 20-22.

Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (GTMNERR). Free Summer Water Institute for Elementary and Middle School Teachers. To register contact Lori Dennard at ldennard@sjrwmd.com or 386-329-4563 by July 10th. Event is held at the GTMNERR Environmental Education Center in South Ponte Vedra Beach, located at 505 Guana River Rd, off A1A 8 miles north of Vilano Beach.

Saturday, July 22

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society Field Trip. DeLeon Springs State Park: Wild Persimmon Trail/ pancake breakfast/ swim. Meet 7:15am at Daytona Beach Home Depot parking lot ISB. Or meet 8:00am at Park entrance gate. Walk Wild Persimmon trail in the cool of the day. Then at 10:30am breakfast at the Old Spanish Mill Restaurant. Bring water, insect repellent, swimsuit, change of clothes, ID books, etc. Reservations required for Old Spanish Mill. Call Contact Sonya Guidry - cell 386 690-1797 or sonya940@cs.com.

Sunday, July 23

Alachua Audubon field trip. Matanzas Inlet. Meet at Fort Matanzas National Monument near Crescent Beach. 8:30am. Explore the wildest inlet on Florida's East Coast for nesting Least Terns and Wilson's Plovers. Bring water, a snack, and sunscreen and pack a lunch if you plan to stay all day. Call Bubba Scales for info at 352-381-1997. (3)

**VOLUSIA COUNTY SPRING 2006
BIRD COUNT**

CNT	NAME OF BIRD
7	Grebe, Pied-billed
1136	Pelican, Brown
130	Cormorant, Dbl-crested
67	Anhinga
50	Heron, Great Blue
353	Egret, Great
237	Egret, Snowy
60	Heron, Little Blue
49	Heron, Tricolored
1	Egret, Reddish (white phase)
1009	Egret, Cattle
16	Heron, Green
3	Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned
174	Ibis, White
18	Ibis, Glossy
1	Roseate Spoonbill
116	Stork, Wood
40	Duck, Muscovy
73	Duck, Wood
14	Duck, Mottled
29	Mallard
1	Scaup, Greater
367	Vulture, Black
139	Vulture, Turkey
74	Osprey
15	Kite, Amer Swallow-tailed
15	Eagle, Bald
3	Hawk, Cooper's
74	Hawk, Red-Shouldered
11	Hawk, Red-tailed
2	Kestrel, American
33	Turkey, Wild
5	Bobwhite, Northern
1	Rail, Clapper
1	Rail, Virginia
1	Rail, Sora
75	Moorhen, Common
10	Coot, American
5	Limpkin
140	Crane, Sandhill
37	Plover, Black-bellied
7	Plover, Wilson's
211	Plover, Semi-palmated
48	Killdeer
5	Oystercatcher, American
7	Stilt, Black-necked
2	Yellowlegs, Greater
10	Yellowlegs, Lesser
18	Sandpiper, Solitary
73	Willet
19	Sandpiper, Spotted
253	Turnstone, Ruddy
6	Knot, Red
1474	Sanderling
15	Sandpiper, Semipalmated

29	Sandpiper, Western
60	peep, sp.
3	Sandpiper, Pectoral
1	Dunlin
1	Dowitcher, Short-billed
1	Snipe, Common
1663	Gull, Laughing
15	Gull, Ring-billed
6	Gull, Herring
1	Gull, Great Black-backed
3	Tern, Royal
114	Tern, Least
2	sterna, sp.
164	Dove, Rock
24	Dove, Eurasian Collared
2	Dove, White-winged
505	Dove, Mourning
6	Ground Dove, Common
1	Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
2	Screech-Owl, Eastern
6	Owl, Barred
1	Nighthawk, Common
27	Chuck-will's-widow
220	Swift, Chimney
10	Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
23	Woodpecker, Red-headed
82	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
1	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
49	Woodpecker, Downy
1	Flicker, Yellow-shafted
46	Woodpecker, Pileated
1	Phoebe, Eastern
106	Flycatcher, Great Crested
50	Martin, Purple
47	Swallow, Tree
5	Swallow, Barn
136	Jay, Blue
4	Scrub-Jay, Florida
47	Crow, American
172	Crow, Fish
1	Chickadee, Carolina
199	Titmouse, Tufted
3	Creeper, Brown
113	Wren, Carolina
2	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
27	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
4	Bluebird, Eastern
5	Catbird, Gray
333	Mockingbird, Northern
27	Thrasher, Brown
23	Shrike, Loggerhead
197	Starling, European
14	Vireo, White-eyed
6	Vireo, Red-eyed
110	Parula, Northern
4	Warbler, Yellow
1	Warbler, Magnolia
3	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
1	Warbler, Yellow-rumped

1	Warbler, Yellow-throated
27	Warbler, Pine
2	Warbler, Prairie
10	Warbler, Palm
28	Warbler, Blackpoll
13	Warbler, Black-and-white
45	Redstart, American
1	Warbler, Prothonotary
1	Ovenbird
1	Waterthrush, Northern
1	Waterthrush, Louisiana
18	Yellowthroat, Common
9	Tanager, Summer
337	Cardinal, Northern
2	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted
1	Grosbeak, Blue
26	Towhee, Eastern
5	Sparrow, Bachman's
45	Bobolink
267	Blackbird, Red-winged
5	Meadowlark, Eastern
329	Grackle, Boat-tailed
101	Grackle, Common
7	Cowbird, Brown-headed
1	Cowbird, Shiny
5	blackbird, sp.
1	Oriole, Baltimore
8	House Finch
3	Goldfinch, American
47	Sparrow, House

Date	05-13-06	Time	3:00-7:00
Species	141	Weathr	No precip.
Individs	12,755	Temp	58-85
Obsrvrs	33	Wind	SW-W
			3-18

OBSERVERS: Dot Backes, Cyndy Barrow, Kathy Booth, Lori Brakeman, Lou Brakeman, Chandra Bruce, Matt Bruce, Laura Cash, Richard Cash, Beth Cushing, Karen Dell, Kevin Doxatater, Novetta Duffer, John Eggert, Phil Gottschall, Ken Gunn, David Hartgrove, Barbara Kieran, Andrea Lux, Bob North, Roger Peterson, Paul Rebmman, Donna Reynolds, John Roessler, Ken Russell, Don Schaeffer, Ray Scory, Arnette Sherman, Ed Sherman, George Sibley, Sara Lynn Taylor, Nancy J. White.

ITEMS OF INTEREST: These birds were new to our 10-year spring count list: Greater Scaup (Buschman Park lake), Pectoral Sandpiper, White-winged Dove (Dave Stock's backyard feeder), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, Magnolia Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Madeline Shaddix backyard).

NOTE: To review data from 1997 to 2006, log on to Chapter web site or contact *Pelican* editor.

A big **THANK YOU** to Barbara and Steve Kieran for hosting a Chapter picnic, from all of us who had the great good fortune to attend. It was wonderful!

WILLIE BURNS' CARDINAL DIARY

Wednesday

My pretty lady Cardinal that roosted on my night-light last fall and her mate, a truly handsome bird, have constructed a nest over my door. Actually, two feet in front but only a foot over my head when I come out. Mockingbirds began this nest two years ago and added to it last year, but gave up.

So there she sits, on her eggs. When it is hot she stands over them, or sits with her bill open for cooling. All that shows over the top of the nest, which is at eye level as I stand in my screened in porch, is her head and tail.

I now get to walk around from my back porch door to my truck. If I water my flowers almost directly below the nest, or pick up the paper and a box of books, she is quiet. Woe unto me if I open the front screen, however! Then she flushes angrily, chirping and squawking like a tiny banshee. The door just gets too close as it opens, I guess.

While carrying groceries around the long way Saturday I saw she was off the nest, eating or drinking or whatever. I tried to bring the last armful of bags and boxes in the short way, but No! She returned and gave me what for in no uncertain terms.

The nest is in my grape vine, sitting on the metal arbor. The large leaves cover her from the street side very well, blocking most of the sun and rain. She watches me in distrust as I do laundry on the porch, or work at my worktable. I have walked three feet from her to get items near the door, which does not panic her. Only the dreaded opening screen is a problem.

She has returned to the nest as I sat at my table. Picture a red rocket zooming under my carport at a thousand miles an hour (seems that fast), then flaring upward with spread tail and wings as air brakes. She settles on the nest in an instant, always alert for the errant cat or screen door. Picture carrying packages around your home instead of two steps to the door, in the rain, or in the dark. 'Nuff said!

Saturday, May 13

Carl and Carol Cardinal have not only built their nest and laid eggs, they have hatched out at least two chicks. After a week of lying on the bottom of the nest like little embryos, this morning they have started poking their little heads above the nest for food. Not surprisingly, one is a slight bit more developed than the other.

The Pelican Vol. 52, No. 1, July 2006

Both parents seem to be feeding the babies. The parents also seem to cover the nest a little with small grasses when they fly off, perhaps to help shield the young ones.

Sunday, May 14

I have my front door back. Just swell. As I went out this morning to get the Sunday paper, I noticed there were no little heads in the nest, poking up looking for food. They have been poking up if I opened the door, apparently sensing the vibrations in the grape trellis.

So I checked, carefully. No baby birds. Sigh.

As I picked up the paper, a crow flew in and landed on my roof five feet from the nest. Looking at me as if as a competitor. I shooed him and another away, and he flew into a nearby oak. Watching. I went back inside, closing the door behind me and stopping to look at the empty nest.

Down flew the crow, alighting on the trellis right at the nest, dispelling any doubts that he was the killer of the defenseless babies. I made a loud noise and waved wildly and off he went in a panic.

Next came Carl Cardinal. He landed, looked into the empty nest, then at the ground in case the babies had fallen out. Nothing there. He hopped around, then flew off, to be replaced by Carol. Same routine, same lack of baby birds. As she flew away Carl returned for one last look.



Yes, I know it is the Circle of Life, and it rolls along without stopping. How did the crows find the nest? Perhaps there were not enough leaves to fully block the view. Life goes on, and my front door is usable once again.

Note: Willie reported in June that the adult Cardinals are still there, but there is no sign of new nesting activity.

Welcome to new members of Halifax River Audubon Marilyn Bader, Shirley R. Beleff, Mr. Darryl Bennett, Samuel S. Campbell, Rita Davis, Walter Ellis, G. M. Gordon, Ruth Hagar, Patricia Koblolth, Janet and Tim Leonard, Sarah Lock, T. Nuse, Al Perkins, Mary Frances Sherman, Irma Trovato, and Mr. Robert Trudeau.

June Program Meeting

BIRD BANDING AT TOMOKA STATE PARK

Paula Wehr

Halifax River Audubon member Meret Wilson told us that March and April 2006 started out slowly at her bird banding station near the visitor center. But things heated up considerably in May when she banded 100 more birds than she did in May 2005. Also three Connecticut Warblers, a species that is rarely seen here were banded during their flight through Tomoka Park.

Meret described a typical banding day at the Park using her ten mist nets to capture birds. She told us about her procedure to extract the bird from the net, attach the band, measure, determine sex and age, note special data, release the bird, and record the event.

Meret's banding station is one of only three stations in the state of Florida. The other two are located at Wekiva State Park and in Key Biscayne. She will be banding at this station for seven years. There are many other bird banding projects around the state, but they are specific to one particular type of bird.

1902 saw the beginning of a scientific system in recording the data gathered from banded birds. Bands found on captured or dead birds stated, "Return to Smithsonian Institute." Today, if you find a banded bird, you can just call and provide the ID numbers printed on the band and the location where you found the bird.

Birds are banded to:

Determine length of life. In 1669 Duke Ferdinand placed a band on a heron. The same heron was recovered in 1728 by the Duke's grandson, showing that the heron lived almost 60 years.

One of the oldest banded Carolina Wren's on record was banded at the Wekiva station. He is nine years old and still fathering offspring.

Show dispersal and migration routes. Banding data has shown that Cerulean Warblers, for example, migrate south along the east coast, dawdling along, stopping here and there to feed and rest. They return north along the Gulf Coast and travel as quickly as possible so they can arrive first to claim the best territories.

In 1803 John James Audubon tied a silver string to the legs of Phoebes near Philadelphia and was able to identify those same birds when they returned to their territories the following year.

In 1595 Henry IV banded a Peregrine Falcon in France. Twenty-four hours later and 1350 miles away, that bird was recaptured in Malta. The falcon averaged 56 mph, giving point-to-point data and flying speed information.

Estimate survival and productivity.

Study population, behavior and social structures.

Colored bands mark individuals and allow study of the birds without handling them again. Information includes territory behavior, mate fidelity, territory size and fidelity, and reproductive behaviors.

Disease research and toxicology. Meret is a partner in a nation-wide study to learn about the dispersal of Avian flu and other diseases. She samples fluids from birds captured in her mist nets and sends it to a central research center. She has found no evidence of disease in these birds.

Bird banders in Florida are required to have District, State and Federal permits. Banders must be at least 18 years of age and able to identify common local birds. Three well-known people in the banding or ornithology community must vouch for the knowledge of the bander in order for him/her to obtain a license. The applicant is responsible for acquiring all the training needed. The safety of the birds always comes first.

Meret told us stories about the birds she's captured and banded. Some are placid during the procedure, some put up a loud squawk, and some pretend they're not really there. She's noted that some mated pairs look out for each other when one is captured.

Meret loves banding birds, but it's time-consuming work. Volunteers are welcome, whether you'd like to learn how to handle the birds, be a scribe (record the data) or walk the nets looking for captured birds. Taking the measurements, banding and releasing the bird are done much more easily if she has a helper. She will arrive at the park about 30 minutes before sunrise, Tuesday through Friday beginning in September, and will finish mid- to late-morning. Drop by if you'd like to volunteer or learn more about volunteer opportunities. She bands intermittently in August. Volunteers may contact her at MILEYBUG@aol.com.

PEGGY YOKUBONUS

Halifax River Board Recording Secretary Peggy Yokubonus is originally from Columbia, South Carolina. She graduated from the University of South Carolina where she had met her husband, native Floridian Chuck. They moved to Florida in 1972.

At that time she had no knowledge of Florida or its natural wonders. She said, "It took a few years, but I credit my awakening to Michael Brothers when he was science curator at the museum." Her first birding trip was with a museum group.

She has been a member of the Sierra Club and was active in that group for many years, several as Outings Chair. She is a member of the Florida Native Plant Society, and has been a member of our Audubon Chapter for years.

After 15 years with the News-Journal, she left there in 2000 to work in the family business with Chuck. Last November she completed the final module of the Florida Master Naturalist Program.

She is pleased to be an active member of our Chapter and welcomes the chance to do her part to try to preserve what we have left of our beautiful state.

AMENDMENT TO THE VOLUSIA COUNTY CHARTER
REGARDING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA

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

PRINT NAME: _____ (AS SHOWN ON VOTER I.D. CARD)

STREET ADDRESS: NO P.O BOX _____

CITY: _____ COUNTY: VOLUSIA STATE: FL ZIP: _____

IS THIS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION? _____ YES _____ NO

VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBER: # _____ **OR** DATE OF BIRTH: _____/_____/_____

I am a registered voter in the County of Volusia, Florida, and hereby petition the County Council to place the following on the ballot at the next general election.

X _____
SIGNATURE OF REGISTERED VOTER DATE

BALLOT TITLE:

Rezoning or comprehensive plan amendment within Natural Resource Management Area requires unanimous council approval.

BALLOT SUMMARY:

Shall the Volusia County Charter be amended to require that adoption of a rezoning or comprehensive plan amendment for those lands designated by the Volusia County 2006 Future Land Use Map as Natural Resource Management Area requires a unanimous affirmative vote of the council; effective upon adoption? _____ Yes _____ No

FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT: Article II, Section 202.4 shall be amended to add the following subsection: Unanimous approval required for adoption of a rezoning or comprehensive plan amendment for those lands designated as natural resource management areas.

Adoption of a rezoning or comprehensive plan amendment for those lands designated by the Volusia County 2006 Future Land Use Map as Natural Resource Management Area shall require a unanimous affirmative vote of the council. This amendment shall become effective immediately upon approval by the electors.

MAIL TO: VOLUSIA CITIZENS ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE GROWTH, INC., PAC
P.O. Box 1536
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
386 423 8427

Please visit our website: www.responsiblegrowth.net

VOLUSIA COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT PETITION FORM

NOTICE: 104.185- Any person who knowingly signs a petition or petitions for a candidate, a minor political party, or an issue more than one time commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775. 083.

PRINT NAME: _____ (AS SHOWN ON VOTER I.D. CARD)

STREET ADDRESS:
NO PO BOX _____

CITY: _____ **COUNTY:** VOLUSIA **STATE:** FL **ZIP:** _____

IS THIS A CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION? _____ **YES** _____ **NO**

VOTER REGISTRATION NUMBER: _____

OR

DATE OF BIRTH: _____/_____/_____

I am a registered voter in the County of Volusia, Florida, and hereby petition the County Council to place the following on the ballot at the next general election.

