

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 52 - NO. 8

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

February 2007

FEBRUARY 2007 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, February 3

Halifax River Field Trip. Viera Ponds. Meet at Port Orange Publix parking lot, Williamson Blvd. & Taylor Rd. 7:00am. Led by Ken Hanson, 386-761-7820. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, February 3

Pawpaw Chapter Native Plant Society field trip. North Peninsula State Park, Highbridge Rd. at Intracoastal Canal. US-A1A in Flagler Co. Carpool 8:30am at Courthouse Annex on City Island, Daytona Beach or meet 9:00am at Trailhead (2 mile Loop Trail). Park fee \$3.00/car. Contact Mary Lou Deeley 386-677-6931, mdeeley@peoplepc.com.

Sunday, February 4

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

Thursday, February 15

West Volusia Audubon Field Trip. Drive Lake Woodruff. Meet at 8:45am in the parking lot next to the gate. This is always a good birding trip with a possible Whooping Crane sighting. Contact Vivian Taylor 734-1390 or Sara Lynn at 738-0119 for information.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, February 15-19

Great Backyard Bird Count. See article.

Saturday, February 17

Halifax River Field Trip. Butterfly Rain Forest. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson & Granada Blvds. 8:30am. Led by Paula Wehr, 673-5332. Bring lunch. (1)

Monday, February 19

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Seabird and Shorebird Monitoring in Florida" by Alex Kropp, Regional Non-game Biologist, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, February 20

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society program meeting. "In Harmony with Nature, Part 2: Landscaping and Gardening with Florida Native Plants". Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Tuesday, February 27

West Volusia Audubon Program Meeting.

"Environmental Issues" by David Hartgrove. DeLand Woman's Club, 128 W. Michigan Ave., DeLand. 6:30pm. Contact Laura Cash, 626-2329 or Arnette Sherman, 734-5840.

Friday, March 2

West Volusia Audubon Field Trip. Sugar Mill Botanical Gardens (docent tour). Contact Vivian Taylor 734-1390 or Sara Lynn at 738-0119.

Saturday, March 3

Halifax River Field Trip. Volusia County Landfill. Meet at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd. 7:00am. Led by David Hartgrove, 788-2630. (1)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

A person or persons are needed to head the Hospitality Committee for the HRA General Meetings, which are held at Sica Hall on the third Monday of each month from September through June.

The HRA board authorized an expenditure of up to \$25 per meeting to purchase refreshments such as brownies, cookies, cheese & crackers, fruit and/or vegetables and dip, and the like.

The person or persons who take this position will need to arrive at Sica Hall about 6:00 p.m. to make the coffee, set up the food and drinks and arrange the plates/napkins/etc. prior to arrival of the general membership at 6:30 p.m. All supplies, except for the food, are kept in the closet at Sica Hall. An ice machine is located in the kitchen at Sica Hall. There are also large sinks for use in speedy clean up.

If you or you and a friend would like to take responsibility for hospitality at our meetings, please contact Paula Wehr at 673-5332 or any other Board member listed on the back page of *The Pelican*. The head of Hospitality is also a member of the Board and invited to attend Board meetings held on the first Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Dickerson Library in Holly Hill. We welcome you to become more active in our chapter.

LAKE WOODRUFF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

West Volusia Audubon Society members invite visitors to look through their scopes at birds and other wildlife at the Refuge. Volunteers from the Chapter will be available on Sundays from about 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. from January through March.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

As you may have read, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed delisting the Bald Eagle from its current level of protection under the Endangered Species Act. This being the national bird and a symbol of the country as established by the Congress in 1782, delisting carries with it a variety of potential problems for the birds and the bureaucrats tasked with managing the eagle population.



While the USF&WS is operating on its own federal track, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is busy adopting its own plan. Bill Pranty, whose name is synonymous with birding in Florida (by virtue of the fact that he literally wrote the book on the subject), has taken on the task of

writing the management plan for this bird at the request of the FWC. He has wisely asked that stakeholders in this process (and Halifax River Audubon is a stakeholder) review the document and comment before the end of January. I will be doing that on our behalf soon.

In 1963 the Bald Eagle population nationwide was estimated at 417 breeding pairs. In 2005 that number was up to 7,066 breeding pairs, and that doesn't count the

immatures and other non-breeders. The number in Florida, including immatures, is something over 4,000. Only Alaska has more Bald eagles than Florida.

We had between 1,092 and 1,133 active nests in 2005, which suggests that breeding eagles in the state have reached or exceeded their current carrying capacity. This is a large and powerful bird. Its territorial requirements are large too, approximately 1.6 square miles on average. But it will chase off interlopers on the fringes and this includes youngsters from last year's brood. There are only so many territories available and it appears they're filled. So we may see a slight decrease in the state's Bald Eagle population over the coming years as the birds adjust to the realities of successful breeding requirements vis-à-vis the territory available with the requisite food and nest sites.

Therein lies the biggest problem for the Bald Eagle. Yes, we now have a stable, breeding population. But as with all other wildlife, loss of habitat is the biggest threat they face. Pesticides, collisions with vehicles and power lines, even gun shots are documented causes of Bald Eagle mortality. The bioaccumulation of mercury in fish (78% of their diet in north Florida) has the potential to do serious damage to their nervous systems and profoundly shorten life expectancy. Maintaining the current number of breeding territories under increased development pressures will prove the biggest challenge.

We will work with our partners in this project to try to protect the future of Bald Eagles in Florida.

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*.

Name _____

Address _____

Apt _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Mail check made out to **National Audubon Society** and this form to John W. Carr, 359 Brookline Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

E-41 / 7XCH

APPLICATION TO JOIN HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC

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.

Name _____

Address _____

Apt _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address _____

Mail check made out to **Halifax River Audubon**, and mail this form to John W. Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATA

2006 Data: Miles by car – 257; Hours by car – 44.5; Temp – 68-80; Wind – WSW9-12; %Clouds – 80-100; Recip – 0 to predawn rain. Time - 0300-1730.

Observers: Kitty Albee, Michael Brothers, Chandra Bruce, Matt Bruce, John Carr, David Hartgrove, Barbara Kieran, Michael Meisenburg, Veronica Merenda, Robert North, Steve Petruniak, Rachel Ramsey, Paul Rebmann, Ray Scory, Meret Wilson, Peggy Yokubonus.

Date	Tot Spec	Tot Indiv	Observers
01-04-97	97	10,300	26
01-03-98	105	10,977	15
01-02-99	98	8,984	16
12-30-99	116	8,358	15
12-30-00	109	18,629	29
12-29-01	113	9,374	23
12-28-02	111	15,425	12
12-27-03	112	9,454	12
12-18-04	101	9,564	16
12-18-05	101	12,308	11
12-23-06	114	20,264	16

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

- Board recommended the use of e-mail to inform members of special items of interest. Chapter members may indicate their interest by submitting their e-mail addresses as indicated in this newsletter.
- Madeline Shaddix donated copies of *Audubon Field Guide to Florida* to be placed in middle school classrooms. Education Chair Peter Larmie will distribute the 26 books to the classrooms participating in the *Audubon Adventures* project.
- Board approved donation of one copy of the Field Guide to the media centers of each of the six schools where *Audubon Adventures* is being used. These schools are Osceola, Pathways, Turie T. Small, Tomoka, Bonner, and Port Orange. Bookplates will be created to be inserted in the books.
- Board approved purchase of a waterbird and a reptile book from the Florida Fabulous series to be donated to the media centers of 5 schools.
- Paula Wehr will draft a Bird-a-Thon letter to be sent to all HRA members requesting participation and donations. Ken Russell will collect checks and tally totals to turn over to the Treasurer.

Welcome to new members Michael and Judith Ables, Don S. Campbell, Michael J. Connelly, Dorothy Davis, Daniel D. Ensminger, Ms Patricia Gough, Rodger Grieb, James E. Jacobs, Robert and Nancy Jenkins, Ronald Meuse, Mr. Roy A. Muddiman, Ursuala Reichel, V-M Shambora, Hertha E. Spencer, Stephanie J. Wilson, and Joseph Woodbury.

TENTH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT - FEBRUARY 16-19, 2007

OPEN TO ALL
NO NEED TO PREREGISTER
NO FEE REQUIRED

What mid-winter activity is fun, easy, free, and helps bird conservation? What can parents and teachers do with children that connects them to a whole new world of natural wonders? This February, the tenth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), sponsored by National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will give everyone a chance to discover the birds in their neighborhood and "Count for the Record."

During February 16-19, 2007, people of all ages, from beginners to experts, are invited to join this event that spans all of the United States and Canada. Participants can take part wherever they are - at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges. Observers simply count the highest number of each species they see during an outing or a sitting, and enter their tally on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site.



CORNELL LAB of
ORNITHOLOGY

Participants who want to hone their bird watching skills can learn more from the Great Backyard Bird Count web site, which offers identification tips and access to photos, sounds, maps, and natural history information on more than 500 bird species.

People can also submit photos to an online gallery showcasing the dazzling array of winter birds found during the GBBC. Competitions add another element of fun, including a photo contest, rankings for most numerous birds, and the coveted "checklist champ" title for towns, states, and provinces with the highest participation.

Here's How:

- **Before you count**, go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc for easy-to-follow instructions and local checklists.
- **Count the birds** in your backyard, park, or refuge – anywhere! For each kind of bird, write down the highest number of individuals you see at any one time during your count. Take part on one, two, three, or four days. Watch the birds for as long as possible (15 minutes or more) each day.
- **Report your results online**. Go back to the GBBC website www.birdsource.org/gbbc, complete an online checklist, and report your sightings electronically.
- **View your results!** You can see lists and maps online, continually updated throughout the count. See how you and your town fit into the big picture.

2006 DAYTONA BEACH CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Count Area: 7 1/2 -mile radius of Tomoka River Bridge on I-95

2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	BIRD
3	2	5	4	4	Loon, Common
12	14	14	13	15	Grebe, Pied-billed
6				11	Grebe, Horned
423	11	3	4	180	Gannet, Northern
	27	20	1	7	Pelican, American White
238	84	189	115	69	Pelican, Brown
205	175	203	81	154	Cormorant, Double-crested
20	18	18	20	22	Anhinga
			1		Bittern, American
21	20	31	13	23	Heron, Great Blue
29	24	37	20	24	Egret, Great
1	19	31	4	21	Egret, Snowy
20	15	23	12	17	Heron, Little Blue
5	1	12	2	8	Heron, Tricolored
110	368	103	74	15	Egret, Cattle
6	5	1	1	2	Heron, Green
200	276	125	169	83	Ibis, White
			23		Ibis, Glossy
0	0	0			Spoonbill, Roseate
23	8	51		14	Stork, Wood
	6	29	13	3	Duck, Muscovy
	9	6		3	Duck, Wood
	3				Wigeon, American
10		3	23	7	Mallard
3					MallardXMuscovy Hybrid
2807	1	103		3100	Teal, Green-winged
				1	Scaup, Lesser
				1	Eider, Common
			1	21	Scoter, Surf
				2	Scoter, White-winged
				1	Scoter, Black
				6	Bufflehead
12	4	11	28	9	Merganser, Hooded
8	2	7	3	17	Merganser, Red-breasted

85	146	133	2	195	252	Duck, Ruddy
93	269	137	173	155	Vulture, Black	
5	12	19	3	10	Vulture, Turkey	
2	1	11	3	6	Osprey	
1	1	1		2	Eagle, Bald	
2	3	1		2	HARRIER, Northern	
2	6	2	2	1	Hawk, Sharp-shinned	
17	24	38	21	24	Hawk, Cooper's	
		1			Hawk, Red-shouldered	
7	5	5	1	5	Hawk, Broad-winged	
26	25	13	12	16	Hawk, Red-tailed	
	1				Kestrel, American	
					Merlin	
		1		1	Peregrine	
	2				Hawk species	
36	67	67		44	Turkey, Wild	
2					Bobwhite, Northern	
				14	Rail, Clapper	
				1	Rail, Virginia	
26	21	10	14	7	Moothern, Common	
21	22	9	65	30	Coot, American	
			4	6	Crane, Sandhill	
2	1	13	13	19	Plover, Black-bellied	
76	91	127	56	48	Killdeer	
2	2				Oystercatcher, American	
1			1		Yellowlegs, Greater	
	1				Yellowlegs, Lesser	
	10		47	41	Willet	
1	3				Sandpiper, Spotted	
112	58	110	47	59	Turnstone, Ruddy	
40	6		62	66	Knot, Red	
221	149	248	243	104	Sanderling	
2					Sandpiper, Western	
2	3		12	1	Snipe, Wilson's	
				6	Jaeger, Pomarine	
1057	627	2378	1349	700	Gull, Laughing	
				5	Gull, Bonaparte's	
1753	1155	828	848	1350	Gull, Ring-billed	
	7	10	18	22	Gull, Herring	

2	1	6	6	1	Gull, Great Black-backed
	2			2	Tern, Caspian
66	159	33	153	129	Tern, Royal
35	43	26	107	22	Tern, Sandwich
43	5	13	7	27	Tern, Forster's
	8				Tern species
5					Skimmer, Black
752	514	1002	620	356	Pigeon, Rock
76	71	76	59	35	Collared-Dove, Eurasian
271	127	213	352	166	Dove, Mourning
6				2	Ground-Dove, Common
4	6	2	2	2	Screech-Owl, Eastern
1	2				Owl, Great Horned
3	6	1		2	Owl, Barred
	1				Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
10	8	13	8	15	Kingfisher, Belted
1	7	1			Woodpecker, Red-headed
55	20	36	22	39	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
5	2	10	3	8	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
22	18	7	7	28	Woodpecker, Downy
1	3	1		7	Flicker, Northern
14	8	27	4	21	Woodpecker, Piliated
36	18	14	16	40	Phoebe, Eastern
857	812	54	5260	65	Swallow, Tree
48	32	47	21	33	Jay, Blue
49	39	27	66	44	Crow, American
11	98	32	261	32	Crow, Fish
26	17	18	3	8	Crow species
6	5	2	5	4	Chickadee, Carolina
16	7	21	13	31	Titmouse, Tufted
			1		Nuthatch, Red-breasted
11	21	6		6	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
46	16	17	7	45	Wren, Carolina
21	16	4	5	13	Wren, House
	1				Wren, Sedge
128	27	27	18	73	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
29	17	14	19	13	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
22	19	5	8	7	Bluebird, Eastern

10	6			3	Thrush, Hermit
1339	1007	834	1325	6500	Robin, American
65	35	20	16	71	Catbird, Gray
3	52	63	23	60	Mockingbird, Northern
1					Thrasher, Brown
66					Pipit, American
223		135		200	Waxwing, Cedar
40	29	23	11	8	Shrike, Loggerhead
439	135	340	532	52	Starling, European
18	17		5	14	Vireo, White-eyed
11	6	3	6	7	Vireo, Blue-headed
4	3	3	1	1	Warbler, Orange-crowned
1659	1416	822	632	4500	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
2	1	4		2	Warbler, Yellow-throated
61	41	12	17	14	Warbler, Pine
2	1				Warbler, Prairie
65	39	36	32	32	Warbler, Palm
2	2		1	6	Warbler, Black-and-white
18	7	6	7	5	Yellowthroat, Common
83	32	50	26	76	Cardinal, Northern
6	13	1	4	4	Towhee, Eastern
29	25	7	2	9	Sparrow, Chipping
			1		Sparrow, Field
		2			Sparrow, Vesper
5	6	19	35	68	Sparrow, Savannah
				2	Sparrow, Henslow's
			1		Sparrow, Song
9	9	3	1	10	Sparrow, Swamp
1					Sparrow, White-throated
197	182	18	109	80	Blackbird, Red-winged
	3	4			Meadowlark, Eastern
285	129	110	9	56	Grackle, Common
81	208	57	54	153	Grackle, Boat-tailed
136	56		85	200	Cowbird, Brown-headed
1					Oriole, Baltimore
		1		8	Finch, House
60	17	34	18	14	Goldfinch, American
	13	22	1	1	Sparrow, House

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

John Carr

This bird is a permanent resident in our area and is the most common woodpecker in the Southeast. In the last 100 years, they have extended their breeding range north and are just reaching the northern tier of states. Populations are increasing in most of their range.

They can be a familiar sight at bird feeders and in the trees in yards. They are medium to large sized woodpecker, about 9 inches from bill tip to ends of the tail feathers and with a wingspan of 13 to 17 inches.



The term "Red-bellied" in the name seems to be a misnomer because our male birds and those further north are a brilliant shiny red from the base of the bill to the back of the neck. The female has a gray crown, the red restricted to the nape. Red-bellies south of our Volusia County area may have a brown forehead. However, on all, some of the feathers of the lower belly are colored a red that looks like dried blood and sometimes there is a reddish wash on the feathers of the belly, hence the name. The back is barred and reminds me of

black and white mattress ticking. Their voice is a loud raspy chur or a quirr that slightly rises. They also have a harsh chig-chig call or a series of descending chur chigchc sounds that can be slow or rapid. Their drumming is medium speed, lengthy, and steady.

They compete for nest holes with other woodpeckers, but are often evicted from them by the European Starling. This happens in over half the nests in some areas.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers do store food in crevices of trees and posts, but, unlike the Acorn Woodpecker, they do not seem to defend their caches from other birds or mammals. They come to suet feeders and sometimes will repeatedly visit hummingbird feeders.

Woodpeckers, like other cavity nesting birds, tend not to be bothered by rain like many songbirds, and can be seen apparently ignoring it.

Because the male has a longer bill and wider tongue tip than the female, it is thought that this difference might let the male recover food from deeper furrows and allow the sexes to divide the food resources in an area.

Our 2006 Red-bellied counts were: 82 in the Spring, 90 in the Fall, and 39 in the Christmas Count.

SEABIRD AND SHOREBIRD MONITORING IN FLORIDA

Florida is home to thousands of sea and shore birds. Some birds are seemingly omnipresent, but the numbers of other species are dwindling and their habitat is shrinking. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission created a Beach Nesting Bird Monitoring Website containing a database of nesting locations (including roof top sites) of shorebirds statewide.

Sarah Johnson, Assistant Regional Biologist, will give a presentation about shorebird biology, conservation, and the FFWCC monitoring website. Be sure to join fellow HRA members and guests for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. Sarah's talk will begin at 7:00 p.m. She will also discuss how you can become a volunteer to assist with monitoring roof-top nesting colonies in our local area.

Native & Nice

SEA GRAPES

Donnadine Miller

The sea grape (*coccoloba uvifers*) is one of the most familiar native plants in our area. Its distinctive leaves with their thick, leathery texture and broad, rounded shape are hard to miss.

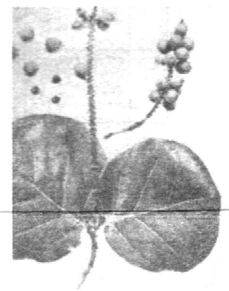
At maturity the leaves are a dark sea green with reddish veins. Each spring, sea grapes shed their tough, dry leaves that are soon replaced with beautiful mahogany-tinted new growth. Long, graceful white flower spikes, that are fragrant and nectar-rich, follow a little later.

Sea grapes are very popular on beachside, where they withstand direct hits from salt spray and thrive in poor, sandy soil – even growing in sand dunes. They prefer full sun. Harsh beach conditions restrict sea grapes to low, dense shrubs. In a friendlier environment and with a little pruning, they will grow into trees with broad, rounded crowns. Sea grapes also make an excellent hedge.

It is the fruit of the sea grape that gives it its name. In late summer, large clusters of "grapes" appear, changing from pale green to purple. Many people claim that they can be used in the same way as real grapes to make jams, jellies, and wine, and the blossoms may be useful in honey production. I'm content to leave the fruit as a food source for wildlife.

To see an effective display of massed sea grapes, visit Buena Vista Park at the southwest corner of the North Causeway bridge in New Smyrna Beach.

from *The Skimmer*, newsletter of Southeast Volusia Audubon Society, January 2007



HURRAH!

VULTURE CHICKS HATCHED IN CAPTIVITY

Conservationists are celebrating the arrival of the first oriental white-backed vulture chick to be born in captivity in India. In the US, great effort is made to save Whooping Cranes. There, the same effort is made to save vultures.

But why?

Tens of millions of vultures used to be present across India, Pakistan and Nepal. Since the early 1990s three vulture species have undergone catastrophic declines. Populations have decreased by at least 97% in India over the last 12 years. Vulture numbers continue to fall at around 40% a year, placing these critically endangered species on the brink of extinction.