SIGNATURE OF REGISTERED VOTER

DATE

VOLUSIA COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT – 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

TITLE: Floodplain Amendment: Prohibiting increased residential density or commercial intensity within the 100-year floodplain.

SUMMARY:

Shall the Volusia County Charter be amended to prohibit increasing the residential density or commercial intensity of development within the 100-year floodplain for all incorporated and unincorporated areas of Volusia County? ____Yes ____No

Provides definitions; provides that existing development may be repaired or rebuilt to the existing density or intensity; provides for a property owner's vested rights; provides an effective date.

TEXT:

[Section 202.4, Minimum Standards for Environmental Protection, insert subsection (1) to existing language; add subsection (2)]

(2) Prohibition against the increase in residential density or commercial intensity of development within the 100-year floodplain.

(a) In order to protect the public health, safety, welfare, and the natural environment, and to protect human life and limit public expenditures and private losses due to flooding, or in areas that are subject to destruction by natural disaster, increases to the residential density or commercial intensity of development within the 100-year floodplain are prohibited. In no event shall the net residential density in the 100-year floodplain exceed a density greater than that in effect as of the date of adoption of this amendment. This prohibition shall apply to all the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Volusia County.

(b) The 100-year floodplain is defined as the areas inundated during a 100-year flood event or identified by the National Flood Insurance Program as an A Zone or V Zone on Flood Insurance Rate Maps or Flood Hazard Boundary Maps. If the property is located within the natural 100-year floodplain, the fact that the land is altered or filled does not remove the property from this definition for purposes of this section.

(c) Development in existence or with approved construction permits or adopted Planned Unit Developments on or before the effective date of this amendment, may be completed, repaired or rebuilt not to exceed the previously existing density or intensity, subject to any other applicable state, federal or local laws.

(d) This amendment is not intended to restrict or otherwise adversely affect a property owner's vested rights under constitutional, statutory or common law. If it is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that a landowner has vested rights, the landowner can elect to proceed with development under the intensity or density in effect on the date of the adoption of this amendment.

(e) This section becomes effective upon adoption.

MAIL TO: VOLUSIA CITIZENS' ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE GROWTH, INC., PAC

**P.O. Box 1536
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
386 423 8427**

Please visit our website: www.responsiblegrowth.net

Pd. Pol. Adv., pd. for by VCARG, Inc., PAC

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Peter Larmie has accepted the position of Chair for Audubon Adventures, an educational program for elementary schoolchildren. He is a 5th grade teacher in Port Orange, has three children of his own, and his family is active in outdoor activities. He has already researched the job by contacting Audubon Adventure Chairs in other Chapters and is planning to take an active role on the Board. The Board is delighted to welcome him.

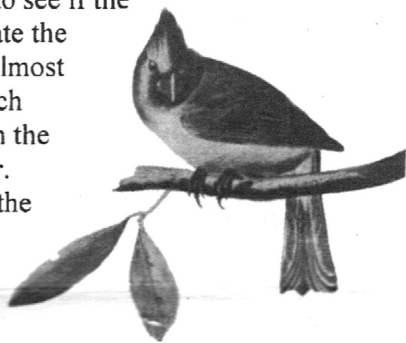
HAPPY CARDINAL STORY

Madeline Shaddix

I was not surprised to see an adult female American Cardinal and a juvenile House Finch in my platform feeder at the same time. House Finches nested in or near my house this year for the first time. The cardinals are yard-nesting regulars, raising three or so broods each spring and summer. The black oil sunflower seeds in the feeder would certainly appeal to both species.

I waited and watched to see if the larger cardinal would tolerate the competition for the food. Almost immediately, the young finch began to flutter its wings, in the classic "feed me" maneuver. I was very surprised to see the cardinal respond to the finch's begging. In her best mothering

method, she picked up one seed, hulled it and fed the meat to the youngster. I cannot remember seeing one specie of bird feed another. The maternal instinct must have been working over time. Mothers are like that.



THE ROBINSONS ARE MOVING

Longtime activist members of Halifax River Audubon plan to move to their new home in Jacksonville this summer. The Chapter paid tribute to Lois and Morrell at our June 19 program meeting. Paula Wehr gathered and put together a list of their accomplishments and President John Roessler read them to the members present. We wished them Godspeed and happiness in their new home. Here are Paula's words:

Lois and Morrell Robinson joined Halifax River Audubon in 1991.

Morrell became Treasurer in October 1994 and was elected Member at Large in May 2006. Unfortunately, the upcoming move will not allow him to complete his term.

We believe that Lois was appointed as Hostess (Hospitality Chair) in October or November of 1993. She held that responsibility through 1998. She held the position of Field Trip Chair from 1995 through 1998. In May 1999 she became President and held that position for two terms of 2 years each, through May 2003.

While taking the reins as President, she started Beginning Birding Classes in 1999 after attending an Audubon Workshop in Wakulla Springs. John Carr attended the course with her.

Following her four years as Chapter President, she became Treasurer in 2003-2005. Just to round out her resume, she was elected Recording Secretary in May 2005.

Lois either participated in or assisted with the organization of two Bird-a-Thons in 2003 and 2005, raising about 25% of the yearly HRA operating budget at each event. She organized and led overnight field trips to Ft. DeSoto three or more times. Every trip was a resounding success with approximately 100 species observed on each trip. Ever flexible and innovative, Lois used different modes of transportation – bus, car pool, rental vans – and organized a picnic lunch, negotiated exceptionally good room rates and ensured we had time in the schedule to stop for an ice cream cone in the afternoon.

The facts I've just given you are basically a list of accomplishments. Although very impressive, they don't tell the true worth and character of Lois and Morrell Robinson. During their years as members of HRA, they have always given willingly and generously of their time, energy and expertise. Members like the Robinson's don't come along every day. Halifax River Audubon was very fortunate that they chose us. We wish Lois and Morrell good health and much happiness in their new home. We'll miss you!

JUNE BOARD MEETING

Willie Burns says The Native Plant Society conference grossed \$694.45 for Golden Dog sales.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove discussed the amendments to the County Charter proposed by VCARG. He and Ken Russell updated the board on the activities of the Charter Review Board and County Council regarding the County's Natural Resource Management Area and plans for it's future. VCARG has asked that all environmental groups donate to the petition drive.

David also updated the Board regarding the future location of Daytona Beach First Baptist Church off Tomoka Farms Road.

Novetta Duffer reported that the new feeder is up at Sugar Mill Gardens. She also says that more benches are needed there.

The Regional Chapter Conservation Committee Meeting will meet June 24, 2006 at Dixie Crossroads Restaurant in Titusville. David Hartgrove volunteered to represent the Chapter.

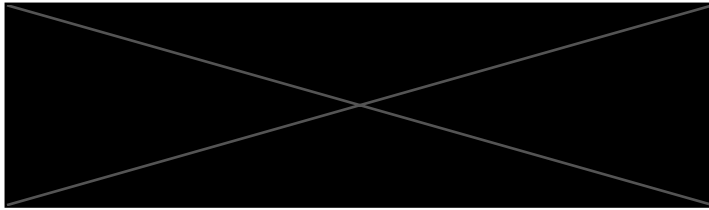
- Board voted to donate \$1,000 to the VCARG petition drive.
- Board appointed Peggy Yokubonus to fill the remaining term of Secretary Lois Robinson. The term will expire in May 2007.

THE PELICAN

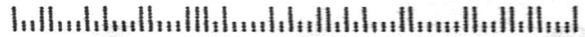


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President and Board

John Roessler	President	255-9826	owensl@codb.us
Novetta Duffer	Vice President	672-7745	nduffer@cfl.rr.com
Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways and Means		
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary	673-7679	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
Paula Wehr	Corresponding Secretary	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Open	At Large Class of 2007		
Carol Branch	At-Large Class of 2008	226-8588	jocanorth@voyager.net
Barbara Kieran	At-Large Class of 2008	672-2927	bkieran386@bellsouth.net
Ken Hanson	At-Large Class of 2009	761-7820	khanson9@cfl.rr.com
Ken Russell	At-Large Class of 2009	760-6703	cjr-kjr@mindspring.com
Open	Education		
Peter Larmie	Audubon Adventures	672-0042	flaramie@cfl.rr.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
	Field Trips		
Paula Wehr	Hospitality, Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Gina Holt	Ways and Means	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
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	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
Bird Identification	David Hartgrove	788-2630	
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	

JULY 2006

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
 In Recognition of David Hartgrove
 Thank you
THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL
 and
COLONIAL COLONY
 For support of our 2005-2006 activities

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 16 June program meeting that were provided by hosts Jere and Tom Arbogast, Steve and Barbara Kieran.

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 52 - NO. 2

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

August 2006

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

If you missed seeing "An Inconvenient Truth" when it played here in Daytona Beach, don't miss seeing it when it appears in your local video store. The clarity of the message and its implications for Florida and a great many other coastal areas around the world are terrible to imagine. But the consequences of not paying attention to the growing crisis are even worse.

Al Gore's message is that even though the outlook is bleak, there's still time to change the course we're on. In a recent interview in Rolling Stone, he quotes Abraham Lincoln when the nation was in the depths of the Civil War, "We must disentrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

Enthrall is an old word not used a lot

anymore but Webster's says it means, "to make a slave of." We are certainly

enslaved to fossil fuels and

if we don't force our

leaders to disentrall

themselves from the

captive mindset they

and their predecessors

allowed themselves

to become mired in,

our civilization is

doomed. We, with a

lot of help from

energy company

advertising, have

convinced ourselves

that our economy,

our nation, our entire

way of life depends

on the burning of oil

and coal. In some ways

that's true. We cannot

continue to clog our roads daily with single occupant

vehicles that each day go to the same destination and

return. We cannot continue living in homes that are

uninsulated, cranking the thermostat down to 72 to

compensate. We cannot continue to encourage people to

have more and more children since the population

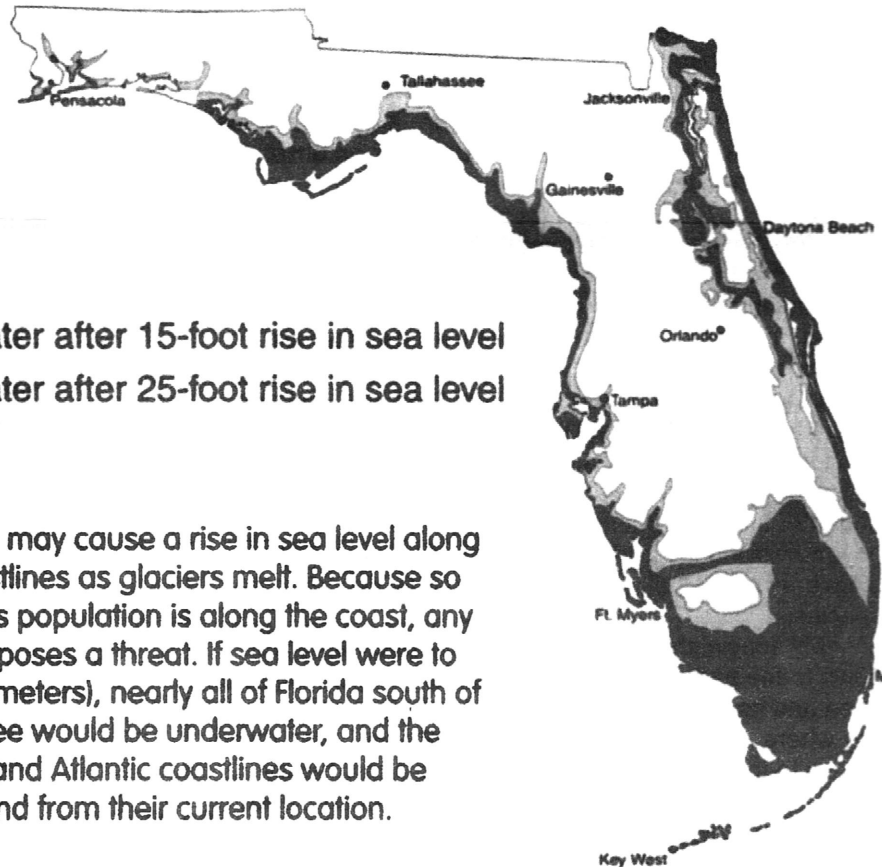
worldwide has already exceeded the earth's carrying

capacity to provide for those children when they reach

adulthood. There are some hard choices to be made ahead

of us. We can continue to watch as our politicians pledge fealty to organizations like the Club For Growth or we can elect those who have read the World Watch Institute's "State of the World, 2006" and have a grasp of its implications. We must break the cycle of thinking that says we're masters of the earth and we can do as we please.

One of the more renowned deniers of global warming theory is Michael Crichton. In his book, "Jurassic Park", one of the characters says that one of the main problems for the park is that the scientists were so absorbed with



Source Lane 1994

whether or not they could clone dinosaurs, they didn't stop to ask if they should. In the early 1960's here in Florida, solar water heaters, which were atop homes all over the state, were removed because electricity was going to "be too cheap to meter." We were so enthralled with whether or not that could be true that we didn't stop to think whether or not we should believe the snake oil salesmen paid to convince us that it was.

LETTER FROM MERET WILSON

Hi Everyone,

May 15, 2006

Today I took down the final nets and poles after recapturing only a single bird, a Northern Cardinal banded last fall. I did not hear a single migrant in the 4 hours I was out at the banding station with the exception of one, a Red-eyed Vireo singing its heart out. I have been tracking this vireo now for over 2 weeks and have seen it flying around with another vireo. Is it possible a pair is planning to nest in the park? If it does I have a general idea where it might be. My plan for this summer is to do some nest hunting around the park. I am so used to getting up at 5 AM I hate to get slothful and waste the summer away!

The season really did end on an upbeat note. After a slow beginning in March things really picked up so I had a number of high volume days, 42 being the highest. In the end I added 20 new species to the list from last year. I am going to attach (virus free) the list of birds banded this year, the numbers and names. Now, the names will be a little confusing as they are listed in the 4 alpha code used by banders. Here is how it works. The first 2 letters are the first name of the bird and the second 2 are the last name: Here is are some examples:

MYWA - Myrtle Warbler, **EASO** - Eastern Screech Owl, **OVEN** - Ovenbird, **NOMO** - Northern Mockingbird, **CARW** - a little tricky, Carolina Wren, **MAWA** - Magnolia Warbler, **CONW** - Connecticut Warbler. If you are really confused when you look at the list, drop me an email and I will help you out. Maybe it will be fun to figure them out on your own! And the totals for the season were: 484 new birds banded (360 last year), 55 recaptures (44 last year), 3 of which were banded last season, 2 Gray Catbirds and an Ovenbird! 8 birds managed to escape the net, the bag or my hand before ever getting their hardware put on.

I have taken over 700 photos of the birds we have had in the hand. I made 8X10 out of the best and close to one of each species banded. I have one more presentation in June to make to Halifax River Audubon and after that I will put it in the Visitor's Center where anyone visiting the park may see the photos and what birds they might look for. I will add to it as we get more species.

My special thanks to Bert Charest who has driven down to the park from St Augustine every week that I was open and he was in town. Without his help I really can't say where I would have gotten in this project. Also many thanks to the park employees Joe Isaac and Charley DuToit who have continually and excitedly encouraged the banding. Thanks everyone.

Have a happy and safe summer.

Meret

Note: Meret presented a program at our June Meeting.

F. PETER LARMIE

Halifax River Audubon is fortunate indeed that Peter Larmie will be our Chapter's new Education Chair.

Born and raised in New Hampshire, Peter graduated from Naples High School in Florida, and later received

degrees from DBCC and UCF. While in the Navy, his job was navigation on board a research frigate, which took him across the Atlantic, through the Mediterranean Sea, over the Red Sea, into the Indian Ocean, and around the Persian Gulf. Sometimes winged critters used the ship to rest weary wings at sea.

Up until a year ago he had taught nearly a decade at the same inner city school, Turie T. Small Elementary, but just this year he transferred to Port Orange Elementary, where he is a fifth grade teacher. He has been married to his wife, Coco, for 24 years and has three lovely daughters Shannon, Megan, and Molly.

First off, he hopes to establish an *Audubon Adventures* program for grades 3 through 5 that becomes self-sustaining in Volusia County. If you are interested in helping organizing, fundraising, or distributing the materials to schools you can contact him at home in the evenings.

CALENDAR 2006-2007

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

Tuesday, August 15

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program meeting. "Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge" by Kristina Sorenson, biologist at the Lake Woodruff NWR. An overview of the refuge, its habitat types, and some of their habitat management techniques, including restoration project in an old fernery. Kristina will also lead a follow-up chapter field trip to the refuge on Saturday. Sica Hall, Holly Hill.

Saturday, August 19.

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society field trip. Lake Woodruff Wildlife Refuge. Meet 7:15am at Home Depot parking lot on ISB in Daytona Beach to carpool. Or meet 8:00am at Lake Woodruff WR site, DeLand. Bring water, insect repellent, sun/rain protection, ID books, binoculars, etc. Lunch at local restaurant. Contact Paul Rebmann at 386 441-4962 or wildflpaul@earthlink.net.

Saturday, September 2

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society field trip. "Butterflies of the Flatwoods" at Wiregrass Prairie Preserve at Lopez Rd., off Pell Rd., Osteen. Led by butterfly specialists Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. Pawpaw carpool meets 8:15 at Smyrna Speedway (NW corner) Highways 44 and 415. Lunch at Famous Osteen Diner. Contact Bonnie Cary, Volusia County Land Acquisition & Management, bcary@co.volusia.fl.us or 736-5276.

Sunday, September 10

Halifax River Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 5:00pm. Led by David Hartgrove, 386-788-2630. (1)

JULY BOARD MINUTES

Treasurer reported July 1 balance of \$7,532.61.

President Roessler nominated non-Board Chapter members Lois Pauchey, Jeri Wyly and Pat Mihalic to do the required yearly audit, and to report the results to the Board.

Willie Burns reported that Golden Dog annual sales on July 1 were \$1,617,66.

John Carr reported that on July 1 National and Chapter Only membership was 530.

David Hargrove reported that he met with the Port Orange Environmental Advisory Board to give them an update on the sign that will be installed underneath the Port Orange Bridge. Port Orange Council will pay the cost of the sign of \$1,900.00.

David reported that he had attended a Volusia County workshop about a limited access road from Edgewater to SR417 in Sanford that was proposed by Congressman Mica. Volusia County Council has pulled out of the study.

David also reported that the Town of Ponce Inlet has a protected piece of property that may be included in the Port Orange Sanctuary.

Ken Russell gave an update report on the Charter Review Commission.

- Board approved of Paula Wehr’s letter of support of the Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail application that is going before the Florida Department of Transportation review board.
- Board approved Peter Larmie as Education Chair to replace Rosemary Cole, who resigned from the Board.
- Board voted to remain a member of the Environmental Council of Volusia and Flagler Counties.
- Board voted that refreshments at program meetings be purchased by the Chapter at a cost of \$25.00 each month. Members may bring supplemental refreshments if desired.
- Board voted not to participate in the Port Orange Family Days even on October 7 because it conflicted with the Chapter’s field trip to Turkey Creek.

PUZZLE

From UteCoot, Wasatch Audubon Society, Ogden, Utah

Find the hidden (or not) birds in this saga by the renowned French authoress, Phoebe Guillemot, based on a classic tale by Guy de Maupheasant. (Hint: There are two names hidden in the title):

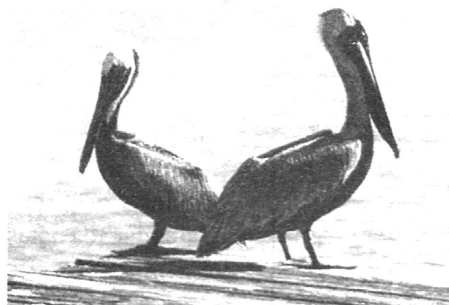
My Name is Tork.

I crave nothing but the heart-throb I never really knew. She was so rabid, my Dora. I left her behind, but loving me was her only crime. The King was wallowing in the mud, sinking, letting out a hearty ranting. How low can you get? He asked me, "Would you like to take a dip?" "Perhaps", I replied. I felt that I had to demur, reasoning that getting in the mud with the King would be golly-gosh awkward, though I felt that I'd do very well in there, gullible as I was. Sensing my negativity, the King roused himself, saying, "Hello" only loud enough for one to hear. Meanwhile, the ogre Nemesis and the ogre's coterie arrived. This consisted of an Arab Sultan, a German Prince and a hick in a comic hat, all with big egos, preying constantly on the weak. Then, in walked Merlin the magician. He practices the darkest religions. Untold riches are his to bestow. He even made me a Barbie Doll once.

Answers: My Name is Tork.
 I crave nothing but the heart-throb I never really knew. She was so rabid, my Dora. I left her behind, but loving me was her only crime. The King was wallowing in the mud, sinking, letting out a hearty ranting. How low can you get? He asked me, "Would you like to take a dip?" "Perhaps", I replied. I felt that I had to demur, reasoning that getting in the mud with the King would be golly-gosh awkward, though I felt that I'd do very well in there, gullible as I was. Sensing my negativity, the King roused himself, saying, "Hello" only loud enough for one to hear. Meanwhile, the ogre Nemesis and the ogre's coterie arrived. This consisted of an Arab Sultan, a German Prince and a hick in a comic hat, all with big egos, preying constantly on the weak. Then, in walked Merlin the magician. He practices the darkest religions. Untold riches are his to bestow. He even made me a Barbie Doll once.
 Myna, stork, raven, robin, sora, rail, heron, swallow, kinglet, owl, dipper, murre, goshawk, hawk, dove, gull, grouse, loon, scoter, tanager, chat, osprey, merlin, kestrel, towhee. Also: mew (European gull - twice), emu (three times) tyrant (substantive name), oo & ou (Hawaiian birds) and hen.

PELICAN

The name "pelican," which comes from the Greek *pelekus*, "axe," once described any bird with a large bill. Another early name was Spanish *alcatraz* now meaning "gannet." The brown pelican,



Peleacnus occidentalis, "from the western hemisphere" and the white pelican, or *P. erythrorynchos*, which means "red-billed." During their breeding season the orange bill develops a bony crest, which later falls off.

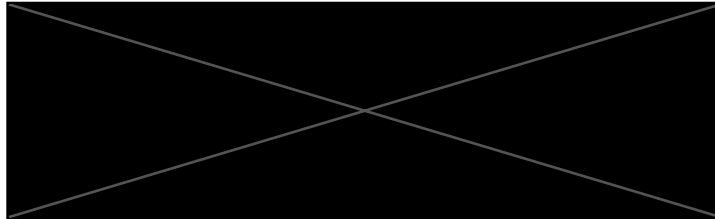
THE PELICAN



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Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways and Means		
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary	673-7679	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
Paula Wehr	Corresponding Secretary	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Open	At Large Class of 2007		
Carol Branch	At-Large Class of 2008	226-8588	jocanorth@voyager.net
Barbara Kieran	At-Large Class of 2008	672-2927	bkieran386@bellsouth.net
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Ken Russell	At-Large Class of 2009	760-6703	cjr-kjr@mindspring.com
Peter Larmie	Education	672-0042	flarmie@cfl.rr.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
	Field Trips		
Paula Wehr	Hospitality, Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Gina Holt	Ways and Means	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
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	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Mary Keller Rehab Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
Bird Identification	David Hartgrove	788-2630	
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		

August 2006

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of the newsletter

The Pelican by

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.

In Recognition of David Hartgrove

Thank you

THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL

and

COLONIAL COLONY

For support of our 2005-2006 activities

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. 52 - NO. 3

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

September 2006

CALENDAR

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path. Call trip leader beforehand to ensure trip details have not changed.

Saturday, September 2

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society field trip. "Butterflies of the Flatwoods" at Wiregrass Prairie Preserve at Lopez Rd., off Pell Rd., Osteen. Led by butterfly specialists Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. Carpool meets 8:15 at Smyrna Speedway (NW corner) Highways 44/ 415. Hike from 9-noon. Lunch at Famous Osteen Diner. RSVP Sonya Guidra at sonya94000@cs.com or phone 386-690-1797.

Wednesday, September 6

Sierra Club meeting. "Environmental Service Learning and Monitoring by Volusia County Students" by Louise Chapman, Environmental Teacher on Assignment for Volusia County Schools. Meet at Daytona Beach Regional Library, City Island, 105 E. Magnolia Ave., Daytona Beach. 7:00pm

Sunday, September 10

Halifax River Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 5:00pm. Led by David Hartgrove, 386-788-2630. (1)

Saturday, September 16

Halifax River Field Trip. Fall Migration Count. Meet at east end of Courthouse Annex parking lot, City Island, Daytona Beach. 7:00am. Led by David Hartgrove, 386-788-2630. Bring lunch. (2)

Monday, September 18

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Conservation and Protection Projects in Volusia County" by Stephen Kintner, Director, Environmental Management, Volusia. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, September 19

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program meeting. "Propagating Natives" by Kevin Bagwell of Full Moon Natives Nursery. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Saturday, September 23

Halifax River Field Trip. Kingsley Plantation. Meet at Halifax Plantation Publix parking lot, 1-95 exit 278. 5:00am. Led by Paula Wehr, 386-673-5332. Bring lunch. (2)

RAY SCORY WILL TEACH BIRDING CLASS

Halifax River Audubon member Ray Scory will teach a Beginner Bird Watching class this fall. Ray is an expert birder and has taught classes previously.

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. Join the class for fun, information and fellowship.

Bring binoculars to all classes, especially the first class, as well as to all field trips.

Class size is limited to 24, so sign up early. You do not have to be a member of Halifax River Audubon to attend.

When: From 9:30 to 12 noon, Thursdays October 26, November 2 and November 9 with birding field trips to local birding hotspots each Monday after the previous class.

Location: Port Orange Public Library Auditorium, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. After class, enjoy the beautiful grounds outside the library – and spot some of the local birds.

Cost: \$25.00 payable to Halifax River Audubon by October 19.

Reservation required: Call Ray Scory at 386-763-4260 or Paula Wehr at 386-673-533.

Program Meeting – September 18

CONSERVATION & PROTECTION PROJECTS IN VOLUSIA COUNTY

Paula Wehr

Every day we are alerted to potential environmental problems in newspapers, on the internet, and on TV. It is sometimes difficult to remember that we experience environmental successes every day as well. Join us to hear Stephen Kintner, Director of Volusia County Environmental Management.

He will give a general overview of the Division and then focus on specific projects such as the new Environmental Learning Center at Lyonia Preserve, the reopening of the Bicentennial Youth Park, the Rose Bay Learning Center, the proposed island management plan, and the sea turtle, manatee and gopher tortoise protection programs. He will also outline the opportunities for citizens to become more involved in these projects. Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. The speaker will begin at 7:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIPS RESUME THIS MONTH

David Hartgrove

On Sunday, September 10th, we'll meet under the Port Orange Bridge for our first bird walk there of the season. We'll meet at 5:00 p.m. and see how many species we can find. Reports have already been coming on the Internet of migrant shorebirds arriving at points north of us. So we should have a good afternoon of easy birding.



Then on Saturday, September 16th, we'll meet at 7:00 a.m. at the east end of the City Island Courthouse parking lot for the Fall Migration Count. As always, this is an all day event but if you can't do the whole day,

please come out anyway. We need all the help we can get on this important count and we'll be glad to have you along for whatever time you can give.

Please, if you're going on either of these trips, call me at 386-788-2630 or send me an e-mail: birdman9@earthlink.net. This especially important if you're going on the Fall Count so that I can begin setting up teams.

BY-LAW CHANGES

The Board, at the August 7 meeting, approved some changes to the By-Laws of Halifax River Audubon Chapter. Only the changes made by the board are listed below. These modifications must be approved/rejected by Chapter members present at the September 18 Program Meeting. The complete listing of the By-Laws are on the Chapter's web site halifaxriveras.org, or can be mailed to you if you call John Carr at 386-255-9360.

The listings below show the new text in brackets and the text to be deleted in strikethrough

The first modification reflects the fact that the Chapter Board has approved extending the Chapter year to June and that the last meeting of the year is in June rather than May.

ARTICLE II

MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings of the **HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON** shall be held monthly from September through ~~May~~ [June] on the third Monday of the month and in such other months as may be directed by the Board of Directors or the President. Ten members shall constitute a quorum at a meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Board of Directors or by the Secretary on receipt of a written petition for such a call signed by ten or more members, stating the purpose for which they wish to have the special meeting convened. The program for any special general meeting shall include only such business as was stated in the call for the meeting.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting of **HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON** shall be the regular meeting in ~~May~~ [June] at which time the program shall include elections and such business as the membership may desire.

Section 4. The time and place of the regular meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors or the President.

The second modification to be approved/rejected by the membership is Article VI, Auditing Committee. The Board approved the change because it permitted the Board to select a non-member auditor to check the Chapter's financial status. This was to comply with standard practice.

ARTICLE VI

AUDITING COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors shall annually appoint a special [Auditor(s)] ~~Auditing Committee consisting of two members of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON who are not Directors,~~ whose function shall be to report to the first fall meeting of the membership of the character and accuracy of the Treasurer's financial records and reports.

The third modification is at the very end of the By-Laws document. It is a statement documenting the date that any change was made. Previously, the Chapter voted to change the title "Halifax River Audubon Society" to "Halifax River Audubon". This change to the By-Laws corrects an oversight made at that time.

These By Laws were adopted by the [CHAPTER] ~~SOCIETY~~ on September 18, 2006.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

I once read that logging onto the Internet was like trying to drink from a fire hose. It is simply incredible the volume of information available. Like many of you, I'm on a number of mailing lists that provide information on a variety of topics. One of them is the Shorebirds list from the University of Georgia. Posted on this site is information from researchers and citizen scientists around the world. Many of the migrants we see here twice a year pass through James Bay Canada on their way to the Arctic to breed.

Back in early June of this year, Jean Iron, a volunteer with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, posted what at the time was thought to possibly be a first

recorded sighting of a Northern Mockingbird on Akiminski Island, part of the Nunavut Territories. It's hard to imagine seeing a mockingbird in the same area you could see polar bears, so



Photo by Jerry Kerschner

this piqued my curiosity. Akiminski Island is the largest island in James Bay. Still, it lacks many of the modern conveniences we take for granted. They have millions of mosquitoes, 50,000 Canada Geese, 2,500 pairs of Lesser Snow Geese, and at least 50 summering polar bears, but no internet access. So Jean's reports are filed by satellite phone and posted by her colleague, Ron Pittaway.

It turns out that this was not the first Northern Mockingbird to be recorded so far north. The first record was a specimen recovered from the McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary on the west shore of Hudson Bay, on June 20, 1960. This spot is considerably north and west of Akiminski Island. Two other reports, from the 1970's and 2000, came from near where the Jean's sighting was made. As we watch these feisty state birds working our lawns for insects, dive bombing hawks and crows 3 times their size and, in Spring, competing with Cedar Waxwings for control of a favored beautyberry bush, we need to remember that some of their species are blazing new trails of territorial expansion. And thanks to people like Jean Iron and the Internet, we can know about it within hours of its being discovered.

As you know by now, we're pushing the Volusia County Council to write their own amendment to the County's charter. The one drafted by the Charter Review Commission that was supposed to protect the environmental core of our county is instead a blueprint for carving it up into "planning districts", the better to facilitate annexation by growth hungry municipalities.

The Council members have told me that they want to write a strong protective amendment and they have scheduled a workshop to explore the issue. Let's hope we have a strong amendment to vote for in November.

Saturday, September 23

KINGSLEY PLANTATION FIELD TRIP

Paula Wehr

Kingsley Plantation was built in 1804 and is the oldest standing plantation in Florida and was owned by a southern slave advocate and his African wife. It is located on Fort George Island, on the north side the St. Johns River, near Mayport Ferry Landing. Part of the Timucuan Preserve that is administered by the National Park Service, Kingsley Plantation and Huguenot Memorial Park are two premier birding spots in northern Florida.

Park Ranger Roger Clark will meet the Halifax River Audubon group at the **Visitor Center to Kingsley Plantation at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 23.**

Kingsley Plantation offers excellent viewing of migrating fall songbirds. Expect warblers galore, plus wading birds, shorebirds and raptors. Ranger Clark spotted 27 species of warblers last fall on his guided walk. Huguenot Memorial Park includes a critical wildlife area for nesting terns and shorebirds, and often hosts rarities. The north side of the peninsula is good for waders, shorebirds and ducks; around the tip, watch for terns and gulls. Telescopes may allow for views of gannets, loons or sea ducks.

This will be a full day of birding. You may want to make arrangements to meet other HRA members at the **Publix parking lot on Roscommon Drive in Halifax Plantation, one mile east of Exit 278 off I-95 at 5:00 a.m.** to form carpools. Or you may want to drive to Kingsley Plantation to tour the historic and cultural exhibits on Friday, September 22, and meet the group at the Visitor Center at 7:00 a.m. For information about the plantation and local accommodations, see <http://www.jacksonvilleflorida.com/Parks/kingsleyplantation.asp>.

We'll walk distances of less than a mile and experience more standing and looking than walking. There will be some shade at the Plantation and no shade on the beach at Huguenot Park. Bring a bag lunch, water, bug spray, sunscreen and a hat. We'll finish birding early to mid-afternoon and drive home. You may want to bring an afternoon snack as well.

Driving directions to Kingsley Plantation.

From Daytona Beach, go north on I-95 to 9A north. Take State Road 105 (Heckschneider Drive) east about 10-11 miles and turn left at the St. Johns River Ferry. Follow the signs for ½ mile to Kingsley Plantation on the left.

GOLDEN DOG'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Golden Dog is wagging happily at the results of the last year.

As we all know, our fiscal year ends June 30, in accordance with National Audubon's requirements. The total amount of profits we were able to bring to Halifax River Audubon the past year was \$1738.01. The overall profits from the Golden Dog are now \$4848.46, spread over six years.