The potential loss of these vulture species poses a huge ecological and social threat. Vultures dispose of carcasses that might spread a risk of disease. Feral dogs are now filling the gap left by the loss of vultures and are causing a real risk to human health and safety.

Why were vultures dying?

The drug diclofenac is the culprit. The painkiller drug was widely used by vets to treat the millions of cattle in the region. When the cattle died, vultures ate their flesh – flesh containing a drug that caused kidney failure in the birds. Now that the cause has been established, vets are turning to another drug to treat cattle – meloxicam – that is not toxic to vultures.

So, what about other bird species? Are they in danger?

Veterinarians worldwide who look after birds in zoos and collections have been asked whether other kinds of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) are killing other scavenging birds. The answer is yes.

Four other anti-inflammatory drugs, in addition to diclofenac, were found to affect birds. Not just vultures, but marabou storks, Saw-whet owl, Harris hawk, and spoonbill are known to be affected. The other deadly NSAID drugs are flunixin, carprofen, ibuprofen and phenylbutazone. Only meloxicam has been demonstrated to be safe.

The breeding center is run by the Bombay Natural History Society and Indian government departments and organizations. To find out more about Vulture Rescue, log on to www.vulturedeclines.org

NEWS from Kathy Paynter, Wildlife Rehabilitator

Once again, Dr. Erin Holder worked her magic in surgery to put a badly injured female bobcat back together. The cat had been struck by a car and had a very bad fracture of her right hind leg. A kind citizen picked her up and brought her to Florida Wild Vet Hospital where she had a pin inserted to hold the fracture together. She was then transferred to my care. “GracyBob”, as she was nick-named by the hospital staff, did extremely well with me. Although she would spit, hiss, and growl whenever I entered her compound, she took to rehabilitation easily.

As she healed and became more active, her appetite increased and she was soon gobbling down large quantities of frozen pigeons, rats, and chicken. One fascinating thing about her was her insistence on having a kitty litter pan filled with water to use as a toilet. Unlike most cats who don’t even like to get a single toe wet, Gracy would only go in water. Of course, my azalea plants were quite happy with the daily dosing of liquid kitty fertilizer! After several months, he leg had completely healed and she was ready for release.

The entire Florida Wild staff joined me on a field trip to release her. With cameras ready and breath held, I opened the crate door and before anyone could blink an eye, Grady shot out of the crate like a rocket and bounded into the woods. The only thing we saw was a brown blur as she ran past us. We may have missed the picture but there were happy smiles all way round.

The red shouldered hawks are beginning to build a new nest in a tall pine tree next to my house. I am delighted to see them so close. They are my wild foster parents and each year have adopted one or two wild orphaned red shoulder hawk babies. They are wonderful, devoted parents and I’m sure this year they will again help me care for any “shoulder” babies I receive. They are a blessing and I am lucky to have them willing to accept offspring not their own.

From *The Hummer*, newsletter of West Volusia Audubon Society, January, 2007

SPECIAL CHAPTER EMAIL

From time to time matters come to the attention of the Board of Directors that the Board feels would be of interest to all members. While these things can and are put in *The Pelican*, sometimes it is useful to get information out more quickly.

So we would like to have an e-mail address list of those members who would like to get notification of important matters.

The list will be used **only** for Chapter matters and no one’s address will be seen by other recipients.

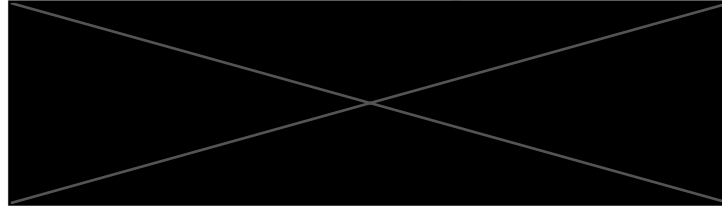
If you would like to be included in this list, please send your e-mail information to Ken Russell at cjr-kjr@mindspring.com.

THE PELICAN

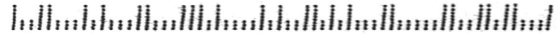


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FEBRUARY 2007

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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.halifaxrivercas.org	
Florida Rare Bird Alert		http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html	

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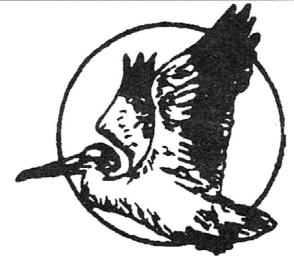
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**Thank you
for your support of our 2006-2007 activities**

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. Keesh 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. 9

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

March 2007

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS

Don Picard

For the fifth year in a row the three Audubon groups in Volusia County partnered to provide judges and prizes for the Tomoka Regional Science Fair. It was held at the Advanced Technology Center in Daytona Beach on the 20th of January 2007. The judges included Dale Samler (West Volusia Audubon), Caroline Russell (Halifax River Audubon) and Ken Gunn and Don Picard (Southeast Volusia Audubon).

We looked at 26 junior level projects and 7 senior level projects. The projects involved the environment, conservation, and alternative energy sources. Prizes were \$100 for First Place Senior and Junior projects and \$50 for Second Place Junior and Senior projects.

The Senior winners were: Lea Schecter, Spruce Creek High, *Bioluminescence: Measuring Pollutants with Light*; and Frank Slimak, Mainland High, *A Study of the Aquifer*. The Junior winners were Blake Stacey, Deland Middle School, *Does Windmill Blade Size Affect Windmill Electricity Output?* and Nicholas Hundley, Heritage Middle School, *Enhancing Solar Power*.

Congratulations to these winners and to the many other exhibitors whose hard work gives us hope for the future.

February 4

WHOOPEE REINTRODUCTION UPDATE

Joan Garland

After the storms cleared, a ray of light emerges. We are delighted to announce that one of the eighteen juvenile Whooping Cranes, presumed dead in the storms that hit central Florida, has been recovered! Marianne Wellington, ICF Aviculturist, picked up the radio signal of #15-06 near the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge pensite in Citrus County, Florida.

He was found during an aerial search in an isolated area several miles from the pensite with two sandhill cranes, and in the same area with three whooping cranes from the Class of 2005. They could not get a clear visual on the bird from the ground, but from the air, he appeared healthy and uninjured. He will be monitored closely, and initial plans are to treat him like one of the released birds.

Seventeen cranes at the pensite died in the storms, but the remains of #15-06 were never recovered. The crane was presumed buried in the mud, but when

Marianne picked up his radio signal from outside the pen yesterday, hopes ran high.

During the last leg of the ultralight-led migration this fall, crane #15-06 dropped out and was missing for two days before being recovered and reunited with his flockmates. We're unsure how #15-06 got out of the pen. One theory is that the wind or high water nudged the gate open just enough and #15-06 got out. We may never know, but one thing is clear--this is one resilient crane! As Marianne said, "He's the Houdini of birds."

MARCH 2007 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, March 3

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

Monday, March 19

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Tracking Bird Migration with Weather Radar" by Fred Mosher, Instructor, Embry-Riddle University. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Monday through Friday, March 19-24

West Volusia Audubon Field Trip. Spring Trip to Tarpon Springs. Reservations required. Contact Vivian Taylor 734-1390 or Sara Lynn at 738-0119 for information.

Saturday, March 24

Halifax River Field Trip. Orlando Wetlands. Meet at Port Orange Publix parking lot, Williamson Blvd. & Taylor Rd. 7:00am. Led by David Hartgrove, 386-788-2630. Bring lunch. (2)

Tuesday, March 27

West Volusia Audubon Program Meeting. "Seasonal Changes at Emerald Marsh" by Peter May. DeLand Woman's Club, 128 W. Michigan Ave., DeLand. 6:30pm. Contact Laura Cash, 626-2329 or Arnette Sherman, 734-5840.

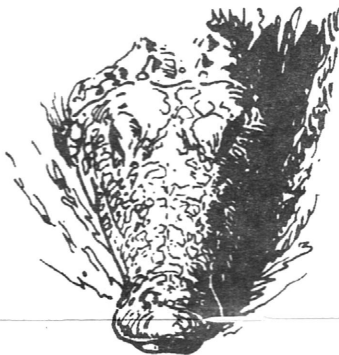
Sunday, April 1

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

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Not long ago I was in Tampa for the birth of our second grand daughter. We were there looking after our other grand daughter, the five year old. Lettuce Lake Park, an excellent birding spot, is not far from the hospital so I brought along an extra pair of binoculars for Maya to start her off on what I hope will be a lifelong love of birds. As we walked along the boardwalk over the tea colored water she told me she was sure there must be alligators and crocodiles in there. Who can fathom the imagination of a five year old? Of course there were no crocodiles in that fresh water marsh on the east side of Tampa. The only crocodiles in Florida are found further south, especially near FPL's Turkey Point Power Plant east of Homestead, and are an endangered species.



CROCODILE

The American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) is endemic to estuarine habitats on both coasts of Mexico and Central America and as far south as Peru. It's found in the remaining mangrove swamps of Cuba, Jamaica and Hispanola. Florida is the northern limit of its historic range and it used to be found as far north as Tampa Bay on the west coast and Lake

Worth on the east. Now they're clinging to survival in just four counties along the state's southern coast. In 1900 the estimated population of crocodiles in Florida was around 1,500. By 1970 that number was down to between 100 and 400 animals. Unrestricted hunting and habitat loss had decimated the population.

The power plant has two fossil fuel and two nuclear units in operation and they require lots of water to cool the units. FPL's original plan would have dumped super heated water into Biscayne Bay. This was based on that old assumption, "the solution to pollution is dilution." In this case, the pollution was heat. Too much hot water dumped into Biscayne Bay would raise the bay's temperature and kill the vital sea grass beds. After the threat of legal action by Audubon and other environmental groups, FPL engineers came up with a closed loop system of canals 167 miles long to dissipate the heat. The warm salt water and the berms that separate the canals provide the perfect habitat for the crocodiles. The first crocodile nest was discovered in 1978. In 2005 there were 255 successful nests and 3,774 hatchlings were captured, measured, microchip tagged and released. Some of these will become snacks for Great Blue Herons and other predators. But the population of American Crocodiles is definitely headed in the right direction.

The law of unintended consequences often works out to produce negative results. Sometimes, though, the scales balance out on the plus side. For FPL and the crocodiles, that was the case this time.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported balance of \$8,230.40 including a donation of \$250 from the News-Journal.

Ken Russell reported on Volusia County Council of Governments (VCOG) planned Smart Growth discussions.

Willie Burns reported Golden Dog sales of \$463.11 at the Manatee Festival.

Membership Chair John Carr reported 454 National Audubon and 30 Chapter Only members in Chapter.

Ken Russell will head a Nominating Committee to nominate a President, 2 Vice Presidents, 2 Secretaries and 2 At-Large Board members.

- Board voted not to hold a Bird-a-Thon this year and hold it as an option when we need to raise money for a specific project.
- Board voted to reimburse Willie for a hand truck to transport Golden Dog products.
- Board voted to approve a letter sent on behalf of the Chapter to Governor Crist regarding the possible sale of New Smyrna Beach High School land.

BBC News finds out the answer

HOW DO YOU GET RID OF 159,000 TURKEYS?

A turkey farm on the west coast of England suffered an outbreak of bird flu recently. The H5N1 virus can be fatal for humans, so the British exterminated all the turkeys in the area to prevent the spread to people.

It's very difficult to kill so many birds. Not only does the sheer number pose difficulties, there is also the risk of those doing the job getting infected.

All 159,000 turkeys were placed into crates, "forklifted" into gas chambers and gassed to death. This is the quickest, most bio-secure and humane method of killing the birds.

Further rendering of the carcasses was done very carefully. First they were transported in sealed vehicles to a rendering plant, then heated and bio-filtered to kill micro-organisms. Eventually any residue left over is disposed of in a landfill site. There is no health risk from the burial of the residue in landfill as it is free from disease and the virus is no longer present.

There is a risk that those involved in the process could become infected. As a precaution they had been issued with personal protection equipment and being offered the Tamiflu (human influenza) anti-viral drug.

Canaveral Seashore National Park

BIRD SURVEY

Willie Burns

On Saturday January 6, 2007, we completed our Third Annual Bird Survey for Canaveral Seashore National Park (Cana). Except for the worst mosquitoes I've ever seen it was a lovely day. The weather was mild with not much wind and no one got a truck stuck in sand.

Ten eager birders met at the North District and piled into two pickup trucks. This year Candace Carter, Assistant Resource Manager for the Park, provided a second Park truck. Those in back could scan the skies, marshes, and waters in relative comfort from a long wooden bench in the bed of each.

We accessed the backcountry of the Park just south of Parking Lot 5 on the beach. We stopped along the way to count what we were seeing, and sometimes hearing. The constant grumble of the nearby surf made a low counterpoint to the wind ruffling the palms. In places the barrier beach we were on is barely a hundred feet wide from surf to lagoon.

The old dike road has been removed in many places, as the Park Service has begun restoring the natural habitat. A short walk led to the old roadbed and a good view of the marsh and lagoon. Next stop was Target Rock, an actual target for fighter pilots training here in Florida for World War Two combat. It is sobering to think how many young men fired the heavy weapons of their planes here in training, and how many never returned home.

Driving slowly down the rough sand road for three miles we were able to easily observe the marsh to the west and the hordes of bird life. We stopped whenever a good group of birds was seen on the many ponds

Our end point was at Cat Hammock, a slightly higher piece of land covered in thick trees. From the water it does look rather like a cat sitting in the sun.

Northern Gannets were diving steadily into the ocean. Unlike our more common Brown Pelican, the gannet dives completely underwater. It becomes easy to tell which is which by the splash. A splash with a large bird on the surface is a pelican; a splash that fades, with a large bird reappearing shortly thereafter is a gannet. Usually, that is, not allowing Ospreys and terns to confuse the issue.

I often find dead gannets on the beach when they have been fishing close to shore. They mostly have broken necks and are often immature birds. The best theory we have is that they dive headlong into the hard sandy bottom. Their summer breeding habitat is the cold deep waters around Nova Scotia and they don't know from shallow offshore sandbars. A nice fish swimming over a sand bar becomes a quick harsh lesson in water depth.

At Parking Lot 4 we stopped for a view from the walkway that crosses the dune. This location has a higher

platform for better viewing. Willets, Ruddy Turnstones, and Sanderlings gave us a nice close show with gannets plunging into the deeper waters.

A total of 58 species were tallied on this short, thin slice of the Park, with total numbers close to 5000. A Northern Harrier, sixteen Osprey, and one Bald Eagle were the raptors seen. The highest numbers of course were Ring-billed Gulls, 2008, and Double-crested Cormorants, 981. 273 Blue-winged Teal by far led the four varieties of ducks, and three Common Loons made an appearance.

Our heartfelt thanks go to North District Ranger Mike Chambers, Resource Manager John Stiner and Park Superintendent Carol Clark for assisting in any way they could.

Many thanks go to David Hartgrove, Barbara Kieran, Peter Larmie, Bob North, John Roessler, and Ken Russell from Halifax River Audubon, Molly Taylor who came up from Ft. Lauderdale for the day, and Candace Carter and Patty Johnson from the Park. We now have good parameters for future surveys.

February 4, 2007

DUNLAWTON BRIDGE FIELD TRIP

Ray Scory

Under a gray leaden sky a cold Northeast wind blew, defining a not too typical Florida evening. On the south side of the bridge on a short mangrove projection on a sandbar, a solitary Peregrine Falcon waited. Not a shorebird in sight. We watched. A most regal figure on that sand bar, alone in adult plumage splendor. Then away, speeding with the wind, it disappeared into the gray evening, and the birds returned.

A moment of Nature's truth and we were there to witness it. The Dunlawton Bridge is a wonderful place to study wading birds, shore birds, passerine and raptors anytime, any day, any month - low tide is especially good.

During our two hour evening watch at the bridge we counted thirty-one different species, twenty-eight in the first hour. Noteworthy observations were a lone Horned Grebe, a good sized raft of Lesser Scaup accompanied by a handful of Ring-necked Ducks and the spectacle of hundreds of White Ibis disappearing into the first island south of the bridge for the night.

Darkness came early this heavy gray night. A wintery chill set in and drops of rain appeared. However, as we drove away, we knew that we had witnessed a brief, special moment - back there, under the bridge.

Welcome to new members Mildred Baller, Carolyn Foy Barry, Susie Bennett, Don Chalifant, Shelley Green, Marilyn Lank, Robert Layman, Cledith E. Oakley, Steve Petruniak, J. Ribas, Muriel and Henry Robinson, Jeff Whitlock, and Joel Wooster.

AMERICAN KESTREL

John Carr

This bird is our smallest raptor and the most common falcon in North America. How small? Kestrels are 9 to 12 inches long with a wingspan of 20 to 24 inches. They weigh only 2.82 to 5.82 ounces.

When I first learned of this hawk, it was called a Sparrow Hawk, named by English settlers in America. Other hawks that have had their names changed from the old English names are the Pigeon Hawk, now called the Merlin, and the Duck Hawk, now called the Peregrine.

American Kestrels are beautifully colored raptors. They have a rufous back and tail. The male has blue-gray wings and a lightly spotted chest and belly. The larger female has streaking on the chest and rufous wings that are barred with black. Both have two dark mustache marks on the sides of the face. Immature birds are similar to the adults.

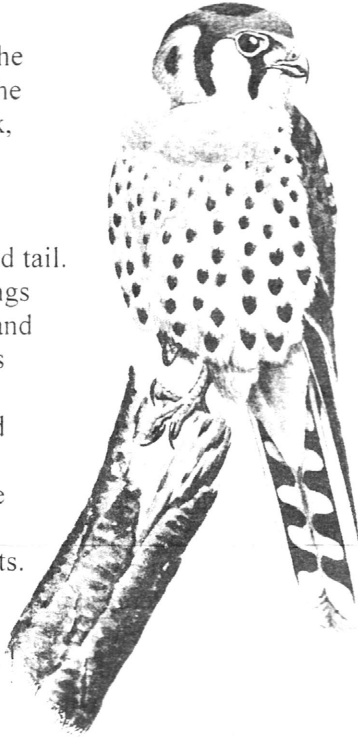
The Kestrel ranges from Alaska all the way down to Tierra del Fuego in southern Argentina. Kestrels are found in Florida year-round, although there are more here in the winter having migrated south from Canada and northern United States.

Kestrels nest in cavities in trees, in buildings, and will use nest boxes. They use no nesting materials. The clutch is usually 4 or 5, but range from 1 to 7. Eggs are white to yellowish and are marked with small dark areas. Hatchlings are helpless and covered with a little white down.

Many times kestrels are seen hovering while seeking prey. They do this infrequently when suitable perches are not available or when the wind is strong enough to create updrafts that favor hovering. Their food consists of insects, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds.

Their numbers have increased greatly with the deforestation of North America. There are local increases or decreases in their numbers, but there is no significant trend in North America. Our 2006 Christmas Bird Count listed 16 Kestrels and we've counted an average of 25 for the last 11 years. Only two were listed in our May 2006 Spring Count and three in our September 2006 Fall Count.

Thanks to the Cornell Guide for some data. See www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/Bird.



MANATEE DEATHS INCREASED IN 2006

A January 2006 preliminary report from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) says there were 416 manatee deaths in state waters in 2006. That compares to 396 in 2005.

Scientists are unsure as to whether the increase reflects manatee population growth, increased mortality or better detection of carcasses. However, the best available science indicates that Florida's manatee population is stable or growing in all regions of the state except the Southwest, which may contain more than a third of the statewide population. The FWC report indicates watercraft-related mortalities and red tide contributed to more than half of the total deaths in 2006 in instances where scientists could determine the cause of death.

January 15 Program Meeting

TALL TIMBERS RESEARCH STATION

Paula Wehr

Jim Cox, Ornithologist and head of the Vertebrate Ecology Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station traveled from near Tallahassee to describe to us why the use of fire is an essential management tool in preserving some rare species of birds. Located in the Red Hills Region on the Georgia/Florida border, Tall Timbers originated as one of many sport-hunting estates owned by wealthy northern industrialists who maintained these large tracts of land for Northern Bobwhite quail hunting.

Jim sketched the growth of the Station and the use of prescribed burning to maintain the wide-open forest with a lush understory of grass with no mid-height growth. Also single-tree selection is practiced in which individual trees are cut at the appropriate time. Not only did these management tools prove wise financially, they provided habitat for specific species, some rare today.