This is despite our small beginnings. The first two years we only raised \$218.00 and \$308.00 respectively. We would like to thank everyone who helped support our effort, especially those who helped with our display at various sales events.

Speaking of which, yes, you too can help! Simply call Willie and come on along. The golden Dog is of course very friendly!

We are trying to obtain some copies of a terrific new book on Shore Birds. We expect to have them ready for all in September. The Shade Grown coffee of course will still be available also, along with our usual collection of marvelous nature books. Golden Dog will have its yearly collection of 2007 calendars by September also. We can special order other versions from our catalog if you can give us an order at the meeting.

Along with our selection of interesting magnets you can special order just about any other style you can think of, along with key chains and similar goodies for gifts.

Meanwhile we hope you all have had a wonderful summer, and wish you Happy Birding!

Willie Burns and the Golden Dog

AUGUST BOARD MEETING

Treasurer: Rachel Ramsey sent in report of Chapter balance of \$7,079.21.

At Large Member: Willie Burns reported that Golden Dog Sales coffee has been a consistent good seller. He announced that Audubon calendars have been ordered.

Membership Chair: John Carr reported that Chapter membership is 500+. Board members discussed the proof copies of the 2006-2007 Chapter Activities brochure and suggested changes and corrections.

Conservation Chair: David Hartgrove sent in a report that the sign to be placed under the Port Orange bridge has been delivered.

Corresponding Secretary: Paula Wehr reported on her participation in the oyster mat making workshop at the Marine Science Center at Ponce Inlet. Two more workshops are scheduled for August 19.

Education Chair: Peter Larmie sent in a report that 12 teachers at Port Orange, Turie T. Small and Tomoka elementary schools will participate in Audubon Adventures. He stated that he believes that media specialists, special education and reading remediation

teachers in middle schools might be interested if materials were available.

At Large Member: Ken Russell gave an update on the Charter Review Commission report. He provided a draft letter for mailing to the Volusia County Council urging the Council to support an amendment to the Commission's report so that a time limit on habitat protection would be eliminated.

Action Items:

- Board approved proposed changes to Chapter By-Laws. These changes are published in this September Newsletter. They will be accepted/rejected by members present at the September 18 Program Meeting.
- Board approved allocating up to \$600.00 for purchase of Audubon Adventure packages for use in local schools. Board noted that \$386.00 has been previously allocated for Audubon Adventures.
- Board approved the resignation of Kevin Doxstater from the Board and approved Bob North to replace him as At-Large member class of 2007.

Could You Be A Sponsor?

Acquainting young people with the beauty of the natural world and encouraging inquiring minds to explore is a great way to help conserve and protect natural resources.

You can help by becoming a sponsor of the award-winning Audubon Adventures. Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program for grades 5 and 6 that presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds and wildlife and their habitats.

Call Peter Larmie at 672-0042 or e-mail him at flarmie@cfl.rr.com for more information.

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 - Special events.
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- Send your check made to Halifax River Audubon to P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-166.

Both articles on this page are from Habi-Chat ,
Newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association,
Summer 2006

TO KILL OR NOT TO KILL, THAT IS THE QUESTION

With thousands of Kennedy Space Center (KSC) employees driving to work and with all of our daily public visitors, excessive road kill has always been an issue throughout the Refuge. Did you know that at least six bald eagles have been killed out here by our drivers and that in the last 10 years over 400 accidents with animals have been reported? Each reported accident averaged \$884 and together they totaled over \$350,000! And now, in May of 2006 alone, 103 dead animals were picked up off of our roads. It is suspected that an excessive vulture population has been created and sustained by our excessive road kill food supply.

On July 26th, 2005, Space Shuttle Discovery hit a vulture during launch. Luckily, no significant damage was sustained, except to the dead vulture. Since that event, many people have come to realize that KSC mission success and Refuge mission success are very much intertwined.

A NASA led bird abatement team is feverishly working to help minimize impacts to the shuttle due to this overpopulation of vultures on the Refuge/KSC. The team has added new go/no-go launch criteria with respect to flying birds at the launch pad. New radar systems can now track birds at the pad. New sound systems are being added to scare flying birds away just before launch. A potential new vulture trap and release program is being tested. USFWS is supporting this bird abatement team in many of these areas with the help of Marc Epstein (Refuge Biologist) and me, but everyone out here can help these two agencies be successful by supporting two key strategies.

- 1) **Prevent Road Kill:** Let's all drive extra cautiously out here. New wildlife crossing signs will appear. Watch out for animals crossing the road. Every animal we miss hitting out here is one more animal we can enjoy, even the snakes, and one less snack for the vultures.
- 2) **Call in Road Kill:** If you see any road kill out here, call 853-5211 for rapid collection. We won't be able to enjoy that animal anymore and we don't want any vultures to run the risk of being hit by a vehicle.

Why? Through attrition, we hope to bring the vulture population back down to more normal levels as our vultures look for their food and homes elsewhere. This will make NASA shuttle missions safer and potentially save an astronaut's life. We will also save some animal lives and reduce damage to some of our cars to boot as some vultures go their merry way.

*Roland Schlierf, NASA Leadership Development
Program on assignment at MINWR*

YUCKY FACTS ABOUT VULTURES

Vultures have weak chicken-like feet that are only suitable for running on the ground or holding their food in place while they feed. They cannot lift or carry food with their feet like raptors. In fact, they are more closely related to storks than to raptors.

The turkey vulture has a featherless red head and white beak, while the black vulture (and the immature turkey vulture) has a featherless grayish-black head and black beak. The featherless feature allows the vulture to stick its head into the carcass of carrion without trapping any rotting flesh in its feathers.

The turkey vulture has a remarkable sense of smell, more so than the black vulture that relies mostly on its sight. In fact, black vultures will "hang out" with turkey vultures to let them find food and then, being the more aggressive, will run the turkey vultures off the carcass. It is said that a turkey vulture can smell a dead mouse under leaves from 200 feet in the air.

The turkey vulture is unaggressive and non-confrontational and will not feed on live prey, an occasional habit of the black vulture.

Both types of vultures are nature's garbage men. They can eat carrion and contaminated meat due to specialized digestive enzymes and bacteria in their systems. These enzymes destroy hog cholera, rabies, and other contagious diseases in their digestive systems. To extend the useful life of this unique germ-fighting enzyme, the birds will allow their urine to run straight down onto their legs and feet. This helps to prevent the bird from contracting diseases through cuts on its legs or feet while standing in a decaying carcass and also is believed to help cool its legs. It is less known that vultures will also eat overripe fruit and rotting vegetable matter.

The birds have limited vocalization – grunting when courting and hissing when threatened. Another unique feature when threatened is a vomit defense where it will throw up decaying food and shake its head to project the evil smelling matter up to six feet. This characteristic was personally observed (and unappreciated) by Jim Lyons, one of the MINWR Bio Techs, when he had to carry trapped birds from inside the roof of a building down in an elevator.

Vultures are very communal and roost together in large groups. They usually build their nests on the ground with up to three eggs. The adults share incubation of 38-41 days and the young birds fledge in 70-80 days. Adults can live 16-21 years normally, although one bird on record lived 33 years!

*Extract from article by John Tribe,
MIWA Board Member*

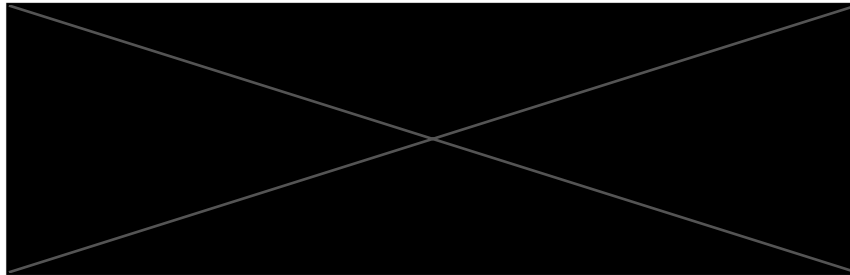
(Editor's note: Halifax River Audubon is a Life Member and Corporate Sponsor of Merritt Island Wildlife Association.)

THE PELICAN



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Novetta Duffer	Vice President	672-7745	nduffer@cfl.rr.com
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Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
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Ken Russell	At-Large Class of 2009	760-6703	cjr-kjr@mindspring.com
Peter Larmie	Education	672-0042	flarmie@cfl.rr.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
	Field Trips		
Paula Wehr	Hospitality, Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Gina Holt	Ways and Means	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franni@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jinjanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
Bird Identification	David Hartgrove	788-2630	
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		

September 2006

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of the newsletter
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FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
In Recognition of David Hartgrove
Thank you
THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL
and
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For support of our 2005-2006 activities

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. **This September Board Meeting is held on Tuesday the 5th because of Labor Day**

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 52 - NO. 4

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

October 2006



THE BIG SIT 2006 – OCTOBER 8, 2006

Ray Scory

You don't have to slosh through Florida's wetlands, challenge sharp, knee high saw palmetto plants, feel the stinging wrath of Florida's famous mosquitoes, end your birding day in heat exhaustion or drive long distances to see birds. You can just sit in an imaginary 17-foot diameter circle anywhere, where the birds are.

Put your circle in a park, next to a lake, at one of our beautiful springs, on the ocean, in your backyard. Yes, your backyard. One year John Himmelman, founder of THE BIG SIT, had to baby-sit his daughter, instead of sitting at one of Connecticut's many hotspots, he used his back porch as his circle. In mid-afternoon he counted a female Yellow-headed Blackbird. Imagine, a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Connecticut in October. Quite a find.

Last year over 54 States/Nations participated with a

total of 171 circles and a reported 111 sitters. 667 total species observed and 392 total US and Canada species counted.

THE BIG SIT is an international birding event hosted by Bird Watcher's Digest and sponsored by Swarovski Optik and Eagle Optics. It is similar to a Big Day or Birdathon, except you don't move from place to place. You count all the birds you see or hear from a 17-foot diameter circle during a twenty-four period. Location of your choosing.

Gather together some friends, plan a picnic, a barbeque, a fish fry, but count the birds. Stay in the circle as long as you want, invite who you want. Have fun. You may be a lucky winner. Three prizes are offered - Best Overall Count, Best State Count and The Golden Bird.

Log onto website www.birdwatchersdigest.com for more information.

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON CHAPTER MEMBERS

John Carr, Membership Chair

Please check your expiration date on the mailing address on this newsletter. If your expiration date is past, send your dues to National Audubon so that your membership in National Audubon, Audubon of Florida and Halifax River Audubon will continue. If you are a Chapter-Only member please send your dues to Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166.

Halifax River Audubon needs your support. A portion of your National dues and all of your Chapter-Only dues are sent to us when you renew.

We send our newsletter *The Pelican* for a month beyond your expiration date. Due to the high cost of mail and printing, we have to remove delinquent status individuals.

Welcome to new members Jerome L. Axelrod, Robert Barbin, Jeff L. Bunke, Geraldine Cataldo, Jacqueline Coffee, Larry David, Jean Deegan, Dana Lee Dreger, Linda England, Ethelyn Gass, Virginia R. Gross, Maureen A. Groves, Catherine R. Lewis, Yvonne Lingo, Charles Lockwood, Clifford B. Lomax, Beulah Brown Neil, Shirley Parrillo, Mrs. Jeannette A. Perkin, Walter Riopel, Robert Schalk, Stewart A Spar, George Standley, Jan Turp, Geraldine P. Vujakovich and John Worling.

OCTOBER 2006 CALENDAR

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path. Call trip leader beforehand to ensure details have not changed.

Saturday, October 7

Halifax River Field Trip. Turkey Creek. Meet at Port Orange Publix parking lot, Williamson Blvd. & Taylor Rd. 7:00am. Led by David Hartgrove, 386-788-2630. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, October 7

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society field trip. "Wildflowers of the Fall" at Wiregrass Prairie Preserve. Meet at Smyrna Speedway (NW corner), Highways 44 and 415 at 8:15am. Bring lunch for Lake Ashby County Park picnic. Contact Bonnie Cary, Volusia County Land Acquisition and Management, 736-5276 or bcary@co.volusia.fl.us, or Sonya Guidry, 690-1797 or sonya940@cs.com.

Sunday, October 8

THE BIG SIT. See article.

Monday, October 16

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Roseate Spoonbill Monitoring Project" by Brynne Langan, Research Associate, Tavernier Science Center, Audubon of Florida. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, October 17

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program meeting. "Mosquito and Weed Control: An Emphasis on Invasive Plant Control" by David Farr, Volusia County Mosquito Control. 6:30pm in SICA Hall, 105 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Thursday, October 19

Halifax River Audubon. Beginner Bird Watching Class reservations deadline for class. Contact Paula Wehr at 396-673-5332. Cost is \$25.00.

Saturday, October 21

Halifax River Field Trip. Enchanted Forest and Blue Heron Wastewater Reclamation System (WRS). Meet at Port Orange Publix parking lot, Williamson Blvd & Taylor Rd. 7:00am. Led by Willie Burns, 386-253-2150. Bring lunch. Difficulty (1) with golf cart transport available at Enchanted Forest, if needed, else (2).

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 19-21

Audubon Assembly by Audubon of Florida. Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort. Call for reservations at 800-206-2724. \$89.99/night through September 27.

Thursday, October 26

Halifax River Audubon. Beginner Bird Watching Class, Part I of III. Port Orange Public Library

Auditorium, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. 9:30am to 12noon. Reservation required.

Monday, October 30

Halifax River Audubon. Beginner Bird Watching Class Field Trip, Part I of III. Led by Ray Scory. Meet 8:30am at location to be announced at Thursday class.

Thursday, October 26

Halifax River Audubon. Beginner Bird Watching Class, Part II. Port Orange Public Library Auditorium, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. 9:30am to 12noon. Reservation required.

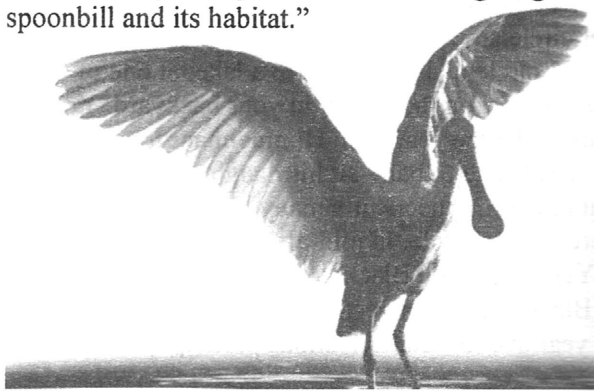
Program Meeting – October 16

ROSEATE SPOONBILLS:

The Past, Present & Future Of The Flame Bird

Paula Wehr

In 1938 National Audubon's first Director of Research established the Tavernier Science Center (the Center is south of Miami on the northernmost Florida Key) and began a fulltime study of Roseate Spoonbills. The accepted method of studying birds at that time was to kill them and do post-mortem examinations. Numbers of Roseate Spoonbills were so low, however, that a different method of study had to be established. Robert Porter Allen began his study by living in a tent among the spoonbills for weeks at a time. According to Audubon of Florida, "His methods changed how scientists studied birds and began 65 years of data investigating the spoonbill and its habitat."



For the last four years Brynne Langan has been the field supervisor for the Roseate Spoonbill monitoring project that continues today at Tavernier Science Center. The spoonbill nesting season runs from November through April, and throughout the season she and her crew visit all of the spoonbill colonies in Florida Bay. They monitor the success of the nests, band the nestlings, and in 2006 started a satellite monitoring program of adult birds.

Join us at 7:00 p.m. to hear Brynne talk about the history of spoonbill work, why they are monitored and how the monitoring is done. She will also talk about the new satellite telemetry program that is used to track spoonbill movements and dispersal.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

It's time for some updates on issues we've been working on and writing about. Several months ago our chapter donated \$1,000.00 to help put two initiatives on the ballot. One was to require a unanimous vote of the County Council for any land use changes in the Natural Resource Management Area (NRMA) as delineated on the 2006 Land Use Map. While this seemed good language at the time it was written, it appears (and this is still subject to legal opinion) that having included the date "2006" in the language dooms this amendment since we're not going to have the requisite number of signatures in time for this year's November election.

The second amendment (and I think this is the stronger of the two) freezes population density levels in the 100-year flood plain. This would seem a "no brainer" but the availability of government subsidized flood insurance is facilitating the development of flood prone wetlands all over the state. This amendment has no date mentioned in its language so we can shoot for the 2008 ballot and still have a significant effect. Again, signatures haven't been pouring in this time like they did when we went after Urban Growth Boundaries. We simply don't have time to get the requisite number of signatures for this year's election. We will be looking for your signature if we don't have it already.