Bachman's Sparrows need habitat that is burned every 1-2 years, and they will move off if the grass grows too thick. The burned areas are used extensively by families of sparrows. Winter number of sparrows double after a summer burn.

Brown-headed Nuthatches nest low to the ground in the softest, most decayed snags in the area. Being close to the ground makes them subject to the predation of snakes, so the birds nest early in April before snakes are moving in the warmer weather. The juvenile birds remain with their parents to help raise the next brood. Only a few birds exhibit this behavior, including our Florida Scrub Jays and the Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

Learn more about fire ecology, forestry, game bird management and threatened species research projects at Tall Timbers online at www.talltimbers.org. The Pinewoods Bird Festival will be held April 13-14 at Pebble Hill Plantation, focusing on research and conservation. See www.pinewoodsbirdfestival.com for details.

ARE THOSE BIRDS DRUNK?

David Hartgrove

That seems an odd question with which to begin an article. But the answer is that they could have been. Recently there was an interesting thread of conversation posted on (Floridabirds-L@lists.ufl.edu), the Florida Birds List. The question began with a report from Port St. Lucy about a group of "dead" robins and waxwings near a four-story building. When the birds were checked, they seemed to "come back to life." Within an hour or two they flew away. The locals thought that the birds had gorged themselves on berries, making themselves sick.

John Hintermister, noted birder from Gainesville wrote in to say that some years ago he had been called by the city of Gainesville to investigate some strange goings on where robins were flying into people, cars and buildings. It turned out that the birds had been feeding on camphor berries and that there had been an intense cold spell, followed by a rapid warming. This caused the berries to ferment quickly and birds got drunk after gorging themselves on the fruit. The next day they were fine again, unless they too experience hangovers. No one was able to investigate that aspect of the case.

Things turned a bit darker when Lee Snyder, noted bird photographer and lecturer wrote in with his story. Brazilian pepper tree, that overactive, invasive exotic plant that causes so many problems in our state, produces an abundance of berries. These are consumed in great quantities by Cedar Waxwings, American Robins and other fruit eating birds. The berries contain alkaloids that literally poison the birds if consumed in too great a quantity. Brazilian pepper tree was first introduced in Florida as a cultivated

ornamental plant between 1842 and 1898. As you can see, we're not sure who's to blame.

Though that's over 100 years ago, it's far too short a time for birds to develop a defense against the plant's poisons. So, after ingesting too many of the berries, the birds can appear drunk or disoriented due to the effects of the poisons on their systems. Since birds' digestive systems work so quickly they appear to expel the poisons before permanent damage is done. However some published reports attribute large bird kills to ingestion of the berries and the unripe fruits can be fatal to horses.

So, are those birds drunk? Well, they could be but the answer could also be far more ominous.



January 24-28

SPACE COAST BIRD FESTIVAL

David Hartgrove

The Festival was a roaring success with over 800 registered participants and over 3,000 in attendance. It may now be the largest birding festival in the country. I met many of the birding world's biggest names and ate far too much at Dixie Crossroads in Titusville.

It rained the second trip I lead to Tosohatchee but nearly all those folks had worn their hi-tech rain gear so we got out in the drizzle and found American Bitterns and Swamp Sparrows. The other half of that trip was to Orlando Wetlands Park where we had Crested Caracara and Least Bittern, among others.

The Ancient and Modern Mariners trip, with Dr. Duane DeFreze, went perfectly. I worked with him the last 2 years and this time was no exception. He is one of the best speakers I've ever listened to. I hope the folks who went on the trip got half as much as I did from it.

The pelagic trip was cold as could be and a rockin' affair, with 6 to 8 foot seas. Some suffered the "mal de mer" but the waves and the cold was worth it for the excellent looks we got at the Black-legged Kittiwake, Red Phalaropes, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers and the Bonaparte's Gulls. I've seen the gulls standing on a dock south of Aunt Catfish's in a long line of Laughing Gulls, but it's different to see them in their ~~marking~~ native element. Someone also saw a lone Cedar Waxwing about 25 miles offshore. Perhaps he was depressed, or just terribly lost. It's not a place he should have been.

MALLARD DUCK RULE

Did you know you need a special permit when buying a mallard duck in Florida? Retail outlets, such as feed-and-seed stores and flea market vendors, also are required to have permits to sell these ducks, and by law, they cannot sell mallards to anyone who does not have the proper permit.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) law enforcement officers will be making routine visits to sellers of ducks, educating retailers on the rule and making sure of compliance.

The rule, which also makes it unlawful to release captive-reared mallards into the wild, was passed by the FFWCC in 2004 to help protect the existence of the state's native mottled duck – a unique subspecies found only in peninsular Florida.

The problem is, these pet mallards do not migrate and once released, become established, year-round residents of our state. When they mate with wild mottled ducks, it pushes Florida's mottled duck population closer to extinction.

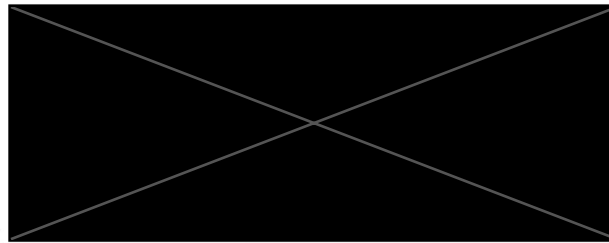
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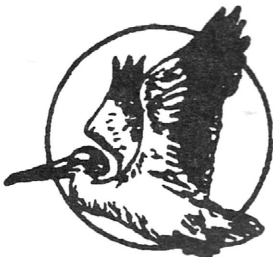
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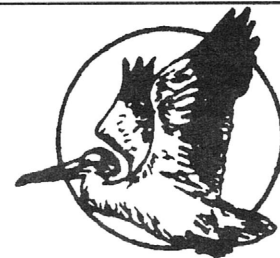
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Chapter Meetings – Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through June at Sica Hall, Holly Hill, 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Keesh St., Daytona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

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 52 - NO. 10

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

April 2007

April 14-15 Overnight Field Trip

HOW ABOUT AN OVERNIGHT TRIP TO PARADISE

David Hartgrove

Hog Island, hardly a name to inspire poets or romance. So in 1939, when a developer came down from New York and saw this little gem nestled in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico, he renamed it Honeymoon Island and promptly built 50 palm thatched bungalows for the newlyweds he was sure would beat a path to the door. They came and the place made for a lot of dream honeymoons. A couple of hurricanes finished off the business and eventually the island became a state park. It's separated from Caladesi Island State Park by Hurricane Pass. Some years ago a hurricane reworked the landscape, cutting the island in two. So now Caladesi Island is only accessible by boat or the ferry that runs from Honeymoon Island. The birding checklist is six single spaced pages and runs from Common Loon to Crimson-crowned Bishop Weaver. That last one's probably an escapee from somewhere but he's on their list.

Also, the original information regarding the inclusion of Emerald Point has been changed. It's further than we realized from the Honeymoon Island area down to Emerald Point. So our Sunday birding excursion will be to Lettuce Lake Park. This is one of Tampa's best birding hot spots and we're assured a good day. Contact either Paula Wehr (386-673-5332) or me, David Hartgrove, (386-788-2630) to reserve a spot on this trip. We will meet at 6:30 a.m. Saturday morning (note change in time from what is printed on the tri-fold) at the Publix lot, Taylor Road & Williamson Blvd, Port Orange. We will car pool on this trip and we should have an excellent time.

We have a block of rooms reserved at the Hampton Inn Clearwater-Central, 2130 US Highway 19 N., Clearwater, FL. Phone: 727-797-8173. Price is \$79.99 per night. Bring your lunch for Saturday. Details regarding dinner on Saturday evening and lunch on Sunday have not been confirmed. A deluxe continental breakfast is included in the price of the hotel room.

The bird banding station at the Tomoka State Park is operating Tuesday through Friday for Spring Migration from 1/2 hour before sunrise until approximately 11 AM. Visitors welcome. Volunteers needed. If interested in coming to station or volunteering please email Meret Wilson at mileybug@aol.com. Program Meeting – April 16

SEA TURTLE PATROL – BETH LIBERT

Sea turtles are marine reptiles that have roamed the seas since the time of dinosaurs. Three species of sea turtles – loggerhead, green and leatherback – nest on the beaches of Volusia and Flagler County each year between April and September. The east coast of Florida is the second largest nesting site for loggerhead turtles in the world. Volunteers patrol the beaches daily to locate and protect the nests as well as the hatchlings. They also educate the public about the life cycle of these marine creatures and work to ensure that appropriate habitat is maintained.

Beth Libert, President of the Volusia/Flagler Turtle Patrol will talk about the work she and the other volunteers perform at our April 16 meeting. Join us at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill. Beth will begin her presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to new members Sara D. Amick, Lois Bean, Alfred Blais, Lou Bonnell, Carol Breem, Nancy H. Cline, Barbara Clinton, Doris E. Davis, Ms. Caprice Edwards, Terry Floyd, Claire Gardinier, June B. Haglund, Ms. Lilian Harry, Adele Hessler, Jeanne Hinton, Herbert G. Lantz, Sondra Lavine, Richard Lester, Michael and Judith Meunier, Debra L. Moulis, Sara Robinson, Dianne Rohald, Lester Solana, Katie Strub, Deborah Sweet, Lynn Whitman, and Alice Wing.

MARCH BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Ramsey reported balance of \$7,734.01.

President Roessler appointed Dedee Blanchard as Hospitality Committee Chair.

Willie Burns noted that Golden Dog items for sale are almost gone. He will sell items at Washington Oaks Earth Day Celebration; volunteer help would be appreciated.

Conservation Chair Hartgrove reported that Miami Corporation is planning development of 30-70,000 new homes in an existing pine plantation in southern Volusia County.

Board discussed preserving Chapter-owned bird slides in digital format for use in power point presentations.

A second cart was purchased to use in the Chapter storage closet at Sica Hall.

President Roessler appointed Dedee Blanchard as Hospitality Committee Chair.

APRIL 2007 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.

Sunday, April 1

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

Saturday, April 7

Orange Audubon Society field trip. Lower Wekivawa River State Preserve. Call Mary Keim for information at 407-851-5416.

Tuesday, April 10

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society program meeting. "Orchids of Florida" by Paul Martin Brown. A joint meeting with Lyonia Chapter. Volusia County Ag. Center, SR44 & I-4, Deland. Paul Martin Brown is author of the new updated and expanded version of the "Wild Orchids of Florida".

Saturday, April 14

Space Coast Audubon field trip. Turkey Creek Sanctuary. Meet at the sanctuary at 8:00am. Contact: Jason Frederick, 321-449-9678, heyyoukidd@yahoo.com.

Sunday, April 15

Space Coast Audubon field trip. Lori Wilson Park. Meet at the park by 8:00am. Contact: Jason Frederick, 321-449-9678, heyyoukidd@yahoo.com

Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15

Halifax River Field Trip. Honeymoon Island and Lettuce Lake Park. Reservation required. Meet at Publix parking lot, Williamson Blvd. & Taylor Rd. 6:30am. See article. (2)

Monday, April 16

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Sea Turtle Project" by Beth Libert, Sea Turtle Patrol. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 20-22

Florida Ornithological Society 2007 Spring Meeting (in conjunction with the Georgia Ornithological Society) at Brunswick, GA. Information at www.fosbirds.org.

Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22

Halifax River Field Trip. Earth Day Bird Walks. Meet at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, US-1 north. Walks throughout both days. Led by Kitty Albee, 386-254-8246. Bring lunch. Food for sale (2)

Sunday, April 22

Space Coast Audubon field trip. Buck Lake. Meet at the sanctuary at 8:00am. Contact: Jason Frederick, 321-449-9678, heyyoukidd@yahoo.com

Tuesday, April 24

West Volusia Audubon Program Meeting. "Critters and Baby Birds" by Kathy Paynter, Wildlife

Rehabilitator. DeLand Woman's Club, 128 W. Michigan Ave., DeLand. 6:30pm. Contact Laura Cash, 626-2329 or Arnette Sherman, 734-5840.

Thursday, April 26

West Volusia Audubon Field Trip. Canaveral Park. Contact Vivian Taylor 734-1390 or Sara Lynn at 738-0119 for information.

Saturday, April 28

Space Coast Audubon field trip. Pelican Island. Meet at Burger King just west of I-95 on Wickham Road. Field trip will begin at 8:00am. Contact: Jason Frederick, 321-449-9678, heyyoukidd@yahoo.com.

Sunday, April 29

Space Coast Audubon field trip. Mead Gardens/Birds of Prey Center in Maitland. Meet at Denny's on highway 50 just east of I-95 in Titusville by 7:45am; we will leave at 8:00am. Contact: Jason Frederick, 321-449-9678, heyyoukidd@yahoo.com.

NOTES FROM TOMOKA PARK BANDING MARCH 20

If I were banding all the leaves I captured today I would have run out of bands. In that case, it wouldn't have made a difference since I didn't catch a single bird. Four hours of watching and waiting for just one bird to fly into a net actually flew by because there was plenty of activity around, high up.

The first spring Black and White Warblers (BAWW) arrived along with more Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (BGGN) courting. The Blue-headed Vireos (BHVI) are singing now along with the Ruby-crowned Kinglets (RCKI). And, still hanging out above the nets are Myrtle Warblers (MYWA) one of which wears a band. There did seem to be fewer Gray Catbirds (GRCA) around, though.

The huge surprise of the day was the appearance of a Merlin (MERL) landing right above me in the dead pine tree where I normally park the "mobile banding station". At first I only saw the tail and I knew it didn't look like either a Sharpie or Cooper's Hawk (SSHA, COHA) tails. So with my bins I got up to take a closer look. It certainly was a Merlin - with a very dead Cedar Waxwing (CEDW). After eyeballing each other the Merlin took to the task of sending many feathers down my way. I decided it was time to take a net run. I went southward along the power line net lane. As I was walking back towards the truck a Bald Eagle (BAEA) flew over my head low, right down the net lane towards the Merlin. The Merlin and quarry left in a hurry in order to not become the meal that just ate its last supper. I saw neither again the rest of the morning.

Wednesday I will take a break and return on Thursday. Maybe there will be fewer leaves and more birds in my nets.

Meret Wilson

THE PELICAN

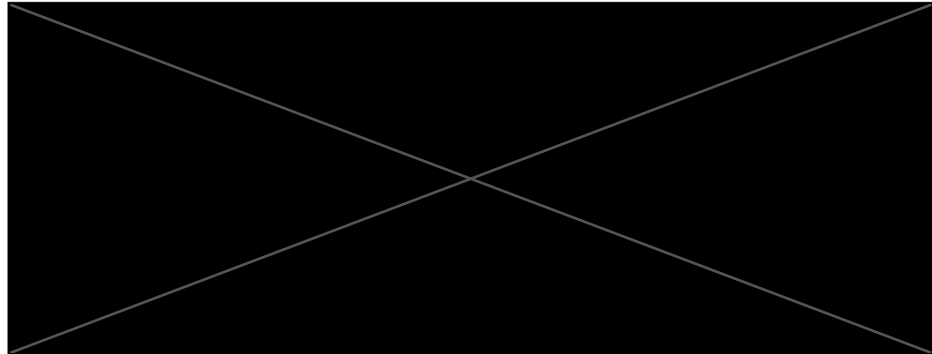
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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Halifax River Audubon is greatly saddened to learn that Board Member Ken Russell passed away suddenly on March 13, 2007.

Caroline Russell 760-6703

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
Bob North	At Large Class of 2007	352-303-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
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
Open	At-Large Class of 2009		
Peter Larmie	Education	672-0042	flarmie@cfl.rr.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation, Field Trips	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Dedee Blanchard	Hospitality	673-6541	dedee@clearwire.net
Paula Wehr	Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Gina Holt	Ways and Means	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	frannicp@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

APRIL 2007

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

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ORMOND BEACH GARDEN CLUB

For support of our 2006-2007 activities

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THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 52 - NO. 11

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

May 2007

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

The last several articles in this ongoing series have been optimistic, feel-good stories. Unfortunately, it's time we get snapped back into the other side of the equation. Yes, there are good things being accomplished daily. There are also interests working diligently to "develop" and pave over every acre they can get their hands on. These folks see Miami-Dade and Broward Counties as a good thing, a blueprint for Volusia's future.

First is a project called Reflections. This 877-acre property lies west of I-95 and south of SR 442. The name is one of those myths of marketing that are supposed to conjure images of quiet solitude in the minds of potential buyers. As it happens, it could also have a more literal meaning. Nearly one third of the property is freshwater wetlands. The developer proposes to fill 77+ acres of these wetlands. This land is flat and floods when we aren't in drought conditions. So before the water runs off to pollute the Indian River Lagoon, there'll be some for the homeowners to wade through and in which they can see their homes "reflected."

Next is a place now called Restoration. It was originally called Hammock Creek and spans over 6,200 acres west of I-95. It was sold for 97 million last year, the largest single land deal in county history. The buyer will be looking to maximize the profit potential by cramming in every structure the zoning and density will allow. The claim is that they want to "preserve" much of the property. Again, these are freshwater wetlands that are prime recharge areas for our local water supply. There have been published reports that we will run out of potable water for the residents currently here in 2011. This project is slated for completion in 2018. What are those people going to drink?

Then there's the Miami Corporation property. They have 57,000 acres spanning the Volusia/Brevard county line west of I-95. This property has been pine plantation and state managed hunting preserve for years. Then they quietly incorporated the "town" of Farnton, named for the Farnton Wildlife Management Area. There are 13 hunt camps on this property and to call them a "town" is to do grave disservice to the term. Through a variety of perfectly legal moves they meet the requirements. Now Miami Corporation presides over the newest water mining entity in the county and may be sued by the city of Titusville for stealing their water. The plan at this point is to build 20 to 40 thousand homes in that area over the next

50 years. In spite of all the smoke and mirrors about traffic and just wanting to help out the voters, you can see where Congressman John Mica is getting the motivation to build his proposed toll road across the county's rural heart.



For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the
singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is
heard in our land. Solomon

Halifax River Audubon Program for May

CAN YOU ID THIS BIRD?

Birds are in the backyard, in the trees outside the office, on the golf course, on the beaches and in the marshes as well as in parks and nature preserves in and around Daytona Beach. Are you familiar with our local birds?

Our Chapter President, John Roessler, knows them very well. In fact, he carries his digital camera with him almost everywhere so he's ready to snap a photo whenever he sees a resident bird or a migrant who is passing through the area. One of John's goals is to take a photo of every species on the Florida bird list.

He hasn't reached that goal yet, but his collection of photos has grown. He'll select a good cross section of local birds – and perhaps a few that are less common – to show us on the large screen on Monday, May 21, 7:00 p.m. at Sica Hall.

There will be audience participation, too, as he gives clues as to how to identify each bird in the photos. You'll be able to test your own ID against those of fellow members and our experts and enjoy the beautiful bird portraits. Be sure to arrive by 6:30 to enjoy refreshments and socializing with other members.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2007-2009

The nominating committee has prepared this slate of names for Directors and Officers for the 2007-2009 Board. Members present at the June 18 annual meeting will vote. Note that the bylaws allow nominations from the floor.

David Hartgrove	President
Novetta Duffer	Vice President
Paula Wehr	Vice President
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary
Jean Rondeau	Corresponding Secretary
John Carr	Membership Secretary
John Carr	Historian
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2010
Bob North	At-Large Class of 2010

By-Laws Section 3: "Nominations of members for the Board of Directors or officers may be made from the floor at the time of the meeting at which elections are to be held, providing permission of such candidates has been secured."

New Board member

KAREN MOSHER

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Karen Mosher to the HRA Board as member of At-Large Class of 2009. She's been a birder for 15 years and proudly says, "I'm getting better at the little brown birds."

Karen grew up and got her degree in Maryland. She and husband Fred have two grown children and have lived in Arizona, Wisconsin, Missouri and now Florida.

Karen enjoys working with her hands; her hobbies are painting, quilting, sewing, and gardening. She's used her art degree skills in her job of Vocational Rehabilitation by teaching saleable crafts to homebound handicapped persons.

Corresponding Secretary Nominee

JEAN RONDEAU

Jean moved to Daytona Beach from Indianapolis in 2006. She is retired and enjoying the weather and wild life in the area. Jean has two grown children and two grandchildren back in Indianapolis. Audubon is not a new organization for her since she was a member of the Butler Audubon in Indianapolis and helped with their bird count and money raising campaigns.

Besides birding, Jean enjoys other out doors activities. She is an active member of the Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club and the AVA club Happy Wanderers. Jean also is a rabid genealogist and likes to crochet.

Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership

CAUSE OF DEATH OF 17 JUVENILE WHOOPING CRANES

While the exact sequence of events will never be known, it appears that the 17 juvenile whooping cranes that died during violent storms on February 1-2 were stunned by a lightning strike of sufficient strength to cause them to collapse in rising water and drown in their top-netted pen at Chassahowitzka NWR. Necropsy results, coupled with weather data from that night, support this hypothesis.



Two birds were examined by veterinarians at the Laboratory of Wildlife Disease Research, University of Florida, and two by veterinarians from Disney's Animal Kingdom and Disney's Animal Programs facility. Necropsy findings included drowning from the aspiration of water into the lungs; trauma; and presumptive electrical shock from a lightning strike as evidenced by diagnostic tissue damage in the heart, kidneys and other organs.

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP) Project Direction Team has undertaken a comprehensive review of the events leading up to the loss of these cranes. Once concluded, a summary of the report will be released to the public via the WCEP website at <http://www.bringbackthecranes.org/>.

KENNETH J. RUSSELL - 1940 – 2007

Paula Wehr

Ken Russell and his wife, Caroline, joined Halifax River Audubon several years ago when they moved to Ponce Inlet after his retirement in 2003. He joined us on a few outings and volunteered to help clear a bird-watching trail at Sugar Mill Gardens in Port Orange. He helped to man the HRA booth at the Earth Day celebration and he and Caroline donated refreshments at several monthly meetings. Ken gradually became involved in several ongoing conservation issues. Finally, when his commitments to other organizations allowed, we persuaded him to accept an At-Large position on the HRA Board.

Ken worked tirelessly to educate Board members and the general membership about conservation, development and growth issues in Volusia County. At Board meetings he provided insight to complex issues. He was quick to praise the accomplishments of others and reluctant to take credit for his own accomplishments. He quietly negotiated consensus between members who held differing viewpoints, most times without the members even realizing what he was doing.

It was only after Ken's death that some of us learned of his many and varied accomplishments. He held a law degree from Boston College Law School and a Master of Comparative Law from the University of Chicago. He served as a Russian linguist in the Army Security Agency and spent most of his professional career at the U.S. Headquarters of Siemens AG where he was the Deputy General Counsel of the US Legal Department. Upon moving to Volusia County, he became deeply involved in local government. He was chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Metropolitan Planning boards and a member of the Volusia County ECHO and Volusia Forever Advisory Boards.

Ken's two sons, Benjamin and Matthew, his brother Jim and his niece shared stories of their relationships with him at a memorial service to celebrate Ken's life. They told of his quick wit, his love of a good pun, his fairness, and his unfailing optimism. His brother ended by saying Ken's motto was "Work Hard; Do Good; Have Fun." That's a good motto for all of us to follow.

We all miss our good friend and colleague, Ken Russell.

GOODBYE TO A FRIEND

David Hartgrove

When the crowd at your memorial service overflows onto the sidewalk, it would appear you led a good life. Ken Russell made quite an impression on all who knew him.

After retiring from the world of corporate law in 2003, he moved to Ponce Inlet and immediately got active in local environmental issues. He not only served in the air conditioned "comfort" of sitting through endless meetings of the Town and County Councils and various advisory boards, he went out and sweated through the beach cleanups every year, worked with the "Wash Back Watchers" looking for stranded sea turtle hatchlings, spent long days working on the various bird counts we do as team scribe and story teller, took Master Naturalist classes so he could lead beach walks for the Marine Science Center and served on our chapter's board.

These last few years were a continuation of a life long dedication to environmental activism that began back in Greenwich, Connecticut with his family as Audubon volunteers there.

We will be placing a bench in Lighthouse Point Park dedicated to Ken's memory. It's a small token for all he gave to the chapter and the people of the county in his short time with us.

APRIL BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a balance of \$7,964.01.

Karen Mosher was appointed to the Board to fill Ken Russell's term in the At-Large Class of 2009.

President John Roessler appointed Board Member Bob North as Field Trip Chair.

Willie Burns reported sales of \$200 at the Spring Fling event at Sugar Mill Gardens.

John Carr reported Chapter membership at 517.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove reported that people have been seen walking about on Rookery Island. He was directed to compose wording for signs to be erected forbidding trespass, and to get a quote for them.

David further reported that Volusia County Council indicated that most likely they would require the new cell tower on Highbridge Road to be disguised as a tree.

Board accepted the Nominating Committee slate for the 2007-2009 Board.

Board approved support of Neil Davies of the Flagler Audubon Chapter for election to the National Audubon Board as Southeastern Region Director.

Board approved purchase and installation of a bench in honor of Ken Russell.

Welcome to new members Bonnie Berns, Linda Bouffard, Karen R. Brophy, A. Bertha Brown, June Carlson, Lionel Earl, Joyce Fleming, Diana Ford, Tomasina Galanti, Marilyn Laux, Brad Mahanes, Foxie Odom, Richard Peterson, Gary Rice, Marie Ryan, Ruth Scholl, Jean Sirchia,, and Joel Wooster.

IT'S SPRING! TIME TO COUNT THE BIRDS

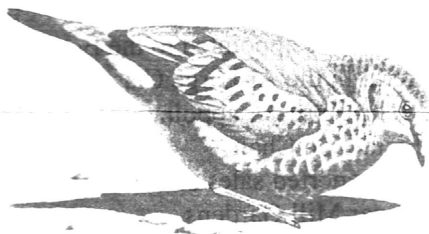
David Hartgrove

Saturday, May 12th, we'll do our local Spring Migration Count. Once again we will fan out to cover as much of our part of Volusia County as possible. Teams from our sister chapters, West Volusia Audubon and Southeast Volusia Audubon, will cover their respective areas while we look for as many species and totals as we can find.

We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the east end of the Courthouse on City Island, in downtown Daytona Beach. Bring a lunch and remember this is an all day event. However, if you're unable to join us for the whole day, we can easily arrange for you to get back to your vehicle. The more people we have joining up, the more successful the count.

Also, I can't stress enough that you don't have to be an expert. This is an excellent opportunity to hone your birding skills and to participate in a citizen science project that contributes to the national biological database.

Please, if you're planning to participate, call me at 386-788-2630 or e-mail me at birdman9@earthlink.net so I can begin putting together teams.



Ground Dove

MAY 2007 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.

Wednesday, May 2

Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club meeting. Speaker Pat Northey, Volusia County Council Representative for District 5. City Island Library Center. 105 E. Magnolia Ave., Daytona Beach. 7:00pm

Tuesday, May 8

West Volusia Audubon Field Trip. Lake Beresford Rookery. Contact Vivian Taylor 734-1390 or Sara Lynn at 738-0119 for information.

Friday, Saturday, May 11, 12

Kayak fishing tournament. St Johns Riverkeeper is one of the beneficiaries. For more information, see <http://www.jaxkayakfishing.com/tournament07.html>

Saturday, May 12

Halifax River Field Trip. Spring 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).

Saturday, May 12

Pawpaw Chapter Native Plant Society field trip Okeechobee Gourd Pontoon Boat Trip, Blue Springs State Park. Meet: 9:00am at Park, St. Johns River Cruise Boat site, or carpool from 8:15am Home Depot, Hwy 92, Daytona Beach. Bring picnic lunch. Fees: Park entrance: \$5.00 per car; Pontoon Boat Trip: \$14 per boat passenger (**LIMIT: 30**). Reservation and \$14 are required; contact Sonya Guidry, 1205 Lurian St. New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168. sonya940@cs.com or (386) 690-1797.

Sunday, May 13

Space Coast Audubon of Brevard County field trip. Viera Wetlands. Meet at Burger King just west of I-95 on Wickham Road. 8:00am. For more information call Jason Frederick at 321-449-9678 or email him at heyyoukidd@yahoo.com

Tuesday May 15

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society program meeting. "Sacoila lanceolata, leafless beaked orchid project" by Jennifer Reinoso. These are the orchids that can be seen along Hwy 92 and I-4 between Daytona and Deland in late spring and early summer. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 6:30pm.

Saturday, May 19

Space Coast Audubon of Brevard County field trip. Orlando Wetlands. Meet at Denny's on Highway 50 just east of I-95 in Titusville by 7:45am; we will leave at 8:00am. For more information call Jason Frederick at 321-449-9678 or email him at heyyoukidd@yahoo.com

Sunday, May 20

Space Coast Audubon of Brevard County field trip. Blue Heron Photo Trip. Meet at Denny's on Highway 50 just east of I-95 in Titusville by 7:45am; we will leave at 8:00am. For more information call Jason Frederick at 321-449-9678 or email him at heyyoukidd@yahoo.com

Monday, May 21

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Can You ID This Bird?" by John Roessler, President, Halifax River Audubon. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

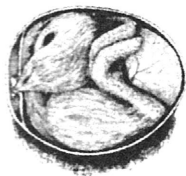
Thursday, May 24

Halifax River Field Trip. Silver River Boat Trip. Meet at Ormond Beach Publix parking lot, Williamson & Granada Blvds. 7:00am. Led by Barbara Kieran, 386-672-2927. **Call leader for reservation.** Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, June 2

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island. Meet at South Daytona Publix parking lot, US-1 and Ridge Blvd. 7:00am. Led by Willie Burns, 386-255-2150. Bring lunch. (1)

Book Review from "The Scrub Jay" - Newsletter of Audubon of Martin County



1. The chick pokes its bill through the membrane surrounding it to reach the air space in the egg's blunt end. At this point the chick's lungs begin to work.



2. The chick breaks a small hole in the eggshell—a process called pipping—which admits more air and fosters lung development.

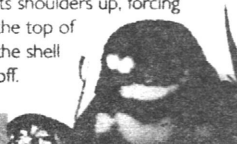


3. After a delay of 15 to 40 hours, the chick hammers a circle of small holes in the top of the shell.



4. The chick presses down with its feet and pushes its shoulders up, forcing the top of the shell off.

How a Chick Hatches



Here is just one page from the Kutz Press' *Everybody's Everywhere Backyard Bird Book*. This is a coast-to-coast guide to birds you should already know without regard to where you live in the continental US or Canada. Illustrations, great color photos and easy to understand descriptions make this a fun book for birders of any age. This would be a good book to use over the summer to increase your birding knowledge – learn to identify a Killdeer or an Eastern Meadowlark

from its silhouette, or discover how a chick actually finds its way out of an egg.

Editor's note. The book seems to be out of print but I ordered a new copy from Amazon for \$.50 plus their \$3.47 shipping and handling charge. The book is spiral bound at the top and is deemed to be appropriate for ages 5 to 8

NOTE FROM TOMOKA PARK BANDING PROJECT - APRIL 18

Meret Wilson

I banded a Northern Waterthrush, first for the season, this AM. It arrived in the net from the south at 0930. Last season I did not catch any in the spring. Also had a Worm-eating Warbler and Yellow Palm Warbler. The many Prairie Warblers that were in the Park have left. Still quite a few Gray Catbirds around and an increase in the number of Blue-headed Vireos right now. A Chuck-will's Widow called from between the canal and powerline road at 0630. The summer Common Nighthawk is also back since a week ago today. No telling what all were hiding from – the wind, probably.

A juvenile Cooper's Hawk perched itself right above one of my nets and no amount of prodding by two blue Jays for over 30 minutes would deter that Coop from its spot. Only the arrival of a Red-shouldered Hawk urged it to another tree to the west and finally it headed out of the area. Run to watch the interaction of the jay and hawk.

Today brought some more birds in including the first American Redstart, Black-throated Blue Warbler and a male Painted Bunting. Also had an Indigo Bunting and Ovenbird. More Prairie Warblers have arrived. Much to my surprise a chipping over my head turned out to be a lone Myrtle Warbler. A pair of Blackpoll Warblers also crossed in front of me while banding.

Tomoka State Park is really quite active right now. The weirdest thing, though, was a lone Common Loon off the river and back towards the canals around Helicopter Island. It just lazily floated around and then headed back out toward the main river.

In my 'hood there are young crows already out and begging for food. I believe my cardinals lost their brood because they are now back out at the feeders and birdbaths at the same time, unaccompanied by any young. The male

is already courting the female again with food tidbits. I have yet to see any Carolina Wren juveniles, which does not bode well for them either.

The bird banding station at the Tomoka State Park is operating Tuesday through Friday for Spring Migration from 1/2 hour before sunrise until approximately 11 AM.

Visitors welcome. Volunteers needed. If interested in coming to station or volunteering please email Meret Wilson at mileybug@aol.com.

TURTLE TALK

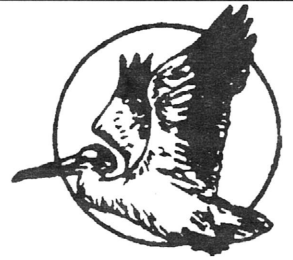
Beth Libert gave us an exciting report on the nesting cycle of sea turtles at our April meeting. This area is one of the prime nesting areas for loggerhead turtles – called loggerheads because of their massive heads. The leatherbacks are the largest and the tracks they leave as they haul themselves up the beach to lay their eggs are as wide as ten feet.

We saw pictures of the females digging their nests out about two feet deep in soft sand, laying their eggs, then heaping mounds of sand over the eggs. When turtle trackers want to dig down to the eggs to count them, they first have to dig with their bare hands through all that clinging sand so that they won't damage the eggs.

Finally, the babies hatch – all at once – and scramble as quickly as they can down to the ocean. Their destination is then to the Gulf Stream's sargassum seaweed about thirty miles offshore where they will live for awhile. Most babies make their frenzied dash at night when no sea birds are around to pick them off, but those night hatches have to run the gauntlet of raccoons and ghost crabs that love to feast on the little ones.

Beth was a charming speaker and humorously described the vicissitudes of turtle watching – then invited us to join her!

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 52 - NO. 12

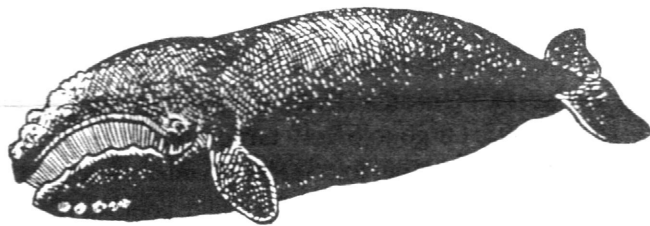
NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

June 2007

JUNE PROGRAM MEETING

On Monday, June 18, at Sica Hall, Halifax River Audubon will host Frank Gromling, author and publisher, who will talk about a unique conservation program to help save one of the world's most endangered large mammals, North Atlantic right whales.

Gromling, the Assistant Coordinator for the Marineland Right Whale Survey Project, works with some 200 volunteers in this citizen-based research project to monitor and photograph these 50-ton animals as they visit the coastal waters off northeast Florida's beaches each winter.



Pregnant right whales, sometimes accompanied by other adults and curious juveniles, come to Northeast Florida waters to give birth to calves. Often coming close to shore, the whales are easily visible, even without binoculars. With less than 400 right whales remaining today, helping to save these animals from extinction is an important conservation project. With the exception of Dr. Jim Hain, lead scientist and creator of the project, and Joy Hampp, project coordinator, is run completely by volunteers.

Since its inception in 2000, Frank Gromling has been involved in every aspect of the project along a 60-nautical mile stretch of coast. His interest and experience led him to write a book to educate the public about the plight of the North Atlantic right whale and to highlight the tremendous work being done by citizen-volunteers.

Frank's Whales, a first hand account of what it is like to participate in this land-based project, is an easy and informative book for anyone interested in how volunteers can make a difference in scientific efforts to conserve natural assets. The book will be available at the presentation for a special price of \$13.

2007 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, June 2

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island. Meet at South Daytona Publix parking lot, US-1 and Ridge Blvd. 7:00am. Led by Willie Burns, 386-255-2150. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, June 2

National Trails Day. Gemini Springs Park. Entertainment, refreshments, guided nature hikes, bicycle rides on Spring-to-Spring Trail, and tent/booth displays. 37 Dirksen Drive, DeBary. 10:00-2:00. For more information call 386-736-5953, or contact slnman@co.volusia.fl.us.

Saturday, June 2

Fort Matanzas "Living History Day". Re-enactors portray Spanish soldiers of the 1740s engaging in their daily tasks at this outpost fortification. Tours will depart the Visitor Center dock at half past the hour, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, with cannon firing at the 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 tours. FREE. Fort Matanzas is located 14 miles south of downtown St. Augustine on A1A. For more information, call 904-471-0116 or contact <http://www.nps.gov/foma>.

Monday, June 4

Halifax River Audubon Board Meeting. Topic of interest for discussion: 2007-2008 Chapter field trips.

Saturday, June 9

Halifax River Audubon Picnic. See article.

Monday, June 18

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Update on Right Whales" by Frank Gromling, Ocean Publishing Co. Sica Hall, Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm. Vote for new Board members follows.

Monday, July 2

Halifax River Audubon Board Meeting. Further planning for 2007-2008 Chapter field trips and program meetings.

Welcome to new Chapter members Kate Connelly, Dale Davidson, and William Huff. We think you will enjoy our programs and field trips and we are looking forward to meeting you.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

“Rural Lands Stewardship Area”, this is a term you’re going to be hearing a lot about in the next several years. On Friday, May 11th, I attended a seminar put on by VCARD, that’s the Volusia County Association for Responsible Development. It was underwritten by a variety of developers and land use planning firms. The premise was to present an innovative method of future land development. RLSA is a concept put in place by the state legislature to deal with land use regulations for large tracts of land now in agricultural use or some other rural designation. It was originally set for tracts of over 50,000 acres. That has now been reduced to 10,000 acres. Babcock Ranch, in Lee and Charlotte Counties, in southwest Florida, was cited as an example of what’s possible with a RLSA. There, 74,000 acres has been set aside for conservation. The other 17,000 acres of the ranch will be developed into a new town with thousands of residents where now, there are only wild lands, cows and Caracaras.

As I mentioned in last month’s issue, the Miami Corporation owns a large tract of land spanning southern Volusia and northern Brevard Counties. A plan for an RLSA agreement is taking shape now for that property, and though it wasn’t mentioned specifically in the seminar, its presence was on the minds of many in the room. Eric Draper, Deputy Director for Policy for Audubon of Florida, was there to speak on behalf of the RLSA process. It was for this reason that I made sure I was in attendance. Our chapter, and the overall environmental community at large here in Volusia County is against the idea of building a new city in the middle of what are now listed as environmentally sensitive lands on the County’s land use map. To have a representative from our state organization come in and undermine our efforts seemed at cross-purposes to our interests. He had to leave before I got a chance to speak to him about this obvious conflict.

A month ago Mr. Draper sent out a note from Audubon of Florida that referred to a request from something called the Clean Water Network of Florida.

Saturday, June 9

Members and t
Barbara and Steve K
provide meat, drink
will bring your choi

Come around 1
and cameras (their y
great food and fun.

Blvd

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2007-2009

The nominating committee has prepared this slate of names for Directors and Officers for the 2007-2009 Board. Members present at the June 18 annual meeting will vote. Note that the bylaws allow nominations from the floor.

- David Hartgrove** President
- Novetta Duffer** Vice President
- Paula Wehr** Vice President
- Rachel Ramsey** Treasurer
- Peggy Yokubonus** Recording Secretary
- Jean Rondeau** Corresponding Secretary
- John Carr** Membership Secretary
- John Carr** Historian
- Willie Burns** At-Large Class of 2010
- Bob North** At-Large Class of 2010

By-Laws Section 3: "Nominations of members for the Board of Directors or officers may be made from the floor at the time of the meeting at which elections are to be held, providing permission of such candidates has been secured."

MAY BOARD MEETING

Treasurer: Rachel Ramsey reported a checking balance of \$8,281.01.

Golden Dog: Willie reported entering into a joint venture with The Book Store in Ormond Beach, owned by Marian Tomblin. Golden Dog earns 15% by supplying Marian with "Florida's Fabulous..." books, the "Pelican Pete" series and several other publication titles. He anticipates expanding the partnership to include Shade Grown Coffee in the near future.

Earth Day at Washington Oaks produced sales of \$651.53.