Almost a year ago we found that way back in 1960 several then members of Halifax River Audubon Society partnered with the Florida Inland Navigation District to see the proclamation of the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary. It turned out that not only did we have permission to place signs near what we're now calling Rookery Island, we were mandated to do so. We were also required to place signs that identified the Sanctuary to the public at large. To make a long story short, Kevin Doxstater designed a beautiful sign for us. A company in Canada, with a specially patented process to utilize photos in sign construction, made the sign for us. Paying for this sign wasn't going to be easy. But along came County Councilman, Jack Hayman and Joe Nolin, of the Ponce Inlet Port Authority. Mr. Hayman said he thought there should be grant money available for such a worthy project from the Port Authority. Lo and behold, there are times when government can run as smooth as glass. The sign was delivered to my house a month ago and it now rests in the Port Orange Parks Department. An installation ceremony is planned for sometime in mid to late October. The sign will be placed in a spot under the Dunlawton Bridge near where we gather to watch birds on Rookery Island. I'll try to give as much advance notice as possible in case you'd like to be part of the festivities.

Finally, two new but very important items. If you're out looking at birds and see banded Sandhill Cranes or banded Reddish Egrets, please try to get any and all information you can from the bands. Each crane



sandhill crane

Photo by Rebecca Carr

has a three-inch band in green, blue, or yellow on the tibia of one leg (or above the "knee"). These bands are engraved with a unique three-digit number. On the opposite leg, is a combination of one-inch color bands. The numbers will be fairly easy to read even with binoculars. Write

down the colors, the sequence (say purple, pink & green, top to bottom), the numbers, etc. and where and when you saw the bird and get the information to me. I'll forward it to the researchers for whom this will be an invaluable contribution to science.

Reddish Egret fledglings were banded during the 2006 nesting season along the Texas coast with orange vinyl "Telfair" tags that attached to the USGS aluminum band on the right leg of the bird. The orange tags have an alphanumeric code stenciled on the tag (e.g. A27). If you observe one of these "tagged" individuals, please record the location, date, the alphanumeric code (if possible) and any additional information you deem important (e.g. behavior). Additionally, 30 Reddish Egrets have had radio transmitters attached to the leg with a white plastic band that holds the transmitter. Again, if you see these birds write down as much information as possible and get it to me.

TURKEY CREEK FIELD TRIP

Madeline Shaddix

Turkey Creek Sanctuary is in Palm Bay, which is about 80 miles south of our meeting place in Port Orange. It is a well-known magnet for migrating fall birds, especially warblers. The trail is partially on a wooden walkway that follows the creek bank. Dense vegetation, water, and insects make the area a great spot for the birds to rest and refuel on their journey.

The trail is level, but requires considerable walking and standing to find and observe the birds. Repellent and water can both be good things to carry along on the trail.

The last time that we went there on a field trip, our timing was great. We arrived the morning after a very hard rain, and the birds were numerous and hungry. Let's hope for bad weather to precede this trip too! We are taking our lunches and perhaps a snack.

VOTE YES ON THE COUNTY PLANNING AUTHORITY AMENDMENT

**THE VOLUSIA COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER AND THE
COUNTY PLANNING AUTHORITY AMENDMENT**

Volusia County is one of several counties in Florida that has a Home Rule Charter. This Charter is like a constitution for the County and, like state constitutions and the U.S. Constitution, it is the fundamental law, to which other laws must conform. It also establishes the structure of government and, importantly, the rights and powers of the citizens and the government.

Only the voters can change the Volusia County Home Rule Charter.

From time to time, however, a special commission is appointed to review the Charter and suggest any changes that it feels should be presented to the voters for consideration. Such a review has just been completed and the Charter Review Commission has proposed six amendments that will be on the November ballot.

Among the Commission's proposals is the Comprehensive Planning Districts Amendment, the third amendment on the list of amendments. This amendment reflects the Charter Review Commission's view of how to protect the County's natural resources.

The Volusia County Council, after commenting on this amendment as it was being drafted and seeing the final result, put its own amendment on the ballot to address the protection of the County's natural resources. The Council had concluded, after review and study, that the Comprehensive Planning Districts Amendment from the Charter Review Commission would not work to protect the environment because it contained a ten-year limitation on protection.

The County Council amendment is the seventh and last amendment on the list and is called the County Planning Authority Amendment.

Under the County's Amendment, the present land use regulations that the County has adopted, including those to protect the environmentally important lands, will continue to apply to those lands, even if a city later annexes some or all of them.

Under the Charter Review Commission's Amendment, that protection would only last for ten years after annexation, at most. Then an annexing city would be free to regulate the land use and determine the level of protection, if any, that it feels should be given to these annexed lands.

Do you believe that the municipalities, through their annexation and regulation of annexed lands, have done a good job of preventing sprawl, managing growth and protecting the environment?

If you are concerned about the trend of growth that we have seen in the last few years and if you believe that growth has to be better controlled, particularly as it affects environmental

lands and factors that harm the environment as a whole, then **Vote Yes on the County Planning Authority Amendment.**

This county's central environmental core and its habitat corridors provide a critical ecological linkage between north and south Florida.

Do you believe that every individual city, after annexing lands in these areas, will preserve this linkage and protect these lands from the impairment that comes from development?

If you consider it essential to preserve this linkage and the current integrity and connectivity of these lands with unified and comprehensive countywide land regulation and protection, then **Vote Yes on the County Planning Authority Amendment.**

If you believe that we need to preserve the County's constitutional right (**our** constitutional right, actually, as voters) to protect these lands through countywide planning, then **Vote Yes on the County Planning Authority Amendment.**

Opponents of the County's amendment have already raised large sums of money (some of it our own tax money!) to fight this amendment and other amendments.

While supporters of the County's amendment cannot raise anything like those amounts, we can raise awareness.

Each one of us should start now to get the message out wherever and whenever we can. **Vote YES on the County Planning Authority Amendment.**

This amendment is essential to accomplish what we all want - the sensible management of growth and the protection of the environment.

Most of us are residents of a municipality, but all of us are residents of the County. As such, we have the right and the power to say what is and is not in our County Home Rule Charter and we have the right and power to say whose land use regulations should take precedence. Those are powers guaranteed to us by the Florida Constitution.

Our County Council has given us an opportunity to exercise those powers, and to exercise them in a way that will enable us to protect what remains of our unincorporated lands, the lands that contain the corridors and habitats that are so essential to preserve. The Council gave us that opportunity by placing its own amendment on the ballot. We must do our part now by individually advocating, and voting **Yes on the County Planning Authority Amendment.**

It will be the last amendment on the list, and it may be our last chance to preserve and protect our irreplaceable natural resources and habitats.

Ken Russell

(This article is online in the Halifax River Audubon website at www.halifaxriveras.org)

CANAVERAL AT LAUNCH

Captain Willie Burns

Friday, Sep 9, 2006: A lovely day that almost had a shuttle launch. This time I got to get all the way down the beach, not just get scrubbed as I went in the gate. I drove an ATV all the way to the County Line with Brevard County, then returned as far as Parking Lot 5.

As many of you know, I volunteer at Canaveral Seashore National Park. This jewel stretches south from New Smyrna Beach, with five miles of paved road along the beach and five parking lots with walkover boardwalks. There is also a nice Visitor Center and hiking trails. One of my tasks (alas, poor me!) is driving one of the Park's ATVs down the beach prior to a shuttle launch, chasing people back beyond NASA's security zone at Lot 5, the southern most parking area.

So there I was, miles of empty beach. Just me and the birds and other critters. The Broward County line is six miles below Lot 5, which is five miles from the Park entrance. Birds? Hordes of peeps have arrived. There were fewer Willets, but herds and hordes of Least and Western Sandpipers, and also fleet little fleets of Sanderlings scurrying at the water's edge.

A few Ruddy Turnstones and what appeared to be Red Knots by their size, were mixed in. Brown Pelicans bobbed offshore or skimmed the surface of the water, "surfing" on the updraft from the small breakers.

Overhead I got my second and third Bald Eagles of the week. On Election Day I had seen the first at my polling precinct 605 in Holly Hill where I am a Special Deputy. I sat outside all day doing a variety of functions, bird watching in between. The eagle was flying hard and fast to the south. He was below treetop level, weaving between the gaps in the trees and buildings! My guess is he was trying to "fly below the radar" of resident birds to avoid being seen and chased.

The second was flying slowly north early at Lot 5, over the Lagoon. The third was later in the day, soaring high overhead, his head and tail shining in the sunlight. There were at least a dozen Ospreys around Lot 5, mostly sitting along the Lagoon but one was fishing in the surf.

The sea was calm, with a light breeze picking up around noon to create a slight ruffling of the surface. The calmness was broken repeatedly by what appeared to be leaping Cownosed Rays. They gather near shore and migrate to Mexico in the fall. They are light brown on top, white below, harmless and curious of people. I saw at least a dozen of different sizes indifferent locations.

On the ground the high point was a lovely twelve inch long Coral Snake at Lot 5. So bright and beautiful, she shyly tried to hide in a crack in the pavement before moving off into the grass and brush. Her "red and yellow, kill a fellow" bands were very clear, as was her shiny black nose. No, I didn't try to catch her and pick her up!

There was also a pleasant eighteen inch Mangrove Snake on 5's boardwalk, basking in the sun and solitude

with no one around. Although I tried not to scare him, he hid in a clump of sea oats, and then slid quickly away into denser growth.

The empty beach had lots of Ghost Crabs racing for the water as I approached. Their natural camouflage makes them almost invisible when they hold still, even if you watch one stop. Look away for a second and you cannot refocus on it among the sands. Some were quite large.

At least one sea turtle nest had hatched last night, after the rain. Their tiny "footprints" leading from their nest remind one of a volcano having erupted. Raccoons had tried to plunder some of these nests last night too, without much success it appeared. Our screens are quite effective.

Tracks in the rain smoothed sand told a tale of the death of a raccoon by a bobcat. The cat apparently slowly moved close as the raccoon dug at a nest, then the prints showed how he had raced after the fleeing victim. The tracks joined in a flurry of disturbed sand, and only the bobcat's tracks led away into the dunes.

I sat quietly on the boardwalk at 5, listening to birds and waiting for the big bird to fly. No, it was scrubbed. Again. It must be very clean by now after all this scrubbing! So tomorrow morning I get to play on the beach again, all by myself with no one to intrude on the peace and quiet of Nature's beach.

Life is good!

Saturday, Sep 9, 2006: At eight AM, once again I entered Canaveral Seashore National Park where I wended my way south down the beach on an ATV to shoo people back north of NASA's security boundary.

Friday's quiet growl of surf had been replaced by a more serious grumble from larger waves. Tropical storm Florence is making herself felt.

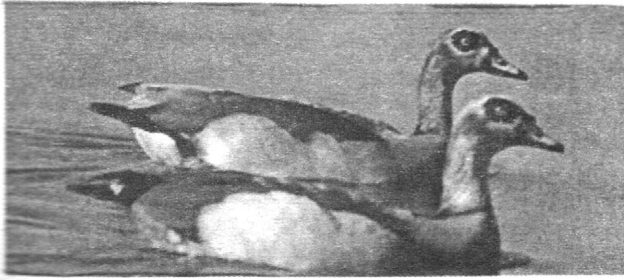
An informal observation: Westerns are more robust than Least Sandpipers. I noticed that the Westerns at the surf line would not flush as I drove past, higher on the beach. Least would flush when I was over a hundred feet away and higher up the sand. Odd.

Westerns also were very good at catching Mole Crabs, those small critters that wash up and down with the waves, burrowing like crazy into the sand as the waves wash back. The birds would move up to the bubbling burrow and stab their bills into the sand at an angle from the side. Then they would lift the hapless little Mole Crab and snatch it up for a nice meal!

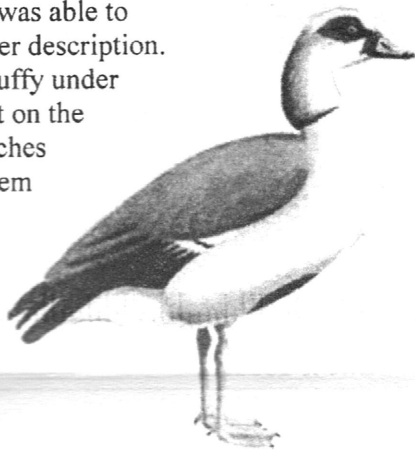
The shuttle went up on schedule, finally. What an incredible sight to see a ship heading out into space! When I was a boy, we still had far more steam locomotives than diesels and the lumbering Constellation was the state of the art in the air. Jetliners? Hah! Nothing but a few tentative jet fighter planes. And now we have walked on the moon.

EGYPTIAN GEESE AN EXPERIMENT GONE AWRY

David Hartgrove



Recently, several Egyptian Geese (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) have been seen in the area around the Port Orange City Center pond. Kitty Albee reported these birds and, knowing they weren't something she'd seen before, sent out an electronic plea for help. John Carr was able to identify the birds from her description. Their bright pink legs, buffy under parts with chocolate spot on the breast and chocolate patches around the eyes make them a real standout in the landscape. I was first called about this species 8 or 9 years ago when several showed up on the golf course at Oceanside Country Club, in Ormond Beach.



The birds are called Egyptian Geese because they were considered sacred by the Egyptians and are pictured in hieroglyphics. They're found in the wild all over



Ray Scory took this photo of an Egyptian Goose about three years ago in Port Orange. The bird is small for a goose and very beautiful.

Africa and have been domesticated there for thousands of years. They were first introduced to England over 300 years ago from South Africa as an ornamental poultry species and egg producer. That was when the demonic side of their personality was discovered. A mated pair is nearly as aggressive as wolverines. They race around breaking the eggs of any and all ducks, geese or

chickens they're penned with. The male will attack any other bird nearby and even kill it.

ENCHANTED FOREST FIELD TRIP

Willie Burns

On Saturday October 21, we will visit the Enchanted Forest south of Titusville.

The Enchanted Forest has many different habitats and environments, from wetlands to upland hammock. We may see warblers and other passerines, woodpeckers for sure, and all sorts of wonderful things.

While it entails some walking, the staff at Enchanted Forest has graciously agreed to provide transportation for four or five of us if needed. We would be in an electric cart right behind the walking group. Even Rascal can come along!

We also will visit Blue Heron wetlands and water treatment plant west of Titusville. Blue Heron is similar to the Orlando Wetlands, but smaller and the birds are closer. Blue Heron teems with water birds and other wildlife. We have seen Least Bitterns there several times, along with Purple Gallinules and many raptors.

Bring water and a small lunch so we may picnic. I will have bug spray and sun block if needed. Our meeting place is the Publix in South Daytona at 7:00 AM.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

Chapter member DeeDee Blanchard reported that the Christmas Walk at The Casements in Ormond Beach would take place December 2 and 3. Because of the beautiful tree DeeDee decorated last year, the Co-

ponsored by Swarovski Optik and Eagle Optics. It is similar to a Big Day or Simulation, except you don't move from place to place. You count all the birds you see or hear from a 17-foot diameter circle during a twenty-four period. Location of your choosing.

Gather together some friends, plan a picnic, a barbecue, a fish fry, but count the birds. Stay in the circle as long as you want, invite who you want. Have fun. You may be a lucky winner. Three prizes are offered - Best Overall Count, Best State Count and The Golden Bird.

Log onto website www.birdwatchersdigest.com for more information.

We send our newsletter *The Pelican* for a month beyond your expiration date. Due to the high cost of mail and printing, we have to remove delinquent status individuals.

Welcome to new members Jerome L. Axelrod, Robert Barbin, Jeff L. Bunke, Geraldine Cataldo, Jacqueline Coffee, Larry David, Jean Deegan, Dana Lee Dreyer, Linda England, Ethelyn Gass, Virginia R. Gross, Maureen A. Groves, Catherine R. Lewis, Yvonne Lingo, Charles Lockwood, Clifford B. Lomax, Beulah Brown Nell, Shirley Parrillo, Mrs. Jeannette A. Perkin, Walter Rempel, Robert Schalk, Stewart A Spar, George Standley, Jim Turp, Geraldine P. Vujakovich and John Worling.

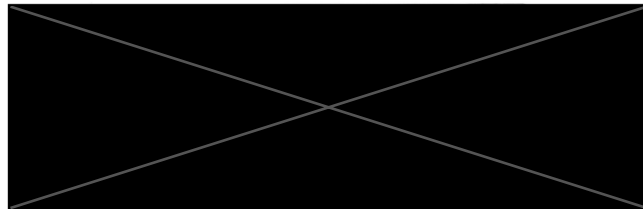
THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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October 2006

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
In Recognition of David Hartgrove
Thank you
THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL
and
COLONIAL COLONY
For support of our 2005-2006 activities

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 3:30 PM. on the first Monday of each month. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time.

ments
Tuesday, October 17

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program meeting. "Mosquito and Weed Control: An Emphasis on Invasive Plant Control" by David Farr, Volusia County Mosquito Control. 6:30pm in SICA Hall, 105 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Thursday, October 19

Halifax River Audubon. Beginner Bird Watching Class reservations deadline for class. Contact Paula Wehr at 396-673-5332. Cost is \$25.00.