Membership: John Carr reported 531 members; 33 of these are Chapter-Only members.

Conservation: In David Hartgrove's absence, Willie reported that David met with staff members of Volusia County Environmental Management Dept. He gave them a copy of the map provided by FIND (the Fla. Inland Navigation District) showing the boundaries of the sanctuary, a copy of the minutes of the Feb. 1960 FIND BOD meeting where the sanctuary was established and a copy of the article from the March 19, 1960 News-Journal announcing the sanctuary to the public.

David received a letter from Senator Mel Martinez, dated April 4, in response to the letter written by David regarding our recommendations on future land use by NASA in the Merritt Island NWR. Senator Martinez stated that he had forwarded our letter to the appropriate officials at NASA and asked them to respond directly to HRA.

Education: Peter Larmie (via e-mail read by Paula) reported that he contacted the teachers who expressed an interest in Audubon Adventures, and enlisted their help in expanding the distribution list to include two additional schools: Westside and Spruce Creek.

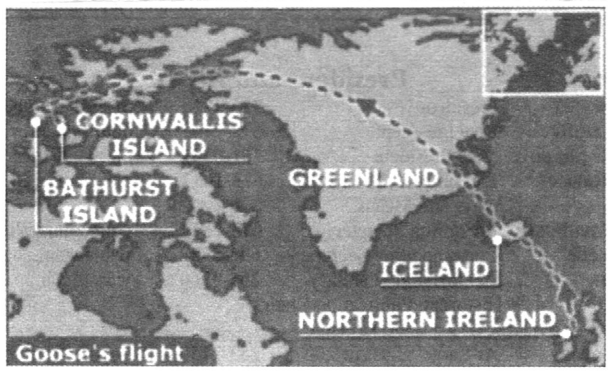
Spirit Elementary also inquired about being included in the project. Peter directed the teacher toward West Volusia Audubon, asking that she come back to us if WVA is not able to include her in their AA program.

Ken Russell Memorial Bench: A bench to be installed at the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet as a memorial to Ken has been ordered. It will be engraved "In Loving Memory of Conservationist Kenneth J. Russell." Funding will come from memorial donations.

Field Trips: Bob North distributed a spreadsheet to begin planning 2007-2008 field trips. The Board discussed several options and made some specific recommendations. Bob will report further at the June Board meeting. Chapter members may contact Bob with trip suggestions.

GOOSE FLIGHT

In 2002 a tagged Brent goose made a safe return to Northern Ireland after it completed a 9,000-mile return migration flight via the Arctic.



The goose Hugh, only one of six birds that were studied, had survived the trip. One – Kerry – was found in the freezer of an Inuit's house on Cornwallis Island in August after being shot by a man out hunting. Other geese, Arthur and Oscar, were believed to have been killed by hunters or birds of prey. A fifth, Austin, was missing in action in Canada. The sixth goose, Major Ruttledge, was still expected back to Northern Ireland from Iceland.

In April, the Brent Geese leave Northern Ireland to Canada – stopping in Iceland along the way. They stay in Arctic Canada long enough to lay their eggs and rear goslings and then come back by the same route, braving hunters, predators, bad weather and a tricky trek over almost 10,000-foot ice mountains in Greenland.

From BBC News

THE PELICAN

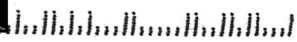
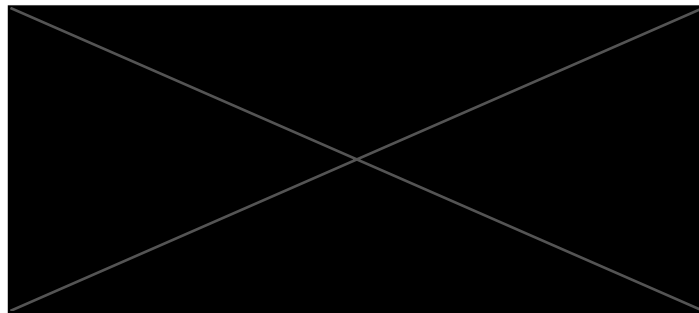


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Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
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Paula Wehr	Corresponding Secretary	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2007	253-2150	wwillic@juno.com
Bob North	At Large Class of 2007	352-303-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
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
Karen Mosher	At-Large Class of 2009	322-3790	f.r.mosher@worldnet.att.net
Peter Larmie	Education	672-0042	flarmie@cfl.rr.com
David Hartgrove	Conservation, Field Trips	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
DeDee Blanchard	Hospitality	673-6541	dede@clearwire.net
Paula Wehr	Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Gina Holt	Ways and Means	427-8265	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnjanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-434	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		

JUNE 2007

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

COLONIAL COLONY

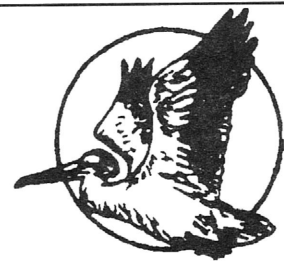
ORMOND BEACH GARDEN CLUB

For support of our 2006-2007 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 p.m. 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. 53 - NO. 1

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

July 2007

NEW BOARD VOTED IN

Halifax River Audubon voted in the new slate of officers at our June meeting. David Hartgrove replaces outgoing President John Roessler, who has served two terms, the maximum allowed by our By-laws. Paula Wehr is a new Vice President and replaces Madeline Shaddix, whose resignation was reluctantly accepted by the board. Jean Rondeau replaces Paula as Corresponding Secretary.

Willie Burns and Bob North were reelected as members of At-Large Class of 2010.

The remaining members of the board were reelected to the positions they held previously.

Our new President will reappoint chair positions.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

In last month's column I wrote of Rural Lands Stewardship Agreements, RLSAs. Another term we're going to be hearing about is "Transfer of Development Rights", or TDRs. This is the method by which RLSAs are negotiated. A transfer of development rights is an agreement between the county and a land owner that allows the land owner to acquire increased zoning density on one parcel of property in exchange for either deeding other property to the county or establishing a conservation easement on it. Land owners can also create bonus density TDRs by meeting certain criteria set by the county. These bonus density TDRs can then be placed in a land mitigation bank and the development credits sold to other developers. It is a plan that has lots of incentive for large and small land owners in rural areas. It's also a recipe for the death of life as we know it in our county. Thanks to the supremacy of property rights established in our state's constitution, not growing beyond all good sense isn't an option.

As I see it, the devil is in the details. There are two designated areas at play in an RLSA: sending areas and receiving areas. A sending area is the area to be preserved. In exchange for not building on those parcels, the density that would be allowed there is transferred, or "sent", to the receiving area. The danger here is the original language in the agreement. If there isn't iron clad language establishing, in perpetuity, the fact that the lands in the sending area are never to be developed, then after the lands in the receiving area are built out to the max, the pressure will begin to build to bulldoze the conservation lands. You need look no further than south Florida to see that the giant land eating machine that is real estate

development recognizes no limits on its appetite. There are moves afoot down there to expand into the conservation areas that buffer the Everglades. The shortage of drinking water is no hindrance to this plan. They're already planning a giant pipeline to send water from the Big Bend area south to the thirsty megalopolis.

And Florida developers don't have a monopoly on greed before good sense. Las Vegas, that water drenched anomaly on the face of the western desert is growing by leaps and bounds. They are about to start mining water from an aquifer that has been stable for thousands of years and allows ranches to flourish where it bubbles to the surface. Family ranches that are the icon of the west will expire so that the golf courses, casinos and brothels can cater to an ever-expanding tide of retirees from the snow belt. Sound familiar?

JUNE BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a balance of \$7,521.06. The Ken Russell memorial fund received donations totaling \$672.00, of this \$519.00 was disbursed for a Memorial Bench erected at Ponce Inlet. The Board voted to donate the remaining \$153.00 to the Marine Science Center.

Willie Burns reported that our venture with The Book Store netted between \$150 to \$200. The Book Store, on Nova Road in Ormond Beach, will sell items that Willie stocks.

Membership Chair John Carr reported 492 members.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove reported in absentia about discussions with Volusia County officials concerning a survey of spoil islands in the Intracoastal Waterway. David also reported he has been discussing signage for the Port Orange Sanctuary with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Education Chair Peter Larmie that teachers had used all Audubon Adventures material. Peter will report the location of two "Florida Fabulous" books. Peter will provide information on the Audubon Adventures kits that will be needed for the 2007-2008 school year.

John Roessler reported the Russell memorial bench has arrived and he and Mike Brothers will install it at Ponce Inlet.

The Board discussed a list of contemplated Chapter trips that Field Trip Chair Bob North proposed.

Rent for Sica Hall for our Chapter meetings has increased to \$90.00 per month. Board approved paying the increased fee.

**Spring International Migratory Bird Count
Volusia County, Florida 2003-2007**

2007 Observers: Cindy Barrow, Catherine Bidgood, Lee Bidgood, Kathy Booth, Michael Brothers, Chandra Bruce, Matt Bruce, Charlie Buchy, Maritta Buchy, Layla Buck, Helga Carlson, John Carr, Laura Cash, Richard, Cash, Beth Cushing, Don Davis, Gail Domroski, Richard Domroski, John Eggert, Bitsy Flame, Phil Gottschall, David Hartgrove, Virginia Heidenreich, Becky Holmes, David Holmes, Beverly LeRoy, Don Leroy, Jean McNeal, Karl Marvin, Bob North, Ken Park, Kaysea Pivec, Rachel Ramsey, Paul Rebmann, Ralph Risch, Harry Robinson, John Roessler, Ray Scory, Arnette Sherman, David Stock, Keith Stuart, Sara Taylor, Yvonne Teitsworth, Larry Wallberg, Helene Washington, Mary Lou Weiner, Fred White, Nancy White, Meret Wilson, Peggy Yokubonus

Date	# Species	Individuals	Observers	Time	Owling Hours	Foot Hours
05-11-03	121	13,161	49	2:30-7:30	6.00	32.00
05-08-04	132	10,579	39	2:00-7:15	8.75	30.25
05-14-05	123	11,799	31	3:00-7:30	4.00	37.50
05-13-06	140	12,755	33	3:00-7:00	3.50	51.00
05-12-07	152	13,021	50	3:30-6:30	6.00	61.50

Date	Car Hours	Boat Hours	Clouds %	Temp	Wind	Weather
05-11-03	83.00	3.25	0-40	74-91	SW 5-15	No precip
05-08-04	91.25	2.00	15-25	67-81	ESE 10-18	No precip
05-14-05	74.00	2.50	10-30	66-85	N-NNE 6-15	No precip
05-13-06	68.5	2.00	0-15	58-85	SW-W 3-18	No precip
05-12-07	82.5	0.00	100-30	69-88	NE 5-18	No precip

May Chapter Meeting

WHAT BIRD IS THIS?

Our Chapter President John Roessler wowed us with a fascinating program about bird identification. He showed slides he'd compiled from his collection of photos of local birds for us to identify. He carefully picked pictures of hidden birds; some were so hidden by foliage that they were very difficult to ID. He asked us to guess what bird we were seeing. It was all great fun and mimicked what most of us run into when we're out birding.

One of John's fascinating slides showed images of birds flying overhead with just their body shape for us to use to identify them. See the images below and make your guess. How well did you do? Answer on page 5.



Welcome to new members April Anderson, Mr. Robert Armitage, Linda Bouffard, Marcia A. Byers, Margaret D. Davis, Richard Eberts, Stanley Forbes, Betty Freni, Joe Garber, Mr. F. Honigman, Chad Kirby, Bryan Lambert, Clifford B. Lomax, Pat Nesbitt, Barbara A. O'Neill, Donald H. Palmer, Jessie A. Partington, and Margaret A. Sharifi.

Spring International Migratory Bird Count – Volusia County, Florida

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Name of Bird	4	6	1	7
0	5	0	0	2	Loon, Common	0	0	1	0
8	5	2	7	0	Grebe, Pied-billed	0	0	1	0
8	0	0	0	64	Gannet, Northern	0	0	0	3
1949	802	1054	1136	615	Pelican, Brown	42	82	75	57
74	89	128	130	70	Cormorant, DBI-crested	1	1	10	28
53	58	32	67	41	Anhinga	0	1	2	2
97	32	50	50	91	Heron, Great Blue	83	93	140	205
0	0	0	0	1	Great White Heron	27	24	37	78
788	328	468	353	250	Egret, Great	0	0	0	2
425	186	118	237	213	Egret, Snowy	2	0	7	12
73	63	57	60	58	Heron, Little Blue	29	46	298	385
255	12	36	49	21	Heron, Tricolored	35	52	61	53
1	0	0	0	3	Egret, Reddish	25	13	9	11
0	0	0	1	0	Egret, Reddish (white phase)	0	26	8	0
800	566	590	1009	796	Egret, Cattle	2	1	0	18
30	20	14	16	10	Heron, Green	0	4	1	4
17	15	0	0	3	Night-Heron, Black-crowned	1	1	1	18
3	23	5	3	5	Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned	8	15	43	73
459	170	195	174	203	Ibis, White	2	7	9	19
0	12	13	18	9	Ibis, Glossy	0	0	0	7
1	0	5	1	3	Roseate Spoonbill	80	113	361	180
22	45	109	116	26	Stork, Wood	0	3	34	22
69	25	99	40	88	Duck, Muscovy	151	85	479	692
66	86	13	73	82	Duck, Wood	92	287	62	431
3	0	0	14	10	Duck, Mottled	0	16	0	29
70	44	42	29	23	Mallard	3	0	4	81
0	2	0	0	2	Teal, Blue-winged	0	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	3	Duck, Ring-necked	0	10	6	60
0	0	0	1	0	Scaup, Greater	0	0	0	3
1	0	0	0	0	Merganser, Red-breasted	0	0	5	250
216	231	346	367	292	Vulture, Black	0	0	1	17
110	183	99	139	135	Vulture, Turkey	0	1	0	0
83	71	78	74	108	Osprey	622	813	880	950
17	15	6	15	29	Kite, Amer Swallow-tailed	59	65	220	53
1	0	0	0	4	Mississippi Kite	11	2	14	6
18	17	12	15	4	Eagle, Bald	2	0	0	1
0	0	0	0	1	Harrier, Northern	12	3	7	3
0	1	0	0	0	Accipiter sp.	130	61	291	607
0	0	0	0	2	Hawk, Sharp-shinned	0	2	0	22
0	0	2	3	3	Hawk, Cooper's	0	0	0	5
43	78	48	74	73	Hawk, Red-Shouldered	7	1	23	21
5	8	8	11	0	Hawk, Red-tailed	55	47	90	88
0	0	0	0	1	Buteo sp.	0	0	0	0
1	0	2	2	1	Kestrel, American	0	0	0	14
0	0	0	0	2	Merlin	311	251	290	224
26	6	51	33	20	Turkey, Wild	149	149	87	45
11	19	23	5	6	Bobwhite, Northern	0	0	0	0

4	6	1	7	Name of Bird
0	0	0	0	Rail, Clapper
0	0	0	0	Rail, Virginia
0	0	0	0	Rail, Sora
0	0	0	3	Gallinule, Purple
42	82	59	57	Moorhen, Common
1	1	10	28	Coot, American
0	1	2	2	Limpkin
83	93	92	205	Crane, Sandhill
27	24	53	78	Plover, Black-bellied
0	0	0	2	Golden-Plover, American
2	0	4	12	Plover, Wilson's
29	46	298	385	Plover, Semi-palmated
35	52	61	53	Killdeer
25	13	9	11	Oystercatcher, American
0	26	8	0	Stilt, Black-necked
2	1	0	18	Yellowlegs, Greater
0	4	1	4	Yellowlegs, Lesser
1	1	1	18	Sandpiper, Solitary
8	15	43	49	Willet
2	7	9	58	Sandpiper, Spotted
0	0	0	7	Whimbrel
80	113	361	180	Turnstone, Ruddy
0	3	34	22	Knot, Red
151	85	479	692	Sanderling
92	287	62	431	Sandpiper, Semipalmated
0	16	0	31	Sandpiper, Western
3	0	4	81	Sandpiper, Least
0	0	0	1	Sandpiper, White-rumped
0	10	6	0	peep, sp.
0	0	0	0	Sandpiper, Pectoral
0	0	5	250	Dunlin
0	0	0	17	Dowitcher, Short-billed
0	1	0	0	Snipe, Common
622	813	880	950	Gull, Laughing
59	65	220	53	Gull, Ring-billed
11	2	14	16	Gull, Herring
2	0	0	1	Gull, Great Black-backed
12	3	7	3	Tern, Caspian
130	61	291	607	Tern, Royal
0	2	0	22	Tern, Sandwich
0	0	0	5	Tern, Common
7	1	23	21	Tern, Forster's
55	47	90	88	Tern, Least
0	0	0	0	sterna, sp.
0	0	0	14	Skimmer, Black
311	251	290	224	Pigeon, Rock
149	149	87	45	Dove, Eurasian Collared
0	0	0	0	Dove, White-winged

699	399	315	505	469	Dove, Mourning
16	2	9	6	19	Ground Dove, Common
2	0	0	0	0	Parakeet, Monk
0	2	0	0	0	Parakeet, White-eyed
0	1	2	1	11	Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
2	2	0	0	0	Owl, Barn
1	10	1	2	5	Screech-Owl, Eastern
3	2	0	0	3	Owl, Great Horned
6	7	11	6	7	Owl, Barred
0	0	0	1	1	Nighthawk, Common
41	53	9	27	27	Chuck-will's-widow
326	7	293	220	261	Swift, Chimney
4	7	11	10	9	Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
1	0	0	0	6	Kingfisher, Belted
19	13	14	23	13	Woodpecker, Red-headed
138	137	119	82	123	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
0	0	0	1	1	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
46	37	50	49	70	Woodpecker, Downy
0	3	0	0	0	Woodpecker, Hairy
5	3	2	1	13	Flicker, Yellow-shafted
40	42	26	46	47	Woodpecker, Pileated
1	0	0	0	0	Peewee, Eastern Wood
104	92	94	106	107	Phoebe, Eastern
0	2	2	0	7	Flycatcher, Great Crested
0	0	0	0	1	Kingbird, Eastern
78	28	39	50	37	Kingbird, Gray
6	25	34	47	112	Martin, Purple
0	3	5	0	3	Swallow, Tree
0	5	2	5	110	Swallow, N. Rough-winged
178	202	135	136	128	Swallow, Barn
8	5	11	4	11	Jay, Blue
171	92	68	47	49	Scrub-Jay, Florida
238	210	220	172	194	Crow, American
77	50	47	0	46	Crow, Fish
0	10	3	1	7	crow, sp.
203	186	234	199	175	Chickadee, Carolina
0	1	0	0	0	Titmouse, Tufted
0	5	3	0	9	Nuthatch, White-breasted
0	0	0	3	0	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
175	178	169	113	224	Creepers, Brown
5	0	0	2	7	Wren, Carolina
33	65	76	27	61	Kinglet, Ruby crowned
7	14	13	4	13	Gnatcatcher, Blue gray
0	0	1	0	0	Bluebird, Eastern
4	5	0	0	0	Veery
7	5	1	5	19	Thrush, Hermit
509	504	454	333	331	Catbird, Gray
45	38	34	27	35	Mockingbird, Northern
6	62	4	0	232	Thrasher, Brown
					Waxwing, Cedar

52	44	22	23	12	Shrike, Loggerhead
292	258	197	197	194	Starling, European
15	32	33	14	23	Vireo, White-eyed
1	0	4	0	3	Vireo, Blue-headed
2	0	1	0	6	Vireo, Yellow-throated
14	18	35	6	28	Vireo, Red-eyed
0	0	0	0	1	Warbler, Tennessee
100	150	117	110	187	Parula, Northern
7	0	0	4	0	Warbler, Yellow
0	0	0	1	1	Warbler, Magnolia
0	0	0	0	1	Warbler, Cape May
0	1	1	3	11	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
0	1	0	1	0	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
0	0	0	0	2	Warbler, Blackburnian
0	5	3	1	6	Warbler, Yellow-throated
8	65	44	27	36	Warbler, Pine
2	0	1	2	0	Warbler, Prairie
2	0	1	10	0	Warbler, Palm
0	0	1	28	59	Warbler, Blackpoll
0	1	0	13	18	Warbler, Black-and-white
15	4	4	45	21	Redstart, American
0	0	5	1	1	Warbler, Prothonotary
0	1	0	0	0	Warbler, Worm-eating
0	0	0	1	1	Ovenbird
0	1	0	1	1	Waterthrush, Northern
0	0	0	0	1	Waterthrush, Louisiana
1	15	41	18	19	Yellowthroat, Common
3	10	17	9	5	Tanager, Summer
465	389	400	337	472	Cardinal, Northern
0	0	0	2	0	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted
0	0	0	1	0	Grosbeak, Blue
51	45	95	26	20	Towhee, Eastern
0	5	2	5	0	Sparrow, Bachman's
1	0	1	0	0	Sparrow, Chipping
0	1	0	45	35	Bobolink
391	217	482	267	197	Blackbird, Red-winged
17	3	8	5	16	Meadowlark, Eastern
460	490	360	329	330	Grackle, Boat-tailed
165	108	106	101	119	Grackle, Common
17	5	4	7	7	Cowbird, Brown-headed
0	0	0	1	0	Cowbird, Shiny
4	7	8	5	0	blackbird, sp.
1	1	0	1	2	Oriole, Baltimore
2	4	3	8	13	House Finch
8	24	32	3	1	Goldfinch, American
96	57	87	47	76	Sparrow, House
1	1	0	0	0	Swan, Mute
2	0	0	0	0	Shelduck, Ruddy
9	0	0	0	0	Duck, Peking

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

David Hartgrove

Some years ago the board of Halifax River Audubon decided that we needed to have a term limit for the office of president. It was set at two, two-year terms. The arguments for and against term limits have raged across both the political spectrum and organizations like ours ever since the concept was devised. So there's no point in going over them again.

Adhering to the bylaws means we live by the term limits and therefore we're losing an excellent President in John Roessler. John has guided the chapter for the past four years through a period of growth and expansion. We've seen more funding for conservation projects and for Audubon Adventures. We've seen an increase in attendance at our monthly meetings and our field trips are more popular than ever. John's hand is evident in all of these successes. Though he's too modest to take credit for them. We must also extend our sincere thanks to Ingrid, his secretary at the Daytona Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant. The numbers of times that she and or John have ridden to our rescue on a wide variety of issues are too numerous to list here. We will miss their efforts on our behalf.

Now as John approaches retirement from his job with the city he prepares for the next phase of his life, travel and the sharing of his knowledge of birds and photography with the new friends he'll meet in his travels. Hopefully he'll be returning often to assist us with bird counts and field trips. His willingness to drive, lead a team on a count and to share his knowledge of bird identification has been an invaluable asset.

As incoming president I have some big shoes to fill. Thankfully, I have a board of some of the most helpful and qualified people in any chapter in the state. They will be there to help me when I feel overwhelmed by the duties I'm about to assume and I can always call John for advice if I need to. Provided he's not too far out there for cell phone service.

Growth management issues will be ever more pressing as development interests cast their eyes on any piece of land not already sprouting survey stakes. If the birds and wildlife are to have a place to survive, if our offspring are to have a place to see a remnant of what we see everyday, we will need to be vigilant in speaking out on saving what we can of our environmental heritage. As our motto says, "We need to be the stewards of this natural world..."

We are entering some challenging times but we also need to concentrate on having fun too. We're going to make an effort to have even better field trips and programs for our meetings. I urge you to come out and be more involved. You'll be glad you did.



What is Audubon Adventures?

National Audubon Society produces kits of nature material designed for grades 3 through 5 classrooms. Each kit contains 32 newsletters, a 30-minute videotape, classroom resource manual, and an interactive website. Teachers are enrolled in National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida and Halifax River Audubon.

What is our Chapter doing?

Halifax River Audubon is gearing up for the 2007-2008 school year by asking for donations to buy the newest kits. Last year we supplied 26 classrooms in 10 different schools with Audubon Adventures "Wonders of Nature" kits and placed books *Florida Fabulous Waterbirds* and *Florida Fabulous Reptile* in their school libraries.

What is Audubon Adventures planning for the 2007-2008 school year?

The title of our newest kit is "Back from the Brink – Success Stories from the Endangered Species Act." Students will learn about the successful recovery of the bald eagle, American alligator, grizzly bear, grey whale, and other species that have been brought back from the brink by the ESA. Each issue contains fun activities, high interest content, and hopeful messages. We are introducing new features like "Good News for Planet Earth," and "Heroes of the Planet," which profiles people who are working to protect wild creatures and places. This edition will begin shipping in September 2007.

What can you do?

Please consider sending Halifax River Audubon a check so we can continue supporting the schools we support now and so we can add new classrooms this school year. A donation of \$46.00 will supply one classroom with a kit, but a donation of any amount will be welcome. Send your check to Halifax River Audubon, Inc., P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166 and designating the check is for Audubon Adventures.

ANSWERS TO BIRD OUTLINE QUIZ

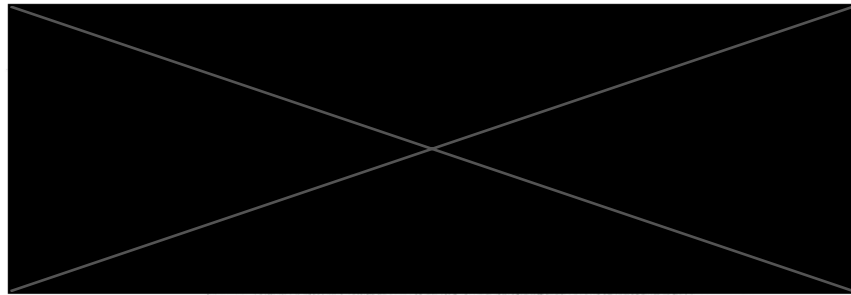
- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Turkey Vulture | 5. Great Blue Heron |
| 2. Bald Eagle | 6. Cooper's Hawk |
| 3. Brown Pelican | 7. Double-crested Cormorant |
| 4. Osprey | |

THE PELICAN



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

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JULY 2007

President and Board

David Hartgrove	President,	788-2630	birdman9@mindspring.com
	Conservation Chair		
Novetta Duffer	Vice President	672-7745	nduffer@cfl.rr.com
Paula Wehr	Vice President	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer,	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways and Means		
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary	673-7679	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
Jean Rondeau	Corresponding Secretary	290-3555	indyjean44@comcast.net
John Carr	Membership Secretary,	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
John Roessler	Past President	255-9826	birdman3651@aol.com
.....			
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
Karen Mosher	At-Large Class of 2009	322-3790	f.r.mosher@worldnet.att.net
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2010	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Bob North	At-Large Class of 2010	352-303-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
.....			
Peter Larmie	Education	672-0042	flarmie@cfl.rr.com
Bob North	Field Trips	352-303-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
DeDee Blanchard	Hospitality	673-6541	dedee@clearwire.net
Paula Wehr	Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

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		

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

COLONIAL COLONY

ORMOND BEACH GARDEN CLUB

For support of our 2007-2008 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 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time. **Remember, no general meetings in July or August**

THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 53 - NO. 2

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

August 2007

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

A recent article on the Orlando Sentinel's Commentary page alerted readers to some of the shenanigans going on in the Lake County Planning Department. Lake County voters, like voters all across the state, have asked that their county commission and staff work to rein in the county's explosive growth. The vehicle for doing this is a new Comprehensive Growth Management Plan that actually slows the headlong rush to plunder the county's natural resources for the profit of a few. Those of you who think that this sounds familiar, step to the head of the class. They've been working on this new, slower growth Comp Plan for two years and the reason it isn't finished is that the staff is trying to make sure it doesn't crimp the plans of developers. The pesky state Sunshine Law mandates meetings in the open. The head of the Lake County Planning Agency, a Mr. Wayne Bennett, tried to have a Sentinel reporter tossed out of a meeting between Planning Agency staff and a developer's attorneys when the subject was yet another density change. Damn the people and their right to know!

Now it appears that we may have a similar situation developing here in Volusia. The Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District was established in 1937, along with the other districts in counties around the state. They were set up to assist the efforts of the US Department of Agriculture in helping farmers practice best methods of soil and water conservation after the ravages of the dust bowl. The board members of the VSWCD are unpaid. There is a paid administrator, a secretary and a part time assistant. Their annual budget is two hundred thousand dollars. Though it's called the Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District, it's actually part of the state Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Over the years they've toiled quietly helping local farmers get the most out of the Department of Agriculture programs and helping county government make decisions to safeguard our natural resources.

In the last election some forward thinking people were elected to the VSWCD Board and they've taken advantage of grant funding available to try to educate the public about growth issues as they relate to flood plain protection and water quality issues. This has apparently upset developers and their attorneys. Since the VSWCD is a state entity, the powers that be couldn't just call in a favor or two and have the board abolished; like they did with the Indian River Lagoon Advisory Committee

several years ago. So they had their budget axed. Pleading a tight budget, the County Manager says he doesn't want to do away with the VSWCD, he just has to remove them as a budget item. No budget, no board.

Somewhere in a restaurant, well-dressed men toast their savvy and chuckle to think that once again they've quietly thwarted the will of the people. Everyone involved has plausible deniability. It's a tight budget year, made more so by the wild eyed machinations of those clowns in Tallahassee. The County's budget of 600 million won't be balanced by the cutting of a mere 200 thousand. But what was a voice for all of the citizens of Volusia will be silenced. Call or e-mail your County Councilman and ask that they direct the County Manager to restore funding for the VSWCD. We need their voice in the fight for a quality place to live.

THANK YOU LETTER

The donations sent to us in memory of Ken Russell were spent on a bench installed at the Marine Science Center at Ponce Inlet. Unused memorial money was sent to the Marine Science Center; that is the money Michael is thanking us for. More donations have been received and Rachel Ramsey also will send them to the Center.

Dear Rachel,

Today is 7/07/07 and I opened your letter and received your gift of \$77.00 to the Marine Science Center. How weird is that!

I wanted to express our sincere thanks to the Halifax River Audubon Society for your continued support of the Marine Science Center.

Not only are we grateful for your generous check, but we also thank you for the donation of the beautiful bench in memory of Ken Russell. We all lost a good friend with the passing of Ken and we appreciate this memorial in remembrance of him.

We are also grateful for all of the great work that Halifax River Audubon Society performs on behalf of the citizens of our area to preserve our fragile environment.

Thank you all and keep up the good work!

*Michael Brothers
Director
Marine Science Center*



A Ross' Goose

DUCK STAMPS

Proceeds from the sale of the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (the Federal Duck Stamp) fund the acquisition of wetlands and wildlife habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since its inception in 1934, the Federal Duck Stamp Program has generated more than \$700 million for the preservation of some five million acres of American wetlands.

FEDERAL DUCK STAMPS AND LAKE WOODRUFF REFUGE

Rowan Hoy, in *Woodruff*, newsletter of Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR, Inc.

Duck stamps are not just for hunters! Through the purchase of a Federal Duck Stamp, you are helping out the refuge system. Federal Duck Stamp money is deposited into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund and used to purchase conservation easements or acquire property from willing sellers for conservation and restoration of wetlands and grasslands valuable to migratory waterfowl as breeding grounds – lands that have come under increasing development pressure from competing land use interests. In fact, 98% of the \$15 fee purchases wetlands for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

According to Patricia Fisher, Chief of the Federal Duck Stamp Program, 18,413 acres of the total Lake Woodruff refuge acreage (21,559) were purchased

under the authority of the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund. Roughly 85% of the Lake Woodruff NWR lands were purchased through Federal Duck Stamp fees!

Duck Stamps are available at post offices, national wildlife refuges, some national retail chain stores, and various sporting-goods stores nation-wide.

Editor's Note: Halifax River Audubon is a Patron of the Friends of Lake Woodruff. We will go on a field trip there October 20.

NATIONAL AUDUBON ELECTION RESULTS

Southeastern Audubon chapters voted for our nominee for member of the National Audubon Board of Directors. Halifax River Audubon was one of 39 chapters in the election region that voted. We cast our vote for Neil L. Davies of the Flagler Audubon Society. Don McKee was elected.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

So far this year, the following people have supported Audubon Adventures. Please send your donation to Halifax River Audubon, P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166.

John and Fran Carr
David Hartgrove
Alma More
Rachel Ramsey
Madeline Shaddix

The 2007-2008 kits will supply 5th grade classrooms with Wonders of Nature newsletters and other material designed for the education of our young people in conservation and nature.

JUNIOR DUCK STAMPS

Proceeds from the sale of Junior Duck Stamps are used to support a national art and environmental education curriculum for students in grades K-12. The first-place national winning design is selected from the Best in Show designs from each of the fifty states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.



Why Recycle

How long does it take for some of the things we use everyday to decompose into a non-recognizable form? How about an orange peel? One day, maybe two? Try up to six months!

Paper doesn't take very long to decompose, does it? Only 2-5-months!

- Plastic coated cartons – 5 years!
- Cigarette butts – 10 to 12 years!
- Plastic bags – 10 to 20 years!
- Plastic containers – 50 to 80 years!
- Aluminum – 80 to 100 years!
- Styrofoam – NEVER!

(Data from Keep Brevard Beautiful Inc. website) in Habi-Chat, Summer 2007 Newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association.

Editor's Note: Halifax River Audubon is a Patron of Merritt Island Wildlife Association. We will go on field trips there November 30 and December 1.

BEGIN YOUR BIRD WATCHING ODYSSEY

Ray Scory

Will a "Beginner Bird Watching Class" help you see birds? Categorically, the answer is, "Yes."

A beginner's class will set the stage for an enraptured journey into our planet's vast variety of natural beauty. Birds are found in some of the most beautiful places in our world. "Our world" might be described as: our backyard, the river landing down the street or a tropical or winter retreat somewhere out in the far reaches of our planet. "Our world" can be an hour's walk around the neighborhood, a half day field trip to a local birding hotspot or a week or more birding field trip to exotic shores.

Your interest, your time, your energy, your finances are the only limits, and that leaves a lot of room to enjoy the bird watching hobby. I have birded with people who only carry a pair of mini-binoculars and, conversely, people who are geared with high-powered spotting scopes, the latest digiscoping equipment and sophisticated field binoculars. However, the one common factor is the thrilled expression on their faces when they spot a bird - for them, that special bird.

A "Beginner Bird Watching Class" will open your eyes to the environment around you. You will see birds and beautiful flowers, exquisitely designed insects, rocks and stones, clouds and trees and nature's compositions. You will feel comfortable in the canopy of their influence.

A "Beginner Bird Watching Class" will expose you to the equipment you will use, educate you to the basic skills of bird watching, fascinate you with the unique behavior of birds and inform you to the etiquette of the hobby.

A "Beginner Bird Watching Class" will be hosted by an enthusiastic, knowledgeable leader who will give you the freedom to explore, yet lead you in a direction that will sharpen your bird watching instincts.

Most of all, a "Beginner Bird Watching Class" will be fun and you will be with people who also want to be birdwatchers.

JULY BOARD MEETING

Newly elected President David Hartgrove requested that all Committee Chairs remain in office. All agreed to do so.

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a checking account balance of \$7,776.16.

Board Member Willie Burns tendered a check for \$564.17 from Golden Dog sales. He reported that Golden Dog had made a profit for the 2006-2007 Chapter year of \$2002.17. We will earn 5% from *The Book Store* on Nova Road in Ormond Beach for several of his items they are selling.

Membership Chair John Carr reported a current membership of 444.

Field Trip Chair Bob North led a discussion that finalized the field trip schedule for the coming year.

Conservation Chair/President David Hartgrove reported he had attended the Low Impact Development Workshop and felt that it went well. HRA was listed in the program as a sponsor for the workshop.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will supply signage for the Port Orange Sanctuary after we have submitted documentation on bird activity to them. David will ask Ray Scory to submit data he collected during his frequent bird counts there.

David reported that Bellaire Plaza has one of the largest Least Tern colonies on the Florida east coast with approximately 140 pairs nesting on the roofs on Beale's Outlet Store and a bowling alley.

Board approved dues of \$25 each for yearly membership in Volusia Flagler Environmental Action Committee, and Environmental Council of Volusia and Flagler Counties.

Board member Ken Hanson reported that the Ken Russell memorial bench has been installed at the Volusia County Marine Science Center at Ponce Inlet.

Chapter member Ray Scory will teach a Beginner Bird Watching Class in October-November.

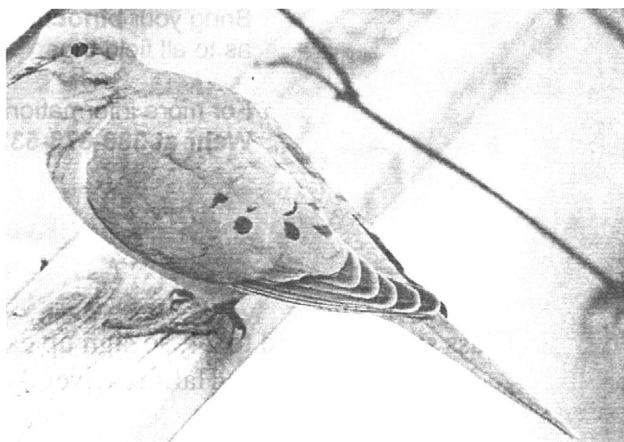
Vice President Paula Wehr reported programs and speakers for the coming year.

Board approved investigation at no cost of a new design for Chapter T-shirt.

Board approved \$1500 for purchase of a projector, extra projector light, and screen.

For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land.

Solomon



Mourning Dove

2006 Jerry Kerschner

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

Presents

BEGINNER BIRD WATCHING CLASS



Cardinal

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 our class for fun, information and fellowship.

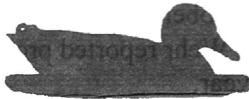
Donation: \$25.00 check, payable to **Halifax River Audubon**, is due **October 19, 2007**. Mail to:

Halifax River Audubon
P.O. Box 166
Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166



Crow

Place: 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.



Dabbling Duck

Classroom instruction will be held on Friday mornings, **October 26, November 2 and November 9** at **9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Sign up with a friend, or make a new one, and have lunch after the class.



Dove

Birding field trips to local birding hotspots will be held on Wednesday mornings following the Friday morning class; i.e.:

Wed., October 31 – 8:00 a.m. at Port Orange Bridge
Wed., November 7 – 8:00 a.m. at Volusia Landfill
Wed., November 14 – 7:00 a.m. at Merritt Island NWR



Finch

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

For more information, call **Ray Scory** at **386-763-4260** or **Paula Wehr** at **386-673-5332**.

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

RIGHT WHALES

Frank Gromling, speaker at our May meeting, gave us a great talk about the Right Whale, a whale that is often spotted from our local beaches. Frank, a New Englander, said he has been a sailor since the age of ten; getting involved with whales was a natural progression in his life.

Adult Right Whales are approximately 53 feet long, live more than 60 years and weigh 30-60 tons. They are black or dark gray, have deeply notched tails, large wide flippers and no dorsal fin. Calves are born approximately 15 feet in length and weigh around one ton. They are born with callosities, which are horny growths on the head, chin, lower lip and around the eyes. The pattern of these callosities remains the same as the whale grows and acts as a "fingerprint" to identify individual whales.

At one time there were an estimated 50,000-100,000 Atlantic Right Wales in the ocean. The Atlantic Right Whale is a slow moving whale that floats when it is dead and produces about 100 barrels of oil. These traits made it easy and profitable to hunt. In 1935 the world's population had declined to about 100 known individuals. That's when protection of the species began.

Although no longer hunted, Atlantic Right Whales continue to be killed by human activities. They are struck and killed by large ships (they appear to have no fear of large ships). They also become entangled in commercial fishing gear and eventually strangle and drown or are prevented from feeding. Current statistics show about 350-400 Atlantic Right Whales are alive today.

Right Whales live in the north Atlantic most of the time. But in December, pregnant females migrate to the

shallow ocean shelf off the coast of Florida to give birth and nurse their calves until they return north near the end of March. The new-born calves are fattened on rich whale milk and may double their weight within a week.

These whales have no teeth but instead feed through their baleen, a comb-like wall hanging from their upper jaws. As ocean water passes through the baleen, tiny copepods – about the size of a grain of rice – stick to the individual strands of baleen providing nutrition for the adults. Because copepods are not found in the ocean off the coast of Georgia and Florida, the adult females don't eat while they are here to give birth.

Adult females may conceive for the first time around age eight. Males become fertile around age ten. Atlantic Right Whales aren't social animals. Adult males don't make the trip to Florida with the females. If two whales are spotted together, they are mother and calf. Individual whales spotted in the water are generally adolescents who may have made the trip as a "reconnaissance" mission.