Saturday, October 21

Halifax River Field Trip. Enchanted Forest and Blue Heron Wastewater Reclamation System (WRS). Meet at Port Orange Public parking lot, Williamson Blvd & Taylor Rd. 7:00am. Led by Willie Burns, 386-253-7150. Bring lunch. Difficulty (1) with golf cart transport available at Enchanted Forest, if needed, else (2).

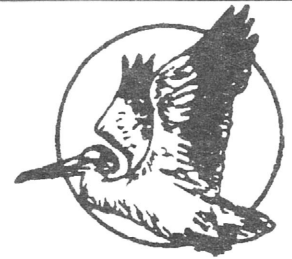
Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 19-21

Audubon Assembly by Audubon of Florida, Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort. Call for reservations, 800-206-2734. \$89.99 night through September 27.

Thursday, October 26

Halifax River Audubon. Beginner Bird Watching Class, Part I of III. Port Orange Public Library

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 52 - NO. 5

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

November 2006

CALENDAR 2006-2007

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path. Call trip leader beforehand to ensure details have not changed.

Thursday, November 2

Halifax River Audubon. Beginner Bird Watching Class, Part II of III. Port Orange Public Library Auditorium, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. 9:30am to 12noon. Reservation required.

Monday, November 6

Halifax River Audubon. Beginner Bird Watching Class Field Trip. Led by Ray Scory. Meet 8:30am at location to be announced at Thursday class. Reservation required.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, November 9-12

Wings on the Wind Festival at Marine Science Center, Ponce Inlet.

Thursday, November 9

Halifax River Audubon. Beginner Bird Watching Class, Part III of III. Same time, same place as calendar entry for November 2.

Saturday, November 11

Halifax River Audubon Project. Make a Difference Project at Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens. 9:00-12:00. Bring gloves. 950 Old Sugar Mill Rd., Port Orange. Call Barbara Kieran 672-2927 for information.

Monday, November 13

Halifax River Audubon. Beginner Bird Watching Class Field Trip, Part III. Led by Ray Scory. Meet 8:30am at location to be announced at Thursday class. Reservation required.

Tuesday, November 14

West Volusia Audubon Field Trip. Welaka Fish Hatchery Guided Tour. Picnic and optional Mudd Lake hike. Meet at DeLand Food Lion at 9:00am to carpool. Call Vivian Taylor 734-1390 or Sara Lynn at 738-0119 for information.

Monday, November 20

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Florida Black Bear Project" by Stephanie Simek, Bear Management Program Coordinator with FFWCC. (With continuing saga of N20). Volusia. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Thursday, November 21

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program meeting. "*Nemastylis floridana*, the Celestial Lily of Fall-Flowering *Ixia* by Dr. William Grey, faculty of Environmental Studies Program at Rollins College,

and working "part-time" as Senior Scientist with Breedlove, Dennis and Associates Environmental Consulting firm. 6:30pm in SICA Hall, 105 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill

Sunday, November 26

Halifax River Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 4:00pm. Led by Kitty Albee, 386-254-8246. (1)

Tuesday, November 28

West Volusia Audubon Program Meeting. "Slide Show" by Marylou Weiner; also "Make It, Bake It, Grow It Fund Raiser". DeLand Woman's Club, 128 W. Michigan Ave., DeLand. 6:30pm. Contact Laura Cash, 626-2329 or Arnette Sherman, 734-5840.

Friday, December 1

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

Saturday, December 2

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 8:00am. Led by John Roessler, 386-255-9826. Bring lunch. (1)

September 23, 2006

KINGSLEY PLANTATION FIELD TRIP

Paula Wehr

The field trip began in the Kingsley Plantation State Park parking lot at 6:40am (after a 5:00am trip from Daytona Beach). The Plantation is north of Jacksonville on a coastal island.

We birded the Kingsley grounds and waterfront and spotted a Baltimore Oriole and three immature Indigo Buntings among other birds. Then at our host Ranger Roger Clark's yard we got great looks at both Black-throated Blue and Magnolia Warblers.

Later we were astonished as an immature Broad-winged Hawk circled low overhead. It may be a first for the area!

Some other goodies we saw were Blue-winged Warbler and Yellow-throated Vireo. Our picnic lunch highlights included Common Terns and American Oystercatchers.

Great sightings at Huguenot included two Marbled Godwits, many Common Terns (a few in very fine plumage), and several Wilson's Plovers.

We birded until close to 2:00pm. The migration was very slow as a strong high pressure brought warm southerly winds, very un-fall-like!

Volusia County, Florida Fall Bird Count -
September 16, 2006

Bold bird names are first sightings.

2002	2003	2005	2006	Bird Name
11	9	18	2	Grebe, Pied-billed
	7			Pelican, White
			1	Booby, Masked*
1			3	Gannet, Northern
602	1150	1203	2595	Pelican, Brown
47	18	199	55	Cormorant, Dbl-crested
61	60	42	71	Anhinga
1				Bittern, American
2				Bittern, Least
52	43	52	63	Heron, Great Blue
260	155	356	239	Egret, Great
414	170	146	629	Egret, Snowy
100	83	43	174	Heron, Little Blue
60	21	27	187	Heron, Tricolored
7	7	12	8	Egret, Reddish
1760	1901	1019	840	Egret, Cattle
24	4	8	17	Heron, Green
3	2		7	Night-heron, Black-crowned
2	8	3	2	Night-heron, Yellow-crowned
1052	886	364	1663	Ibis, White
162	62	63	13	Ibis, Glossy
	1	6	14	Roseate Spoonbill
83	56	33	110	Stork, Wood
		1		Goose, Canada
54	108	66	75	Duck, Muscovy
12	10	42	14	Duck, Wood
1		12	1	Duck, Mottled
85	45	26	39	Mallard
84		1	4	Teal, Blue-winged
449	432	495	294	Vulture, Black
149	215	396	138	Vulture, Turkey
61	69	51	59	Osprey
	1			Kite, Swallow-tailed
16	27	15	20	Eagle, Bald
	2			Harrier, Northern
	5	2	1	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
3		2	5	Hawk, Cooper's
54	63	52	61	Hawk, Red-shouldered
2				Hawk, Broad-winged
7	5	8	10	Hawk, Red-tailed
5	5	3	3	Kestrel, American
41	26	72	75	Turkey, Wild
24	1		10	Bobwhite, Northern
2	4	3	5	Rail, Clapper
1				Rail, King
			1	Sora
2				Gallinule, Purple
95	77	126	43	Moorhen, Common
5	2		7	Coot, American
		1	2	Limpkin
107	121	60	114	Crane, Sandhill
32	36	36	16	Plover, Black-bellied
4		27		Plover, Wilson's
61	101	265	57	Plover, Semipalmated
4	2	12	4	Plover, Piping
37	60	44	27	Killdeer
		1	13	Oystercatcher, American
		1		Avocet, American
		1	2	Yellow-legs, Lesser
	1		2	Sandpiper, Solitary
151	68	221	216	Willet, Eastern
	3	4	8	Sandpiper, Spotted
		2		Whimbrel
345	123	323	254	Turnstone, Ruddy
10	3	151	7	Knot, Red

580	163	802	698	Sanderling
34	184	85	56	Sandpiper, Semipalmated
253	5	37	13	Sandpiper, Western
31	65	49		Sandpiper, Least
		68		Dunlin
4		2		Dowitcher, Short-billed
2				Dowitcher, Long-billed
			1	dowitcher sp.
			1	Snipe, Common
8297	3864	3534	2275	Gull, Laughing
21	8	95	90	Gull, Ring-billed
12	8	12	8	Gull, Herring
	1	2		Gull, Lesser Black-backed
	1	3	3	Gull, Great Black-backed
23	4	22	10	Tern, Caspian
265	536	762	445	Tern, Royal
109	103	107	62	Tern, Sandwich
1		191		Tern, Common
43	1	19	24	Tern, Forster's
	28	1		Tern, Least
74	203	65		Skimmer, Black
576	649	498	477	Dove, Rock
180	190	154	88	Dove, Eurasian Collared
723	927	490	524	Dove, Mourning
13	18	9	14	Dove, Common Ground
	2			Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
2	6	11	3	Owl, Eastern Screech
2	1	5		Owl, Great Horned
4	10	8	5	Owl, Barred
1				Nighthawk, Common
1				Chuck-will's-widow
291	163	245	101	Swift, Chimney
1	2	3	2	Hummingbird, Ruby-throat
54	28	23	31	Kingfisher, Belted
21	13	21	12	Woodpecker, Red-headed
139	113	90	90	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
75	50	57	57	Woodpecker, Downy
1				Woodpecker, Hairy
9	3	4	3	Flicker, Yellow-shafted
58	54	33	38	Woodpecker, Pileated
				Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied
1		1		Wood-Pee-wee, Eastern
	1			Flycatcher, Acadian
2		1	1	Phoebe, Eastern
1		5	2	Flycatcher, Great Crested
26	30	5	3	Kingbird, Eastern
1				Kingbird, Gray
11	2	9	2	Martin, Purple
60	60	90	28	Swallow, Tree
9	1	3		Swallow, N. Rough-winged
	48			Swallow, Bank
		6		Swallow, Cliff
3	86	55	19	Swallow, Barn
208	191	152	152	Jay, Blue
19	22	9	10	Scrub-Jay, Florida
96	95	124	46	Crow, American
114	379	467	119	Crow, Fish
39	22	27	84	crow sp.
	5	4	2	Chickadee, Carolina
146	125	118	95	Titmouse, Tufted
1				Nuthatch, White-breasted
10				Nuthatch, Brown-headed
157	135	100	126	Wren, Carolina
1		1		Wren, House
5	2	1	1	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
93	41	60	40	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
12	23	1	4	Bluebird, Eastern
1	3	2		Veery
1		2		Thrush, Swainson's
			1	Thrush, Hermit
105				Robin, American
3	4	1	3	Catbird, Gray

364	310	174	188	Mockingbird, Northern
18	15	6	4	Thrasher, Brown
43	45	4	14	Shrike, Loggerhead
1178	2439	1487	1752	Starling, European
		3		Pipit, American
49	17	28	19	Vireo, White-eyed
1	3	1		Vireo, Blue-headed
1		1		Vireo, Yellow-throated
25	8	18	6	Vireo, Red-eyed
1	1			Warbler, Tennessee
			1	Warbler, Orange-crowned
4				Warbler, Nashville
19	3	8	4	Parula, Northern
7	7	13	6	Warbler, Yellow
2				Warbler, Chestnut-sided
1		1	3	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
		9	2	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
1	1			Warbler, Blackburnian
4	5	4	5	Warbler, Yellow-throated
27	7	12	20	Warbler, Pine
25	1	14	2	Warbler, Prairie
8	3	8	1	Warbler, Palm
3	4	1	4	Warbler, Black-and-white
17	2		10	Redstart, American
	1		1	Warbler, Prothonotary
10	3		1	Ovenbird
5	2	1	1	Waterthrush, Northern
	2	1	1	Waterthrush, Louisiana
1				Warbler, Kentucky
40	14	7	19	Yellowthroat, Common
3			1	Tanager, Summer
308	213	202	226	Cardinal, Northern
1		3		Grosbeak, Blue
1				Bunting, Indigo
2	4	19	3	Towhee, Eastern
		3		Sparrow, Chipping
		1		Sparrow, Seaside
157	89	26	158	Blackbird, Red-winged
12	1		5	Meadowlark, Eastern
354	507	296	510	Grackle, Boat-tailed
209	393	93	140	Grackle, Common
35	20		51	Cowbird, Brown-headed
		2		Oriole, Orchard
		2	1	Oriole, Baltimore
34	46	59	13	Sparrow, House

Data	9-16-06
Species	130
Individuals	17,317
Observers	40
Parties	20
Time	3:13am-6:30pm
Temp	73-96-78
Wind	E8- ESE15
%Cloud	80-10-30
Precip	0
Hrs foot	54.5
Hrs car	67.5
Hrs boat	3
Miles foot	43
Miles car	643
Miles boat	4
Owling hrs	3.75
Owling miles	61
Owling parties	2
Owling observ	4



Jerry Kerschner

House Finch

2006 Observers: Catherine Bidgood, Lee Bidgood, Kathy Booth, John Carr, Matt Bruce, Charlie Buchy, Maritta Buchy, Helga Carlson, Laura Cash, Richard Cash, Roger Cutler, Gail Domroski, Richard Domroski, Don Davis, Ron Dreggors, Novetta Duffer, Helen Farrell, Jim Farrell, Phil Gottschall, David Hartgrove, Virginia Heidenrich, Barbara Kieran, Yvonne Lingo, Jaynee Morgan, Lois Pauchey, Andrea Petersen, Roger Petersen, Rachel Ramsey, Paul Rebmann, Donna Reynolds, John Roessler, Ken Russell, Don Schaeffer, Ray Scory, Eleanor Slyker, David Stock, Larry Wallberg, Paula Wehr, Scott Weiss, Peggy Yokubonus.

Bird of the Month

HOUSE FINCH

Once rare or unknown in the Daytona Beach area, the House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) has become common in some neighborhoods. Originally a southwestern species, in 1940 a small number of finches were turned loose on Long Island, New York. They quickly started breeding and now have reached us where they live yearlong.

It is a medium sized finch, the male color can vary from yellow to reddish to bright red on the head, chest, and rump. The female is brown and striped. Both have two thin white wingbars.

The red or yellow color of a male House Finch comes from pigments that it gets in its food during molt. The more pigment in the food, the redder the male. Females prefer to mate with the reddest male they can find, perhaps assuring that they get a mate who can find enough food to feed the nestlings.

When nestling House Finches defecate, the feces are contained in a membranous sac, as in most birds. The parents eat the fecal sacs of the nestlings for about the first five days. In most songbird species, when the parents stop eating the sacs, they carry the sacs away and dispose of them. House Finch parents do not remove them, and the sacs accumulate around the rim of the nest.

The Purple Finch, which is uncommon to rare in our area, differs from the House Finch. The Purple Finch has a more pointed bill, and a notched shorter tail. The male is more of a Raspberry red, with red on the nape, back and flanks and the Purple Finch female has her back, chest, and sides streaked dark brown and gray. Thanks to the Cornell guide for this information

www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AboutBirds/Bird

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

During the Viet Nam war a colonel was asked by a reporter why a village had been bombed into oblivion since this action was sure to enrage the local population. The colonel answered that it had been necessary to destroy the village in order to save it. Much has been made of the logic, or lack thereof, inherent in that statement in the intervening years. It's hard to believe that the mindset still exists that is capable of making such leaps of logic but here I offer proof that it's alive and well.

Boiling Spring Lakes is a town in southeastern North Carolina that is up to its eyeballs in development. Tinkering with the environment to suit the whims of the locals began a long time ago. Back in 1961, when the town's developers were scouting the area, they came upon a spring in a wooded area. The place had been the way it was for thousands of years, but they decided to build a brick wall around the spring, to beautify it don't you know. When the wall was completed the spring stopped flowing for a while and then erupted in another spot fifteen feet outside the wall. Backpressure from the weight of the impounded water halted the flow. Some years later when the wall was broken, the weight of the water was released and the spring returned to its old location. Nature will find a way if left alone.

Back in the years before development, the locals would score the huge long leaf pines that predominate in the area to tap them for sap to make turpentine. These "V" shaped notches allowed fungus to infiltrate the core of the trees thus making them easier for Red Cockaded Woodpeckers to excavate. As a result the birds came and recently the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, tasked with protecting this endangered species, announced they had discovered fifteen active clusters of these birds in the area around Boiling Spring Lakes. Rumors raced through the area that the USF&WS was about to release a map showing areas where development would be curtailed to protect habitat for the woodpeckers. Since February, the town has issued 368 logging permits, 90 in the month of May alone. Ugly, stump filled lots now grace the vistas of local residents where once tall pines graced the skyline. Mayor Joan Kinney was quoted as saying, "Well, it's ruined the beauty of our city." I wonder if it occurred to the mayor or any of the other city leaders to cease issuing logging permits when they saw what was happening. Instead of waiting to see if accommodations could be made within the guidelines of the areas to be set aside for the woodpeckers, the greedy landowners cut down every tree in sight. They destroyed it in order to save it... for more development.

The sound of the wind in those old growth pine trees on a warm evening is one of the things that brought people

to the area in the first place. Now the sound of the chain saws will echo in their heads after hearing them all spring and summer. The landowner's development rights were protected but at what awful price. A spirit of compromise, had they waited, could have perhaps have given them the trees, the woodpeckers and development. There's an old saying about not underestimating the power of stupid people working in concert. Once again, old sayings prove true.

Now, as has been previously mentioned in this space, please remember to vote YES on the County Comprehensive Planning Amendment.

November 20 Program Meeting

FLORIDA BLACK BEAR PROJECT

Paula Wehr

We all remember the black bear that loved the beach. In July 2005 she was removed from Bonita Springs where she was raiding garbage cans in residential neighborhoods. Several weeks later, she left the forest. She spent February 2006 wandering between St. Augustine and Flagler Beach, swimming back and forth across the river, stopping in Palm Coast and Beverly Beach. In March 2006, she was treed by dogs at Oleander Avenue and Jessamine Boulevard in Daytona Beach. Perhaps she was on her way to Bike Week festivities.

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission officials tranquilized black bear N20 and transported her back to Ocala National Forest again. Is this a common occurrence? How do officials know this is the same bear? What should you do if you see a bear in your neighborhood?



Stephanie Simek, Bear Management Program Coordinator with FFWCC, will answer these questions, and more, in her presentation at the October monthly meeting. Join us for refreshments and socializing at 6:30 p.m. Stephanie will begin her presentation at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is held at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill.

PLEASE MAKE SURE TO VOTE NOVEMBER 7!

On November 7 we have an opportunity, a rare opportunity, to have a *direct* say in how the important areas of our County will be preserved and protected.

We can do this by voting "YES" for the **County Planning Authority Charter Amendment** on November 7.

This Charter Amendment will allow Volusia County to continue to plan for the preservation and protection of our environmental lands, our rural areas and our areas of special interest, even if these lands are annexed by a municipality.

This amendment is very important to the future of this County. Please vote on the 7th, and tell others to do so, and vote **"YES" on the County Planning Authority Amendment.**

Sugar Mill Gardens

WORK DAY

Come join us at the Gardens to help clean up our Halifax River Audubon-sponsored birding trail. Help spruce up the trail, admire our Chapter-donated garden seats, and enjoy another Florida fall day outdoors.

Where -- The birding trail at Sugar Mill Gardens

When -- Saturday, November 11th.

Time --- 9:00am- 12:00PM

Bring --- Gloves. Water, snacks, and tools will be supplied.

Directions -- Take Nova Road south to Herbert Street, Left on Herbert. Drive about three blocks. You will see the sign for Sugar Mill Gardens. There is a parking lot on the left side of the street.

Questions -- Call Barbara Kieran. 572-2927.

October 16, 2006 Program

GEOLOGY OF VOLUSIA COUNTY

Paula Wehr

Michael Brothers, Director of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, wowed the crowd at our program meeting. He first told us that approximately 500,000 years ago, much of modern-day Volusia County was under water. Only the Deland Ridge was above sea level. Then more recently, 18,000 years ago, the oceans had receded, Daytona Beach would have been 45 miles inland, and Tampa would have been 200 miles inland. The landscape across the southern American continent was dry oak savannah.

When the sea level rose again the seas disconnected the high grounds of the dry sandy oak forest and isolated the wildlife that lived there. The groups of scrub jays that were isolated on the Florida peninsula became distinct from other species of scrub jays.

Volusia County is located in a unique geological location. It is the northern border for many southern Florida native plant species and the southernmost latitude for many plants native to northern areas of the United States. This mingling between the northern and southern plants created the very complex make up of Volusia. Geology set the habitat for plant life, and that then influenced the animals that live here.

Michael Brothers envisioned a "virtual" geologic journey from DeLand to the ocean on US 92. This trip consists of very small risings and hollows of land told in cross sections of 1 foot or 5 feet or 10 feet. The ups are mostly left over by ancient sand dunes and the downs are mostly borders of an ancient ocean.

Finally at Tuscowilla Park there is about 8 inches of black, rich humus on top of gray marl. These rich soil layers tell us the area was once under water as part of a lagoon system

Michael Brothers then described the dynamics of change that have occurred in our lifetime. Mangroves have been moving north, replacing the salt marshes. As recently as 1987, the northern border for white mangrove was the Port Orange Bridge. Now white and red mangrove is found in the Tomoka Basin in Ormond Beach. The change in habitat displaced the Seaside Sparrow. However, Gray Kingbirds, Black-Whiskered Vireos and Prairie Warblers have moved into the mangrove habitats.

Michael ended his presentation by talking about the **Wings on the Wind Festival** from November 9 to 12 at the Marine Science Center, Ponce Inlet. Those of us at the meeting were given the great opportunity to sign up for the Festival pelagic boat trip. For further information see <http://echotourism.com/msc/calendar.htm>.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

Board unanimously approved motion to support County Planning Authority Amendment by urging members to vote YES on the November 7th Mid-Term election ballot. Board asked Ken Russell to prepare a brief supporting statement for inclusion in November newsletter.

Board postponed final decision on date/time for Board meetings until November Board meeting. That meeting remains scheduled for 3:30 -5:45 PM.

Education Chairman Peter Larmie reported that 26 schoolteachers would receive Audubon Adventures kits.

Board approved extending Program Meetings time from 5:30 to 9:00 PM so that hostess and sales tables can be set up before meeting starts at 6:30.

THE PELICAN

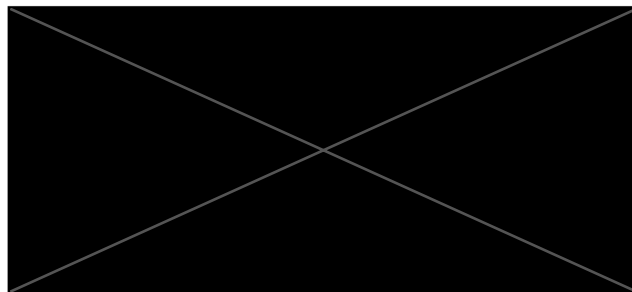


HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

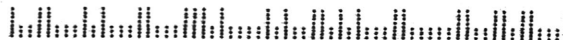
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David Hartgrove	Conservation	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
	Field Trips		
Paula Wehr	Hospitality, Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Gina Holt	Ways and Means	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jinjanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
Bird Identification	David Hartgrove	788-2630	
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland, FL	(407) 644-0199	
Halifax River Audubon		www.halifaxrivercas.org	
Florida Rare Bird Alert		http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html	

November 2006

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
 appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by
FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.
 In Recognition of David Hartgrove
 Thank you
THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL
 and
COLONIAL COLONY
 For support of our 2005-2006 activities

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 3:30 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. 52 - NO. 6

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

December 2006

CALENDAR 2006-2007

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) 1+ mile walk and/or uneven path. Call trip leader beforehand to ensure details have not changed.

Friday, December 1

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 8:00am. Led by David Hartgrove, 386-255-9360. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, December 2

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island. Meet underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 8:00am. Led by John Roessler, 386-255-9826. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday and Sunday, December 2 and 3

Christmas at the Casements. See article.

Thursday, December 7

West Volusia Audubon Field Trip. DeLeon Springs boat ride. Boat leaves at 9:30am. Boat tickets cost \$14.90 for groups over 10 people and are sold at Sugar Mill Restaurant. Lunch at restaurant is optional. Reservations required. Contact Vivian Taylor 734-1390 or Sara Lynn at 738-0119 for information.

Friday and Saturday December 8-9

Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. 17th annual "Holiday in the Gardens" celebration. Tour the gardens along the candlelit pathways. The gardens will be decorated with festive plantings, holiday figurines, floating candles in the ponds and twinkling lights throughout the large oak trees. Saturday night will feature a festive waterway treat with the Holiday Boat Parade visible from the park seawall beginning at 5:00 pm for the unlighted decorated boats and 7:00 pm for the lighted decorated boats. Park entrance fee is waived from 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm. For more information e-mail Washington.Oaks.Gardens@dep.state.fl.us or call (386) 446-6780. The Park is located at 6400 North Oceanshore Blvd (A1A), Palm Coast, Florida 32173.

Saturday, December 16

West Volusia Audubon Christmas Bird Count. Potluck Supper. Contact John Eggert at 736-6922 or David Stock at 736-1893 to get on a team. Potluck dinner (everyone invited) will be at the DeLand Woman's Club, 128 West Michigan Ave., at 6:30pm. Ham furnished. Bring a dish to share and your tableware.

Monday, December 18

Halifax River Program Meeting. Potluck dinner. "Demo & Artifacts from Gamble Rogers Park" by Sylvia Bollinger, Park Ranger. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Door open at 5:30. Dinner at 6:30. Program at 7:00. See article.

Tuesday, December 19

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society program meeting. Annual Potluck dinner and Plant Auction, in combination with the Lyonia Chapter. Doors open at 5:30pm, Pawpaw business meeting and election at 6:00pm, dinner starts at 6:30pm, auction at 7:30pm. SICA Hall, 105 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Saturday, December 23

Halifax River Field Trip. Christmas Bird Count. Meet at Ormond Beach Publix parking lot, Granada & Williamson Blvds. 7:00am. Contact David Hartgrove, 386-788-2630. Bring lunch. (1 or 2)

Saturday, December 30

Ponce Inlet Christmas Bird Count. Contact Don Picard at dpicard@cfl.rr.com.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

David Hartgrove

As you may know there are three CBC's held here in Volusia County. I hope you'll be looking to take a break from the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation to come out and help out with ours, the Daytona Beach count that will be held on Saturday, December 23. We'll meet in the Publix parking lot at SR 40 (Granada Boulevard) and Williamson Boulevard. at 7:00 a.m. Dinner will follow at the Royal Dynasty Chinese Restaurant in that same shopping center where we'll exchange bird stories and collect the data sheets.

Please contact me if you're going to attend. It makes planning so much easier. As always, we can make arrangements if you can't make the whole day.

There are two other CBC's to participate in locally and the compilers could certainly use your help on those if you're so inclined.

The West Volusia CBC will be on Saturday, December 16. Contact David Stock, 386-736-1893 or dstock@stetson.edu.

The Ponce Inlet CBC will be held on Saturday, December 30. Contact Don Picard, dpicard@cfl.rr.com. I'll be doing all three but then, I'm obsessed.

Please come out and join us on one or all, but especially ours. Have a great holiday!

DECEMBER 18 HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Paula Wehr

Halifax River Audubon members will celebrate the holidays at our regular December meeting with a potluck dinner and a presentation by Sylvia Bollinger, local Park Ranger.

Join fellow HRA members and guests for dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, December 18, at Sica Hall. The Chapter will provide turkey and ham, soft drinks, coffee and serving items. Please bring a side dish such as a vegetable, salad or dessert to share.

Ms. Bollinger's presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. She will talk about the wildlife at Gamble Rogers State Recreation Area and North Peninsula State Park and tell us about recent enhancements made to park facilities.

WELCOME to new members Mr. and Mrs. John Axelsen, Barbara M. Crittenden, Barbara Crusby, Retha Dismore, Mr. Peter A. Giangaspro, Janne Gregoire, Mary Hirt, Robert Jones, Chad Kirby, Kathy Lazarus, Susan Phannkuche, Jimtom and Carol Richardson, Jean Rondeau, Mr. Edward D. Slattery, Laura E. Smith, Celine M. Sullivan, June Tillery, and Elmer Uveges.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

The election is over. The people have spoken. I believe Joie Alexander, County Council At Large, Vice Chair had the quote of the day, "Half a million dollars buys a lot of confusion." Actually, that's just what was spent here on the local misinformation campaign to dissuade voters from approving the charter amendments.

Dollar for dollar, Bray and Gillespy (see note) spent far more trying to convince the voters in Ormond that condos are a good thing. Statewide, voters fell for the snake oil salesman's pitch that a voice in state governance was better left to the folks in Tallahassee. You know, the ones too busy toadying up to the special interest lobbyists to do the things we thought we elected them to do. So now, when we get so fed up with their sloth and obfuscation that we want to rise up and force an amendment to the state Constitution to set a matter right that they refuse to address, it'll take a super majority of 60% us to do so.

It's enough to make you think that H.L. Mencken was right when he said, "Democracy is the theory that the common people know what they want and deserve to get it good and hard." We still have a chance to save Volusia County from being converted into another Broward or Miami-Dade. The tools we lost in the recent election would have made that task a little easier.

Speaking of that, a lot of attention has been drawn to the north end of the county where the beautiful oaks

along the Loop and mentioned in the developer's advertising are being cut down to provide room for another entrance and turning lanes. But the environment is under assault all over the county and the south end is about to have its turn.

The Miami Corporation, one of the largest land owners in the county, has operated a pine plantation on its many acres in south Volusia. Though they have not formally submitted plans, the rumor is that it'll be 25,000 homes with the attendant commercial development. The property contains huge tracts of wetlands but there are ways around that hurdle too. Maytown Road, which until recently was a dirt road for nearly all of its length, is shown on the Metropolitan Planning Organization maps a future four lane highway. This is why Congressman John Mica has been pushing so hard for the new extension of SR 417 from Seminole County to I-95. The reasons given are to alleviate traffic congestion. Building the road, at taxpayer's expense, is a sure fire way to facilitate the 25,000 homes. Then of course, the road would have to be widened again and again. So the vast money machine that greases Florida politics can cruise down the road to our environmental destruction. At times it feels like we're fighting a forest fire with a squirt gun.

Editor's note: What is Bray and Gillespie? I asked David and here is his answer.

Bray & Gillespy is the developer that paid for the massive PR campaign to prevent passage of the height limit amendment in Ormond Beach. They came before the Ormond city commission with a plan to bulldoze several properties, build a 20+ story condo, and in return for the zoning, deed part of the land to Ormond for an ocean front park. In response, a truly grass roots group sprang up and got the signatures to put the height limit on the ballot in record time. The last writing I saw said B&G spent nearly \$900,000.00 trying to defeat the measure. They had formed a PAC though, so some of that money may have come from other developers. The thing is, they spent that enormous sum to try to influence just the voters in Ormond. The folks working to defeat the County Planning Amendment had to send out far more mail, etc. to influence the voters all over the county. Per capita, B&G probably spent 15 times the amount spent by their opponents and they still lost.

SUNDAY SCOPES

During the months of January through March 2007, West Volusia Audubon members with spotting scopes take turns taking their scopes to Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00pm. They invite visitors to look through their scopes at whatever birds come into view on the water or in a tree. People who have never used a cope are delighted to see features and colors they never saw before.



Left to right: Pete Atwood, Glenn Walker, Ken Parker, Jerry Penny, David Hartgrove, Ken Russell, and Rachel Ramsey. The photograph was taken by Kent Donohue at the park underneath the Dunlawton Bridge over the Halifax River in Port Orange looking south. The Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary island can be seen in the distance.

NEW SIGN AT THE SANCTUARY

David Hartgrove

On Friday, November 10th, the new sign announcing the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary was dedicated in Port Orange Causeway Park. City Manager, Ken Parker was on hand as were other city officials, including Parks Department Director, Glenn Walker; Environmental Advisory Board member, Pete Atwood; Grants Administrator, Kent Donahue; Ponce Inlet Port Authority Advisory Board member, Jerry Penny, and Halifax River Audubon Board members, Ken Russell, Rachel Ramsey, Novetta Duffer and me.

The sign tells the story of the sanctuary's founding, shows pictures of birds one might be likely to see while there and has a map showing the boundaries. Our own Kevin Doxstater designed the sign and his attention to detail shows in every aspect.

Some of you may have seen the article that ran in the News-Journal's Neighbors section a week later. I met a reporter there for photos and an interview several days after the ceremony. We've gotten some good publicity. Now we need to begin the next phase, committing to completing a Colony Watch Project. More on this in future issues. We'll be looking for volunteers.

FIELD TRIP - TURKEY CREEK SANCTUARY

David Hartgrove

Twelve of us left Port Orange the October 7th morning and headed south down I-95 to Turkey Creek Sanctuary in search of warblers. With the approach of a cold front (or what passes for a cold front here in Florida in early October) tomorrow will probably be a better day to go but we were already scheduled for today.

Though slow at first, things did pick up when we got on the boardwalk with excellent views of American Redstarts, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Worm-eating Warbler. Some of the more common birds such as Northern Cardinal, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpecker, etc., gave us good looks too. Finally, we all got good looks at a male Magnolia Warbler and the bird of the day, a male Blue-winged Warbler. That was a lifer for at least half of us. We ended the day with 46 species, including the birds seen along the way down and back. Trip highlights at Turkey Creek were: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk (migrating fly over), White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager

The full moon and a stiff northeast breeze kept the tide high in Oak Hill, where we stopped at Seminole Rest, Goodrich's and River Breeze Park on the way back north. It's too early for the American White Pelicans and there was too much water for any waders, peeps, etc. We wish we'd seen more but we got what we got. It was a beautiful day and any day that produces such great looks at a lifer like the Blue-winged Warbler is a good day indeed.

FIELD TRIP - BLUE HERON WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Willie Burns

On Saturday October 21, 2006, eight and a half participants (Lois Pouchey's pup Rascal being the half) traveled to the Blue Water Treatment Plant in Titusville.

Driving in the predawn darkness was nice as false dawn crept up in the east. The Ponce Inlet lighthouse was barely visible through the morning mists. The rising sun pushed above the horizon making the sky bluer and bluer.

Spruce Creek did not have any American White Pelicans despite our hopes. We did get Great Egrets and Osprey, and heard a Great Horned Owl across the marshes. Several rails called but refused to show themselves. Mockingbirds and Northern Cardinals were up early, along with a Carolina Wren and Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Next stop was Blue Heron, on Route 50 west of Titusville. One of the high points, at least for me, was meeting up with my good friend Molly Taylor from south Florida. She'd been in Cocoa on business and joined us

for some birding. Being an avid Native Planter she was able to explain a lot about the late blooming wild flowers everywhere.