The Right Whale Volunteer Sighting Network consists of Associated Scientists at Woods Hole, Marineland of Florida and Marine Resources Council. Volunteers are needed to watch for whales between Ponte Vedra Beach and Ponce Inlet. Interested citizens may call 904-471-1111 to learn how to become a volunteer. If you see a Right Whale, call 888-97WHALE (979-4253) to report your sighting.

APPLICATION TO JOIN NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Introductory Rate is \$20.00/ year and 30.00/ 2-years, also \$15.00/ year for student and Senior Citizen (62 or older). 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*.

Name _____

Address _____

Apt _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Mail check made out to **National Audubon Society**, and mail this form to John W. Carr, 359 Brookline Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

E-41 / 7XCH

APPLICATION TO JOIN HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC

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., a 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.

Name _____

Address _____

Apt _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address _____

Mail check made out to **Halifax River Audubon**, and mail this form to John W. Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

THE PELICAN

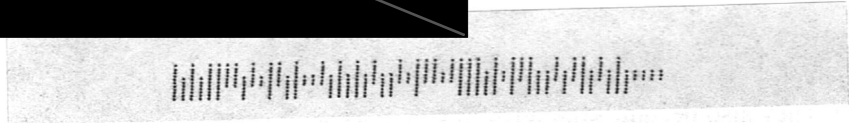
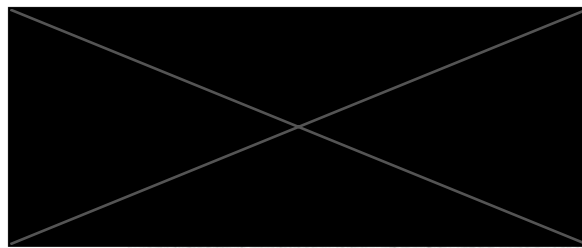


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Paula Wehr	Vice President	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer,	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
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Jean Rondeau	Corresponding Secretary	290-3555	indyjean44@comcast.net
John Carr	Membership Secretary,	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
John Roessler	Past President	255-9826	birdman3651@aol.com
.....			
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
Karen Mosher	At-Large Class of 2009	322-3790	f.r.mosher@worldnet.att.net
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2010	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Bob North	At-Large Class of 2010	352-302-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
.....			
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Bob North	Field Trips	352-302-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
DeDee Blanchard	Hospitality	673-6541	dedee@clearwire.net
Paula Wehr	Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	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.halifaxrivcras.org		
Florida Rare Bird Alert	http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html		

AUGUST 2007

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

COLONIAL COLONY

ORMOND BEACH GARDEN CLUB

For support of our 2007-2008 activities

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THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 53 - NO. 3

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

September 2007

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

The Black Skimmer pair that nested recently near Sun Splash Park, in Daytona Beach, provided an amazing spectacle. The initial news reports on this were less than exhaustive in their research. For instance, when I read that another name for the bird was "Razor-billed Shearwater", I was really puzzled. Then I did a Google search. The first article that came up was the account of the species written by Audubon himself, in 1832. Had the reporter who wrote that first story continued reading, she'd have come across Audubon's description of how the eggs tasted similar to gull eggs, though not as good as plover eggs and that, "the sportsman will find these birds easy to hunt since they float when shot and their brothers hover above them making easy targets." We've learned a lot in the intervening 175 years and thankfully, attitudes have changed. Some of the other colloquial names for this bird are: Seadog, Flood Gull and Cut Water.

Contrary to first reports, it is not unusual for this species to nest on the east coast of Florida although they do nest in larger numbers on the west coast. They are colonial nesters that nest here yearly, often on rooftops with Least Terns. What is unprecedented, as far as I can determine, is that they nested alone. This may be the first known instance of a solitary pair successfully raising a chick. And it would not have been possible without the hard work and long hours put in by the staff of the Volusia County Environmental Management Department and the many volunteers who helped monitor the little family. A number of our members helped out and Celine Sullivan was there almost every day for several weeks. Our sincere thanks go out to those folks who spent long hours in the blazing sun. They were sometimes berated by members of the public whose attitudes on all things environmental were less than enlightened.

And speaking of less than enlightened, let's think about what's going on down in Barbados. As many as 45,000 migrating waders and shore birds are shot over the course of several months for "sport" by a small number of islanders. There are 4 manmade lakes that have been specially adapted for the slaughter. They're known locally as "shooting swamps" and there's actually a competition between the shooters at the different locations to see which site bags the most kills. It's a matter of pride among the "sportsmen" to try to kill every last bird and they use wounded birds as decoys along with recorded calls to

attract whole flocks into the kill zone. The species they're shooting aren't usually thought of as game birds, like ducks or grouse. These clowns are killing Lesser Yellowlegs, Whimbrels, Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones. Try as I might, I'm unable to imagine what goes on in the reptilian brain of an individual who sets out to commit slaughter on this scale, on these kinds of birds. We're not talking about some backward savages here who are subsistence hunters - people who might starve if not for their efforts with primitive weapons. We're talking about mostly rich white guys armed with semi automatic weapons and a blood lust that seems insatiable. Several groups are working to try to end this exercise in barbarism but it's gone on for generations and is fiercely defended by the offenders as their right. Barbados and several other islands have never signed onto the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

So here, we inconvenience thousands of beach goers for the sake of 3 birds. Elsewhere, wholesale slaughter is the name of the game. We live in interesting times and hopefully we'll evolve to the point that we can put to rest forever those baser instincts that were and are evidenced by our species.



DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY 101

Presented by Ken Hanson

Ken has been involved in photographic pursuits since his high school days when he joined the school Photo Club. As he progressed into adulthood, he continued with photography as a hobby as his duties and area of assignment as a career member of the United States Air Force would allow. His interest was drastically changed when he was given a small, inexpensive digital camera in 2001 by his wife. Since then, he has become more and more involved in digital imaging and has concentrated on avian photography.

Other points of interest are that 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; he was named the 2004 Advanced Digital Photographer of the Year by the Shores Camera Club; his images have been chosen for signage and brochures for the Volusia County Marine Science Center and he has been the Bird Photography Forum Moderator for the Outdoor Eyes Online Magazine, an online nature magazine with over 5000 registered users. The images in his online Avian Gallery, "Hawks Ridge Images" has received over 10,000 hits and very positive reviews. And last but not least, he has been certified by the University of Florida as a Florida Master Naturalist.

BRING YOUR DIGITAL CAMERA TO THE MEETING WITH YOU

AUGUST BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a balance of \$7,330.52.

Five representatives of the In Land We Trust organization presented early stage plans for an eco lodge with 5 proposed units on land located on a spoil island on the Halifax River within the Port Orange Sanctuary. Emilio Cirelli owns the 3 acres on the tip of the island; the remaining land is publicly owned. The group was seeking Chapter approval of their plans. After the group left the meeting, the Board discussed the presentation. The Board approved a motion stating that Halifax River Audubon does not support the project as presented. President David Hartgrove was charged with writing a letter stating our position and following-up with the City of Port Orange to try to find out what has been done so far regarding the project.

Board members Willie Burns reported that The Bookstore in Ormond Beach is selling lots of books through Golden Dog.

He also reported that the rental increase at Sica Hall is because we have been using two rooms and only being charged for one.

Membership Chair John Carr reported current membership of 464.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove updated the Board on changes in funding for the Soil & Water Conservation District and Environmental Management Department staff change.

He also is compiling a list of birds on Rookery Island at the request of Volusia County.

Vice President Paula Wehr reported purchase of a new projector and screen at a cost of \$868.47.

On October 6, Tomoka State Park will host an event celebrating the Florida Scenic Highway designation for The Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail. The Scenic Highway begins on SR A1A at the border of Volusia County and Flagler County and forms a loop by extending southward on A1A to Granada Boulevard (SR 40) then west to North Beach Street, which becomes Old Dixie Highway, to the intersection with Walter Boardman Lane. The Corridor extends east along Walter Boardman Lane to Highbridge Road and terminates at SR A1A. The inclusion of John Anderson Drive creates two loops, or a figure eight, making the total length of 33.98 miles. This also includes the extension along Pine Tree Drive west for a distance of 0.9 miles. HRA will participate with a table.

ST. JOHNS RIVER NEWS

Willie Burns

Here is a brief synopsis of what I recently received from The River Keeper (the RK) regarding water problems.

1. The St. John's Water Management District reports they will effectively "run out" of water by 2013. Rather than limit increased population, they plan to withdraw water near Wekiva Springs, using reverse osmosis to remove impurities such as salt. Then the "waste water," very high in salt and other minerals and pollutants, will be discharged back into the River. Plans are underway by the RK to alleviate this.
2. Georgia Pacific has decided not to upgrade their pollution treatment of their wastewater. Rather, they intend to run a 48" pipeline into the middle of the River (north of Palatka) and simply dump their pollutants there instead of Rice Creek (which of course flows into the St. John's). Their wastewater is very high in nitrogen, the biggest cause of the toxic "Green Monster" algae blooms in the St. John's. Plans are underway by the RK to prevent this.

Report from Cana

ANOTHER SHUTTLE LAUNCHED

Willie Burns

"Cana" of course is Canaveral Seashore National Park. Wednesday August 8th was a hot and hazy day. As I rode my little ATV down the beach my visibility was little more than a mile to the north or south, the haze being augmented by spray blown from the surf.

Long slow rollers were oozing toward shore. Other than their widely separated humps of water, the sea was quite flat. Few birds were on the beach, probably being wise enough to seek shade.

There were several widely separated Willits, a few scattered Sanderlings, a Brown Pelican or two coasting along, and some Ruddy Turnstones. At one location, however, there was a Clump. Perhaps twenty Willits, a dozen or so Sanderlings, and a bunch of Ruddies were all sitting solemnly, watching the warm sea thud softly onto the beach.



Willet

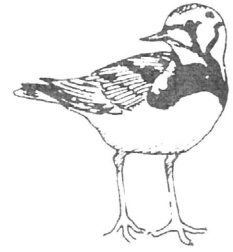
My task on Launch Day is to close off the beach at the Parking Lot 4 walkover ramp and shoo bathers back beyond my line of yellow cones. Many knew me from previous launch shots and cheerfully said, "Hi, Willie!" as they gathered their gear. A few grumpily asked, "Why?" The crowd thinned out the farther I went.

One man was almost two miles below the beach access ramp. He had no idea there was a launch coming

up, but he too left. Not as cheerily, with a two-mile walk in the sand.

Turtle nests were everywhere. The North District of Cana has over 1200 nests, with more than 1500 on the South District. The County Line between Volusia and Brevard Counties divides the two Districts. Most nests are Loggerheads, with a few Green and Leatherbacks mixed in.

I rode three miles below the last Parking Lot, #5. No people nor tracks in the sand, so I returned to Lot 5 to await the launch. And there to my astonished eyes was a group of people. They had landed their boat on the Lagoon side and crossed over, wondering why no one was there.



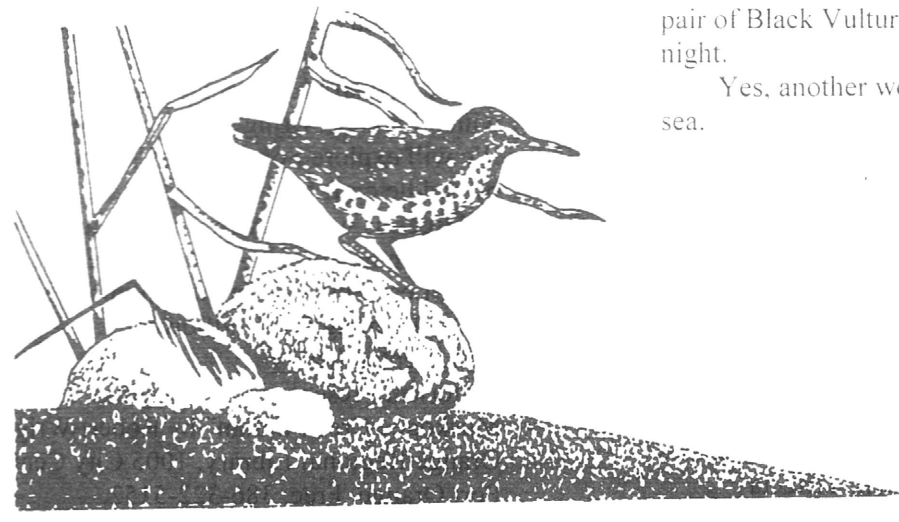
Ruddy Turnstone

A brief explanation of the launch and the NASA cameras sent them back on their boat and away. I was left to watch little teams of shore birds working the surf line. Usually a Willet and a Sanderling, sometimes with a Ruddy or two, they seem to work together "flushing" prey from the edge of the waves. They all seem to eat different things, so teamwork helps them all. Right on schedule the launch blasted off, as beautiful as ever.

With the low sun (6:36 PM) one could see the shuttle quite clearly, all the way up to separation. As the boosters fell away and second stage ignition occurred, the shuttle disappeared into the high clouds to the east.

As silence returned, other than the soft grumble of the surf, a pair of Osprey sailed by, looking for dinner. I rolled back to our base with my ATV, chatting with a few last bathers and fishermen. More birds? Nope, except for a pair of Black Vultures settling in on some poles for the night.

Yes, another wonderful day of watching birds and the sea.



Spotted Sandpiper

SEPTEMBER 2007 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, September 1

"Living History Day" at Fort Matanzas National Monument. Fort Matanzas is on Hwy A1A north. Re-enactors portray Spanish soldiers of the 1740s at Fort Matanzas all day engaging in their daily tasks at this outpost fortification. Tours depart the Visitor Center dock on an hourly schedule at half past the hour, 9:30am – 4:30pm. Cannon firing demonstrations during the 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 tours. Call 904-471-9116 or visit www.nps.gov/foma.

Tuesday, September 4

Halifax River Audubon Board meets. Note date change.

Saturday, September 8

Halifax River Audubon Cleanup. Clearing and weeding of the Audubon Trail at Sugar Mill Gardens will start at 8:00am. Bring gloves. Contact Novetta Duffer at 386-672-7745 or nduffer@cfl.rr.com.

Saturday, September 8

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Long Leaf Pine Preserve Eco Buggy Trip. 9am at trailhead off Hwy 44 E of I-4. Carpool 8:30am NW corner of 415 & Hwy 44 (New Smyrna Speedway). Bring lunch and water. Contact Sonya Guidry at 386-690-1787. sonya940@cs.com for more information.

Saturday, September 8

"Butterfly Gardening using Native Plants". Learn how to attract butterflies using native plants and herbs. Free educational seminar at Full Moon Natives. 10:00am-1:30pm. Reservations requested. Refreshments and light snacks provided. Contact www.fullmoonnatives.com or call 386-212-9923.

Saturday, September 8

Second Saturday Plant Sale. Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. 6400 N. Ocean Shore Blvd., Palm Coast. 10am-2pm. \$4/car.

Sunday, September 9

Halifax River Field Trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet under Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 5:00pm. Led by John Roessler. 386-255-9826. (1)

Friday, September 14

A workshop on Green Development for Sustainable Communities. 11:00am-1:30pm at DBCC Daytona Beach Campus, 1200 W. ISB Blvd, Daytona Beach. Bldg. 230. Cost: \$20 includes lunch. Presentations: "Low Impact Development Strategies" by Dr. Pierce Jones, U of Florida Energy Extension; "Green Homes Simplified" by Dr. Jennifer Languell, Trifecta Construction; and "Making Green Building and Development Happen" by Shannon Staub, Sarasota Co. Commissioner. See flier at:

http://volusia.org/environmental/Sept14_workshop_flyere_websm.pdf

Saturday, September 15

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 17

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Digital Photography Workshop" by Ken Hanson, HRA Board member. Bring your digital cameras. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, September 18

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Socializing 6:30, program 7:00, then refreshments and business meeting.

Saturday, September 22

Halifax River Field Trip. Tomoka State Park. Meet at Park gate, 2099 N. Beach St., Ormond Beach. 7:00am. Led by John Roessler. 386-255-9826. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday 22

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Canoe-Kayak Spruce Creek at Cracker Creek, Port Orange. Contact Sonya Guidry 386-690-1797 or sonya940@cs.com. Meet 9:00am at Cracker Creek, next to Gamble Place Preserve. 1795 Taylor Rd., Port Orange. Phone 386-304-0778. Call Sonya if you want to reserve a canoe or a kayak (single or tandem). Cracker Creek prices are shown...but we may be able to get a group rate:

*** Canoe Rental (2 persons) 2 hrs for \$15. 4 hrs for \$20, daily for \$30.

*** Kayak Rental (single) 2 hrs for \$12. 4 hrs for \$20, daily for \$40.

*** Kayak Rental (tandem) 2 hrs for \$20. 4 hrs for \$25, daily for \$50.

Personal Flotation Device and Paddles provided with all rentals. Bring lunch, change of clothes, etc. We will explore Spruce Creek's shaded headwaters by paddle craft for two hours or so, identifying plants and trees as we go. After a picnic lunch we will take a walk on nearby 175-acre Gamble Place Preserve's Long Leaf Pine Community, hoping to see a few early blooming fall wildflowers.

Thursday, September 27

Historical Presentation. "Sawgrass, a Florida Muskogee Creek Indian" by Robert Wright, Jr., Port Orange Regional Library, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. Free. 386-322-5152.

THE PELICAN

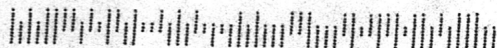
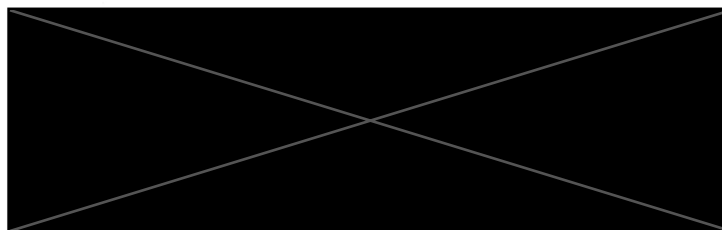


HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 53 - NO. 4

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

October 2007

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Have you ever been walking along the edge of a retention pond or lake and seen clusters of white or pink eggs clinging to vegetation just above the waterline? These are almost certainly snail eggs. To be more precise, apple snail eggs. The Florida applesnail (*Pomacea paludosa*) is native to the state and lays clusters of large, white eggs.

But just as we now have boa constrictors breeding in the Everglades, we also have exotic apple snails calling Florida waterways home. There are four species of exotic apple snail here now. The island apple snail (*Pomacea insularum*) is all over the state. The channeled apple snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*) has only been verified in Duval County but testing has been limited. Both of these species deposit large clusters of small, pink eggs that grow into large, aggressive feeders. They pose a threat because in Hawai'i and Southeast Asia, again where they're not native, they have become agricultural pests. Unlike our native apple snails, which eat mostly algae, these exotic snails eat aquatic plants. Some reports have them completely denuding entire lakes, though there may be additional causes for that much destruction.

There are two species of birds that may be impacted by these new snails. Both Limpkins and Snail Kites feed almost exclusively on apple snails. The Limpkins appear to be adjusting just fine to the larger exotic snails and their numbers may be increasing due to this fact.

Snail Kites, which were down to fewer than 30 individuals in the mid 1960's and are listed as endangered, aren't adjusting as quickly. Snail Kite parents sometimes abandon their charges almost as soon as they fledge from the nest. These juveniles have a hard time grasping the larger snails and this can lead to starvation. So far there has been no definitive study published showing the reasons for the differences in the way these two species react to these new snail species.

One thing they both do is to avoid eating the albumen gland of female apple snails. Both species have been seen removing this orange, fleshy material before consuming what they've removed from the shell. Both use specialized bills to cut the columellar muscle and pull the snail from its shell. Many earlier texts say that Limpkins all have a right curve to their bills. But recent studies have found that they're similar to humans in a

way. About twenty percent of the human population is left-handed. Now it's been learned that about twenty percent of the Limpkins have a left curve to their bills. They can have a snail out of its shell in around fifteen seconds.

My thanks to Larry Connor, with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, for his response to my request for information for this article.

BEGINNER'S BIRD WATCHING CLASS

Ray Scory

Attending a class can be fun - new friends, new ideas and new adventures. A bird watching class can prepare you for a lifetime of new experiences. From a casual glance out your kitchen window to an exciting trip to some far-off exotic place, bird watching opportunities are limitless. One early Spring day in Connecticut, I discovered a Yellow-headed Blackbird in my backyard, because I glanced out the window.