The Bird of the Day had to be the Common Yellowthroat, many of which were bouncing through the grasses along the water side of the dike. Another of our prime target species, the Least Bittern, made a couple of fleeting appearances, never stopping in the open. This may have been an acknowledgment of a friendly (to us) hawk.

Most Annoying Bird of the Day had to be the plethora of immature Common Gallinules, or Moorhens. They did their best to masquerade as several species, especially rails and Purple Gallinules. The Second Most Annoying were the Purples, usually found at Blue Heron in large numbers. They were nowhere to be seen.

A friendly and curious Red-shouldered Hawk was perched atop a telephone pole, watching us drive by twenty feet away. He finally dove in a long glide onto breakfast on the far side of the tree line. He later flew around and past us several times, or his mate or another of the same species, and was back on his pole as we left.

Other raptors were an American Kestrel spotted east of the dike rocketing past a gap in the brush, and one Bald Eagle that flapped into the trees on the far west side. A Northern Harrier was working the grassland prairie on the southwest.

A wren was secretive and obscure in the reeds and grasses. Great Blue, Green, and Tricolored Herons with a few Snowy Egrets, were the waders. Several Pied-billed Grebes were bouncing up and down in the duckweed, with one or two alligators taking the sun.

The hordes of immature Moorhens were all over. Black and Turkey Vultures wheeled overhead. A Gray Catbird meowed in the bushes, below the Red-shouldered Hawk, but stayed well hidden. Boat-tailed Grackles were relatively abundant, perhaps the prime food source for the hawk. A flock of Red-winged Blackbirds stayed well concealed in small trees in midpond. The resident Sandhill Cranes made an appearance, albeit at long range.

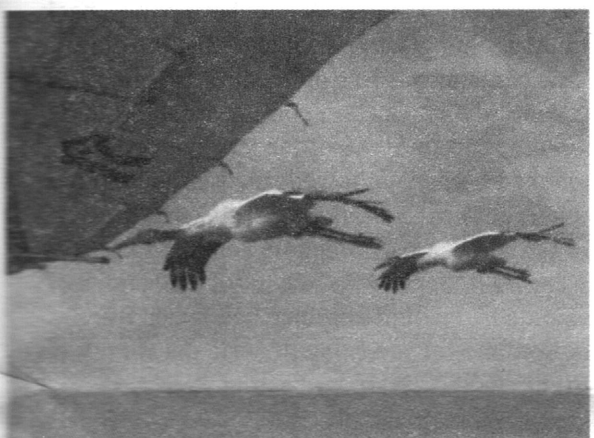
I was disappointed not to see the very large Diamondback Rattlesnake that often snoozes under the superintendent's SUV. The snake is so old and plump that it often gets stuck in the chain link fencing! Yes, the staff carefully pulls it free. Verrry carefully!

Next stop was the Enchanted Forest Park to the southeast. At their nice picnic area we did see Northern Parula Warblers, an American Redstart, and a White-eyed Vireo. A guided tour of the park was kind of interesting, but sparse on birds. We did hear a Pileated and a Red-bellied Woodpecker. With a total of 37 or so species we called it a day.

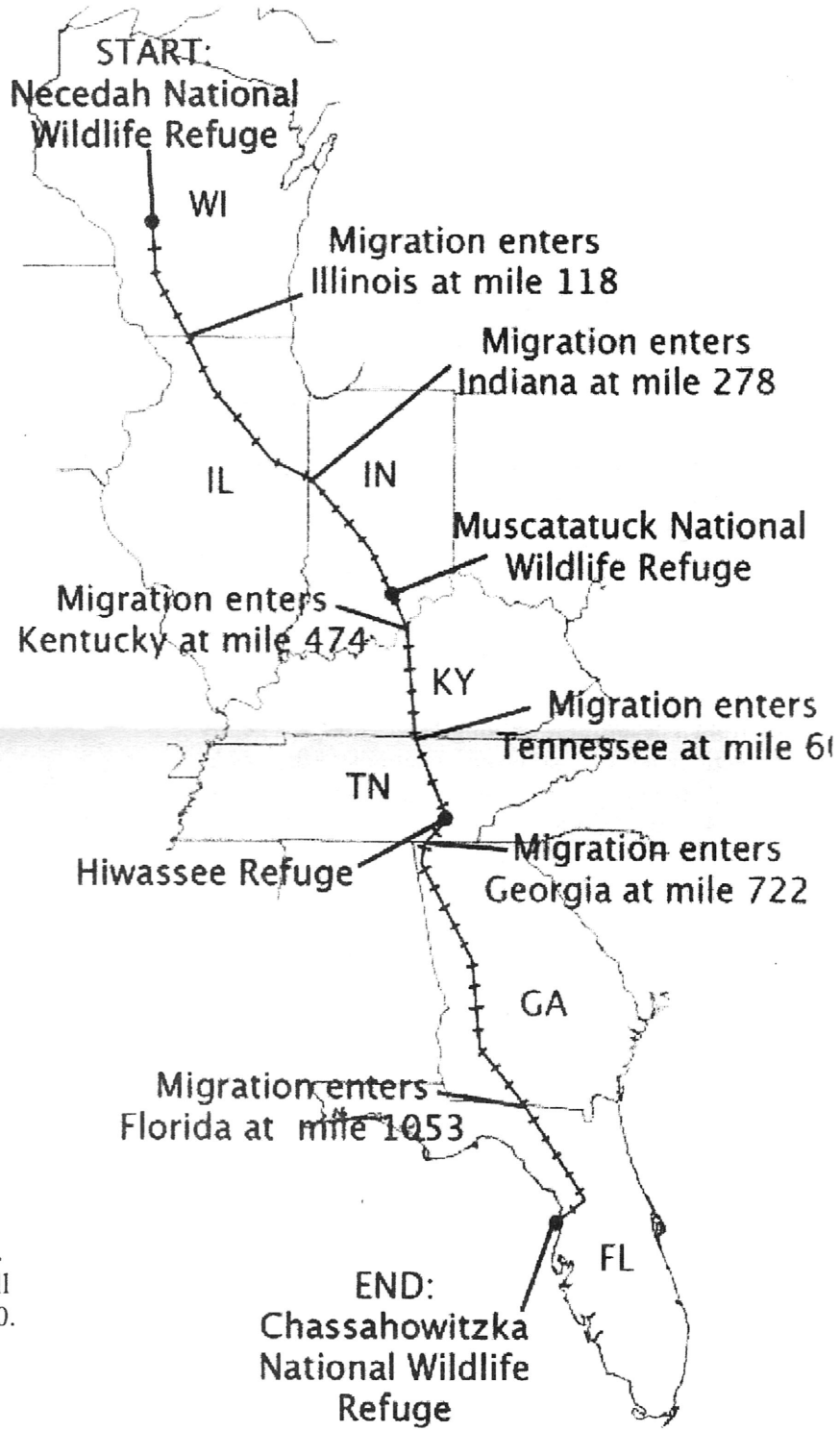
WHOOPING CRANE MIGRATION

The cranes are on their way to Florida! They left the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin started their seven state, 1250-mile journey on October 5. There are an unknown number of migration days that lie between the 2006 chicks' fledging ground to winter habitat at Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge on Florida's central west coast. You can follow a daily journal of their flight on www.operationmigration.org.

The chicks were hatched and raised by humans garbed as adult cranes. The chicks are being taught their migration path by following an ultralight plane.



This spectacular shot was taken by Chris Gullikson on November 17's morning flight.



Each crossline represents An interval of 25 miles.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a balance of \$4,790.01.

Board approved changing the Board meeting time back to first Mondays at 1:30. Education Chair Peter Larmie cannot meet at that time; therefore information will be exchanged with him by e-mail and on Program Meeting nights.

Plans for the Christmas Potluck Dinner were made. The room will be available for set-up at 5:30, dinner will start at 6:30, and our speaker is scheduled to start at 7:00. The Chapter will furnish ham, turkey, drinks, cutlery, plates and napkins. Members are asked to bring vegetable, salad or dessert dishes.

Board approved date for Chapter Bird-A-Thon for Saturday, March 31, 2007. Paula Wehr will coordinate.

BACKYARD WILDLIFE

David Hartgrove

Ten years or so ago I woke up one afternoon (I work mid nights) to find a message on my answering machine. It was a woman's voice and nearly unintelligible due to the sobs and gasping for breath. After listening to the message several times I was able to learn that she wished me to call her back as soon as possible and was finally able to make out the number.

I called and when she answered she said she was glad it had taken me as long as it had to get back to her. This had given her time to recover her composure. She began by asking straight out, "Isn't there something we can do about these ... these damned hawks! Pardon my French." I asked her to give me a little more information. I'd never spoken to her before and had no idea what she was talking about.

She told me that she lived on the beach side in Ormond Beach about half a mile south of Granada Boulevard. She was quite proud to have turned her backyard into a wildlife sanctuary. She had numerous birdbaths, birdhouses and feeders. She happily told me of the cardinals and doves that visited her feeders daily. She also told me of the corn and peanuts she put out for the squirrels. The problem, she said, was that some hawks had been terrorizing the birds and squirrels. She was certain that the pile of feathers she found in her side yard had been from a beautiful Mourning Dove. She was nearly apoplectic in her rage at the depredations of the hawks. The final straw had come that morning just a few minutes before her tearful call to me.

She had been hand raising several baby squirrels whose mother had apparently been dispatched by the ravenous hawks. These were now nearly adults and had been turned loose back into the yard after they showed little interest in paper training in the house and had been chewing the furniture. One of them seemed to have formed a special bond with his patroness and would run down a tree limb each morning to greet her when she went out early to check the feeders, change the water, etc. She would stretch out her hand and he'd run down her arm to perch on her shoulder while she went about her tasks.

On the morning in question she followed her routine and the squirrel leaped onto her arm. About the time he reached her elbow on his way to her shoulder, a powerful wing knocked her glasses from her face and she heard the squeal of the now doomed squirrel. An unseen hawk (Red-tailed or Red-shouldered? We'll never know) had swooped down and plucked her little friend from her arm. She retrieved her glasses just in time to see the squealing and writhing squirrel disappear over the treetops in the clutches of the murderous bird.

Of course, my first thought was how much I envied her in having had such an intimate experience with a hawk. I thought it best not to say so though.

"So," she asked, "Isn't there something we can do about these wicked hawks? Would I get into trouble if I shot the hawks?" I told her that not only would she be in trouble with the Ormond Beach Police, since it's illegal to discharge a firearm in the city limits, it's also a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to kill hawks. This comment set her off on yet another tirade against hawks and I just let her vent until her anger had subsided.

I then told her that she wasn't going to like what I was about to say but it needed saying anyway. I told her that the problem began when she invited wildlife into her backyard. I said you can't invite them in and expect to have only the ones you like accept the invitation. I said that from the hawk's perspective she had set up a "hawk smorgasbord" that attracted just the kinds of things that it likes to feed to its young. I said that the hawks aren't evil or wicked, they're hungry and they may have babies back at their nest that are hungry too. I told her that the only way to stop the carnage was to stop feeding the birds, squirrels, etc. until the hawks quit coming around. I told her that there were certain types of feeders that could be purchased that had bars that allowed small birds in to feed while keeping larger birds out, but that hawks feeding on squirrels and birds was a part of nature and that I knew of nothing else she could legally do to control the actions of wild animals. She had a note of reluctance in her voice when she thanked me for returning her call and for my advice. I assume the hawks are still eating well.

Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3

CHRISTMAS AT THE CASEMENTS

The Casements Cultural Center will present its Christmas Tree Festival at the Center, 25 Riverside Drive, Ormond Beach. The Festival (donation - \$4.00/adults and \$1.00/children) features many extraordinary events, but to our mind the most wonderful sight will be the Christmas tree filled with bird images that will fill the atrium.

Our own DeeDee Blanchard has undertaken to design and decorate the tree and the entire atrium with birds, big and little. Some birds will even be suspended from the two-story atrium ceiling. Life-size mounted ducks and swans will sit under the tree. Smaller birds and their nests will peer out from within the tree.

DeeDee's bird centered tree from last year won raves, so the Center asked her to do one again for this very large area. Halifax River Audubon has sponsored the tree and members have loaned bird ornaments to her, but DeeDee alone will plan, purchase, and decorate.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES NEWS

Education Chair Peter Larmie thanks those who have donated money to purchase Audubon Adventure kits for Volusia County fifth-grade classrooms.

Thanks to Carol Branch, John Carr, Anita Emery, Ken Hunter, Rachel Ramsey, and Joan Treves.

Bird of the Month

CAROLINA WREN

The Carolina Wren is one of our most familiar birds, especially around our yards. It is also one of the loudest singing, per volume, of birds. One day, we're told, a captive male sang its song over 3000 times. The song is sometimes thought to sound like "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle," but is not limited to this and sometimes is a loud chattering call.

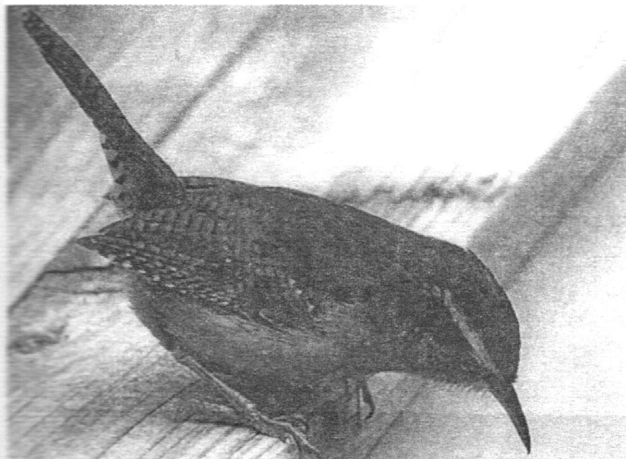


Photo by Jerry Kerschner

The nest has been described as a domed cup with a side entrance, and constructed with strips of bark, moss, dried grasses, hair, paper, feathers, etc. It is not usually placed above 10 feet from the ground. They commonly will nest in a sheltered box or basket in an open porch. In North Carolina, a pair nested in a clothes-pin bag in

our utility shed for several years and then moved to a hanging ceramic bottle birdhouse that had previously been used by a pair of Carolina Chickadees. A clutch may contain as few as three or as many as seven eggs that are creamy white with fine brown spots, and hatch in 12 to 16 days. The hatchlings are covered in pale gray down and are helpless, but fledge in 12 to 15 days. A pair will bond and stay together for life. They forage in their territory all year.

As wrens go, it is large to medium-sized, with a length of 5 to 6 inches, a wingspan of 11 inches, and weight of 0.64 to 0.78 ounces. It is buffy-colored and often holds its tail upward, has a prominent white eyestripe and white throat and chin. The breast and belly are cinnamon, the back is rusty brown, and all are unstreaked. Its dark bill is slender and slightly down curved. The tail is medium in length, rusty brown with darker barring and white spots that are inconspicuous on the outer edge of the outer tail feather. Its wings are rusty with dark barring. Both male and female are similar, but the male is slightly larger. A similar species is the Bewick's Wren that is much grayer and has a much more western range.

The Carolina Wren eats insects and spiders, and will eat peanut butter and suet at feeders. They will probe cracks and crannies in houses looking for spiders and thoroughly search tree bark for insects.

Thanks to the Cornell guide for this information. www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/Bird.

APPLICATION TO JOIN NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

\$15.00/ year Senior Citizen (62 or older) or Student. \$20.00/ year Introductory Rate. \$30.00/ 2 year rate. As a member of National Audubon you will receive bi-monthly issues of AUDUBON magazine, membership in Audubon of Florida, their publication The Naturalist and membership in Halifax River Audubon, Inc. and our newsletter, The Pelican.

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Chapter-Only Annual dues are \$20.00/ year, and \$15.00/ year per senior citizen or student. All or your membership dues go to Halifax River Audubon, Inc. Chapter of the National Audubon Society. As a member of Halifax River Audubon, you will receive 12 issues of our newsletter The Pelican, and have full membership privileges. You will not receive the National Audubon bi-monthly magazine, Audubon, nor will you receive The Naturalist, the publication of Audubon of Florida.

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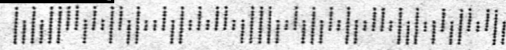
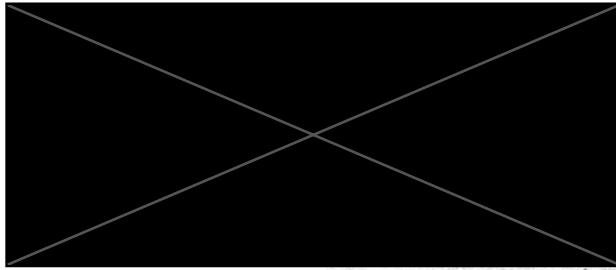
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Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	386-299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
Bird Identification	David Hartgrove	788-2630	
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland, FL	407-644-0190	
Halifax River Audubon	www.halifaxriveras.org		
Florida Rare Bird Alert	http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html		

December 2006

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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.