I encourage new birders to attend a beginner's class. Our class starts October 26th and goes for three weeks. The program includes three two-hour indoor classes and three field trips culminating in a trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, one of the east coast's premier birding spots.

This class is given only once a year, so if you want to do something you have always wanted to do, or just freshen up your bird watching skills a bit, start now.

Class size is limited, so call me, Ray Scory, at 386-763-4260 for reservation. Then send \$25.00 check, payable to Halifax River Audubon, to Halifax River Audubon, P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166. Deadline is October 19th.

CHAPTER PROJECT

Barbara Kieran

On September 8th six members of our Chapter, David Hartgrove, Novetta Duffer, Peter Larmie, Dianne Gilpatrick, Bob North, and Barbara Kieran spent three hours clearing the Audubon Birding Trail at Sugar Mill Gardens in Port Orange.

When you visit the Gardens, take time to walk the Trail. Birds you might see are Cardinals, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Blue Jay, woodpeckers, and warblers. Now is a good time to see migratory birds. Hope to meet you on the Trail.

BOBCAT KITTEN

Pat Mihalic

I have a friend who is an animal control officer and she just picked up a Bobcat kitten. She was driving home on her day off when she spotted the kitten in a swale along SR 40 in Ormond Beach. She thought it was a domestic cat until she got up close and fed it a can of cat food. The growling and snarling were the key. She quickly identified it as a Bobcat.

The kitten had a large wound in its neck. There was a den nearby, but no sign of a mother cat and the kitten was very hungry which indicated that he had not eaten in a long time. She called rehabber Michelle Anthony and Michelle told her what to use to trap the kitten. She set the trap and came back a few hours later to check to see if the kitten had gone into the trap. She parked her truck in front of a house and started to walk towards the swale along the road when a man came out of the house and pointed a shotgun at her.

He had a break-in a few weeks before this and he thought she was an intruder. After a few moments of confusion she identified herself and explained that she was trying to capture the injured Bobcat kitten. He offered to help her and they walked down to the trap to see if the kitten was in it. He still had his shotgun and when she bent down to look in the cage he was standing over her with the shotgun pointed down in her direction.

The next thing she knew she heard a call over her walkie-talkie that a man was holding a woman hostage with a shotgun. It never dawned on her that she was the woman hostage. The next thing she knew there were three cop cars surrounding them and the officers got out of the cars with guns drawn. They were yelling at the man to put the gun down. Then they realized that "the woman" was a fellow officer and they began assuring her that they were going to rescue her. It seems that several motorists had witnessed the man escorting her down to the swale with a shotgun in his hand and they had called 911 to report that a man had a gun pointed at a woman standing along the road. After assuring everyone that she was not a hostage and was in no danger, she finally persuaded both sides to put their guns down and help her rescue the kitten that was in the trap.

She took the kitten to a rehabber in Christmas, FL that has a facility that can handle large cats. They work with Disney and do all of Disney's rehab for Animal Kingdom. In exchange, Disney provides veterinary care for all of the rehabber's injured wildlife. The Disney vets did a skin graft on the kitten's neck and returned it to the rehabber, but not before Disney's wildlife curator saw the kitten and offered to give it a home at Animal Kingdom.

It seems that a female Bobcat there had lost its mate several months ago and they were looking for a suitable male as a mate for her. The little kitten was a perfect

candidate. It will stay with the rehabber until it is old enough to be introduced to the adult female and then hopefully nature will take its course. What a nice ending to what started out as a disaster waiting to happen.

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a balance of \$7,630.82.

Board approved a motion to disperse the remainder of Ken Russell memorial money, \$175, and \$25 of Chapter funds to Sugar Mill Gardens. This money is designated to purchase two engraved bricks to be used in a walkway at the Gardens as a memorial to Ken and in honor of Halifax River Audubon.

Rachel noted that the Chapter financial report had been submitted to National Audubon as required.

Golden Dog Manager Willie Burns said 2008 calendars are available and that "Florida's Fabulous Lighthouses" books are now available.

Membership Chair John Carr reported 453 current members. In addition 149 complimentary newsletters are mailed monthly.

Field Trip Chair Bob North announced that the correct date for the Christmas Bird Count is December 22nd, not the 29th as printed in the brochure.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove attended the Environmental Council meeting and reported on the proceedings. He also reported that he had not gotten a reply from St. Johns River Water Management District to his inquiry regarding a proposed marina and yacht club south of the Dunlawton Bridge. He will contact the City of Port Orange to let them know that we are interested in obtaining information when development proposals are presented to the city.

Education Chair Peter Larmie submitted his report by e-mail. He said he would investigate whether some teachers did not fully use their 2007 Audubon Adventures kits. He suspected that the number might be considerable. In that case, he suggested we purchase *Florida's Fabulous . . .* books *Reptiles*, *Shorebirds*, and *Land Birds* and distribute them to thirteen middle schools, at a cost of about \$510. Peter said he would investigate further and report at the October Board meeting.

Vice President Paula Wehr attended two free seminars by SNAP Florida (Strategic Nonprofit Alliance Partnership, sponsored by James Moore and Co., P.L., CPAs and Consultants) and described its value to us. The purpose of the group is to train leaders of non-profit organizations. The Board voted to join.

The Board voted to divide 50/50 raffle donation money equally each quarter year between our wildlife rehabilitators Cathy Paynter, Chris Wise of the Mary Keller Bird Rehab Center at Ponce Inlet, Dee Ann Snyder, and Phyllis Lamborn.

OCTOBER 2007 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.

Friday, October 5

Halifax River Field Trip. Guana River State Park. Meet at Publix parking lot, Granada and Williamson Blvds, Ormond Beach. 7:00am. Led by Bob North, 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (3)

Saturday, October 6

Tomoka State Park. Celebrate inclusion in Florida Bird Trail. 2099 N. Beach St., Ormond Beach. All day.

Wednesday, October 10

MIWA Dinner (Merritt Island Wildlife Association). "Wildlife of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge" by Mike Legare, Refuge Biologist. 6:00pm. Debus Center at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex. \$20/person. Cash bar. Silent auction. RSVP to 321-861-2377 by October 4. (HRA is a corporate sponsor of Miwa.)

Saturday, October 13

"Birdscaping with Native Plants." Learn how to develop a bird sanctuary using Florida native plants. Full Moon Natives. 1737 Fern Park Drive Port Orange. 10am-1:30pm. Reservations 212-9923. Refreshments and light snacks provided. Free.

Saturday, October 13

Second Saturday Plant Sale. Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, 6400 N. Ocean Shore Blvd., Palm Coast. 10am-2pm. \$4/car.

Sunday, October 14

Big Sit. - See article.

Sunday, October 14

Pawpaw Chapter of FNPS Plant Sale. See article.

Monday, October 15

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Roseate Spoonbill: A Look into the Past, Present and Future of the Flame Bird" by Brynne Langan, Research Associate, Tavernier Science Center, Audubon of Florida. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, October 16

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. "Fire Management in Florida" by Zack Prusak, Florida Fire Manager for The Nature Conservancy. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Socializing 6:30, program 7:00, then refreshments and business meeting.

Saturday, October 20

Halifax River Field Trip. Lake Woodruff. Meet at Publix parking lot, Granada and Williamson Blvds., Ormond Beach. 7:00am. Led by David Hartgrove, 386-788-2630. Bring lunch. (3)

Saturday, October 20

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR. Native Plants Art Activity/ Pressing Leaves. Bonnie Carey. 9:00-11:00am. Learning Resource Center, 4490 Grand Ave., DeLeon Springs. Children encouraged to attend if accompanied by an adult. Free, donations welcomed. Call Beth Cushing at 386-785-0458. (HRA is a corporate Sponsor of Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR)

Friday, October 26

Halifax River Beginner's Bird Watching Class. Meet at Port Orange Public Library Auditorium, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. Instructor, Ray Scory. 9:30am to Noon. See article.

Tuesday-Thursday, October 30-November 1

Jacksonville to Sanford Boat Trip. See below.

Friday-Sunday, November 2-4

Sanford to Jacksonville Boat Trip. Eco-Heritage Boat Trip on the St. Johns River. Join St. Johns Riverkeeper for a 3-day cruise along the St. Johns River between Jacksonville and Sanford. Spectacular scenery, delicious lunches, fascinating speakers, historical re-enactors, and visit Trout Creek, Mount Royal, and Silver Glen Springs. Cruise boat is USCG inspected water taxi with comfortable seating, tables, excellent river viewing, and toilet facilities, and travels about 15 mph, unless restricted by speed zones. Your reservation includes boat travel, ground transportation, parking and overnight motels at Palatka and Astor plus bus ride to launch site or back at end of trip. \$525 per person. Reservation forms are available at website - <http://www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org/calendar.asp>. For more information, call 904-256-7591.

Wednesday, October 31

Halifax River Beginner's Bird Watching Class Field Trip. Meet at Port Orange Bridge. 8:00am. Led by Ray Scory.

Thursday Friday, Saturday, November 2-3

Audubon Assembly 2007. Please join us as we set our conservation priorities for 2008 at the Hilton in fabulous Cocoa Beach, Florida. There will be plenty of field trips and other cool stuff beginning November 1st, and Carl Hiaasen is scheduled to be our guest speaker at dinner on the 2nd. Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront rate before October 2 is \$119/night. To register log into www@audubonofflorida.org.

Saturday, November 3

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR. Rehabilitating Injured Animals. Kathy Paynter. 9:00-11:00am. Learning Resource Center, 4490 Grand Ave., DeLeon Springs. Children encouraged to attend if accompanied by an adult. Free, donations welcomed. Call Beth Cushing at 386-785-0458. (HRA is a corporate Sponsor of Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR.)

Program Meeting – October 15, 2007

ROSEATE SPOONBILL

A Look into the Past, Present and Future of the Flame Bird

Roseate Spoonbills are one of the avian world's most unusual and most beautiful species. The ungainly, spatula-like bill and the bare head of adults contrast with the gorgeous plumage ranging from pale to hot pink. The very color of their feathers contributed to near extinction in the early 1900's when birds were killed to provide adornments to women's hats. Around 1935 National Audubon took on the task of not only protecting Roseate Spoonbills in the Everglades but also designing a study to learn why their numbers remained so low more than 30 years after the killing of these birds was halted.



Photo courtesy of Ray Scory

Brynne Langan, Research Associate at Audubon of Florida's Tavernier Science Center, will travel to Daytona Beach to tell the story of the Roseate Spoonbill. She and her crew visit all the spoonbill colonies in Florida Bay during the nesting season, which runs from November through April. They monitor the nest success, band the nestlings and in 2006 started a satellite-monitoring program of adult birds.

Please join us at Sica Hall to learn more about the preservation and conservation work being done at Tavernier. Refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m. Brynne's presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

NOTICE: The date listed in the Halifax River Audubon 2007-2008 Brochure for the Christmas Bird Count is incorrect. The correct date for the Count is December 22.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PLANT SALE

Barbara Kieran

Sunday October 14, the Pawpaw Chapter will hold a Native Plant sale at the Atlantic High School, 1250 Reed Canal Rd. Port Orange. The hours are 10:00am to 6:00pm.

There will be classes on Landscape Design, Butterfly Garden Design, Urban Tree Care, and Plants to Attract Birds.

Dozens of species of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers will be available.

~ PLANT RAFFLES ~

COME WIN A PLANT!!

Dunlawton Bridge Field Trip

HRA'S NAVAL FORCES TRIUMPH!

Capt. Willie Burns

On Sunday, September 9 Halifax River Audubon had another in our series of Field Trips under the Dunlawton Bridge. It was another success. We had a total of about 25 people participate with seven people getting boat rides with Capt. Willie Burns in his boat *The Passing Wind*.

The highlight had to be an amphibious landing on the oyster bar north of the parking area. An injured Brown Pelican was flopped there, looking forlorn.

Capt. Willie safely landed an away team, comprised of David Hartgrove, Joe Santovenia, a new Chapter member, and Steve Petruniak as combat photographer. David and Joe quickly captured the bird with the aid of a quilt, and safely boxed him for transport.

We returned to the dock, and quickly and expediently transferred the boxed bird to Matt Bruce's car for a quick trip to the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet.

Three casualties were left on the beach. Actually, they were three friendly Mexican gentlemen lying on the shell who'd apparently been done in by too much alcohol.

Other than that, the high point was seeing Reddish Egrets on the rookery island, possibly nesting. If so, this would be a Really Big Event, the most northerly nest of Reddish Egrets yet reported.

Another bright spot was seeing a just out of the nest young Brown Pelican being fed by a parent on the rookery island. Most of his head was in the parent bird's bill to get food. His beak was shorter and blunter, and he still had baby fuzz in his head. He was white, with light brown wings. There were three or four of these young birds.

A clutter of American Oystercatchers, lots of egrets and some herons, one lonely Black Bellied Plover were seen, among others.

The thunderstorms passed well to our west and we had sun and blue skies. You should of been there!

**APPLICATION TO JOIN
NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
NEW MEMBERS ONLY**

\$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*.

Name _____

Address _____

Apt _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address _____

Mail check made out to **National Audubon Society** and this form to John W. Carr, 359 Brookline Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

E-41 / 7XCH

**APPLICATION TO JOIN
HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC**

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.

Name _____

Address _____

Apt _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email address _____

Mail check made out to **Halifax River Audubon**, and mail this form to John W. Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

John Carr

Expiration Date: Your membership expiration date can be found on the address label on our newsletter *The Pelican*. It may take some time for the National Audubon renewal date to take effect. If you have questions about your renewal date, please contact me at 255-9360 or jcarr14@juno.com.

National Audubon Renewal: Halifax River Audubon does not renew memberships in National Audubon. Please use the form that National Audubon sends you.

Halifax River Audubon Renewal: Send your renewal check for Chapter-Only membership (made out to Halifax River Audubon, Inc.) to John Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118-3311. The cost is \$20.00 for adults under the age of 65 and \$15.00 for senior citizens and students.

Welcome new members Elizabeth Abrams, Shawn Anderson, Mary Cooper, Paul Costello, Arden Dooley, Ruth & Ellis Hallman, Jean Ferris, Betty Freni, Barbara Gehlbach, Lois Gratton, Ned. B. Haag, Scarlett Howell, Timothy Karr, David M. Kenney, William Mazanec, Jerome C. McMahon, Gerald R. McLeod, Phyllis Miller, Martha Oddie, Richard G. Pumphrey, Donald Salyer, Judith Taylor, Ralph Tesnow, and Roni Weiss.

THE BIG SIT

Ray Scory

It pays to slow down and even stop sometimes. "Stop to smell the roses," is a well-known cliché. But amongst the frumpish rose petals can dwell wonderful surprises and beauty. You need not bounce frantically about to experience wonderful things. Try staying in one place.

This is what THE BIG SIT is all about. Stay in a seventeen-foot circle of your choice anywhere - from your window, a forested hammock or a spot on the Halifax River like I do. Count all the birds you see or hear in a twenty-four hour period. Make your own time - bird for an hour, all twenty-four hours or any length of time in between. Bring a friend, have a party, introduce new people to birding, but count the birds.

Previously I have watched two Great Horned Owls display under a bridge before sunrise and watched a flock of Roseate Spoonbill knife through a golden sunset. A Cooper's Hawk landed within fifteen feet of me while I was sitting. Didn't need binoculars.

The next BIG SIT event is on a Sunday, October 14, 2007.

Go to www.birdwatchersdigest.com and sign in, read the rules and have fun.

THE PELICAN

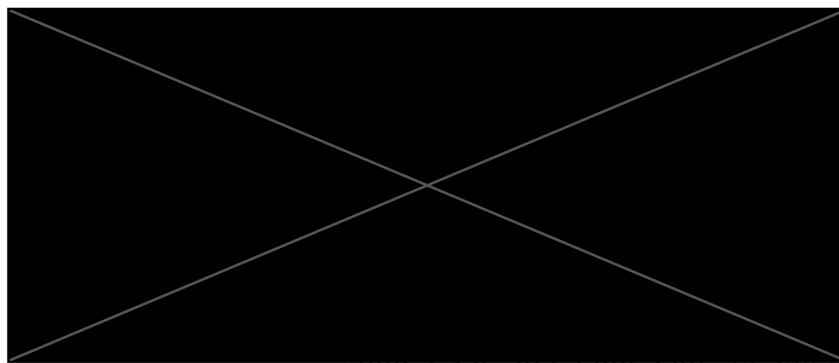


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OCTOBER 2007

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	Conservation Chair		
Novetta Duffer	Vice President	672-7745	nduffer@cfl.rr.com
Paula Wehr	Vice President	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer,	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways and Means		
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary	673-7679	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
Jean Rondeau	Corresponding Secretary	290-3555	indyjean44@comcast.net
John Carr	Membership Secretary,	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
John Roessler	Past President	255-9826	birdman3651@aol.com
.....			
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
Karen Mosher	At-Large Class of 2009	322-3790	f.r.mosher@worldnet.att.net
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2010	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Bob North	At-Large Class of 2010	352-302-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
.....			
Peter Larmie	Education	672-0042	flarmie@cfl.rr.com
Bob North	Field Trips	352-302-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
DeDee Blanchard	Hospitality	673-6541	dedee@clearwire.net
Paula Wehr	Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

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		

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
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In Recognition of David Hartgrove

Thank you

THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL

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For support of our 2007-2008 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 p.m. 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. 53 - NO. 5

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

November 2007

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

The powers that be are getting more nervous.

They've had their henchmen working diligently to thwart the will of the people through a variety of disinformation campaigns. Laws were passed in Tallahassee by their stooges who, we thought, were elected to represent our interests, and scare tactics masqueraded as facts in public debate.

The feisty folks behind the Florida Hometown Democracy amendment are not fading silently into the night. They appear to be gaining ground in the court of public opinion.

What has been a quiet battle waged largely behind the scenes to place a giant thumb on the scales of justice in favor of the development industry, is about to become the shrill whine of a well-oiled PR machine.

The latest voice added to the din is that of our Governor, Charlie Crist. There are those of us who still remember when he was known as "Chain Gang Charlie" for his publicity grabbing stunts as a state senator from St. Petersburg and his less well known tenure as Enron's man in the Florida Senate. The Governor says, "Our government is structured on the notion that local communities and their elected officials can best assess the needs of their residents... These (local) officials are empowered by their constituents to review changes to local land development regulations and the growth management act, and to make responsible decisions."

Either the Governor has been inhaling too many paint fumes while they're redoing a part of the Capitol or he thinks we're dumb enough to believe nostrums like this. Anyone who's ever spent time sitting through growth management workshops knows better. They have waited interminable hours for the chance to speak out against yet another change in zoning that was placed on the agenda at the behest of a developer's lawyer.

"The fix is in" and regardless of how many times we plead for sanity in growth planning decisions 'the bigger the better' is the rule because that's where the most money is.

The system is broken.

The emperor is marching down the street naked.

Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain.

It's time for us to attempt to make this a government like that Lincoln spoke of when he said it should be of, by and for, the people.

Our own Audubon of Florida has refused to take a position on Hometown Democracy. When asked (and they've been asked repeatedly) we hear vague explanations that the legislature will just change the rules again to accommodate developer interests. Maybe so, but let's take one step at a time.

If you have access to the internet I urge you to go online to <http://www.FloridaHometownDemocracy.com> and down-load a copy of the petition. Make a few copies. Sign one; get a friend, spouse or neighbor to sign also. Mail them to the PO Box in New Smyrna Beach. Or contact me and I'll see to it that you get as many petitions as you need. This is not a big task but it's something you can do to help ensure that our children and grandchildren will be able to see some of the natural treasures we value every day. The future is in our hands.

ADVICE FROM A REHABBER

Kathy Paynter

If you find a bird that has flown into a window, never leave it outside lying on ground where it is vulnerable to any passing predator or ants or heat exhaustion. Place a towel in the bottom of a large box or PAPER (not plastic) grocery bag. Place the bird on the towel, close the box so he's in the dark, and put the box in a warm, QUIET place.

Do not put any food or water in the container with the bird - he can't see in the dark any more than you can so he can't see to eat or drink. Besides, he will be too frightened or injured to eat or drink anyway. Wait two hours and then take the bird into a bathroom with no windows. Place the box in the tub, close the shower curtain, and open the box. Watch the bird move - if he stumbles, falls over, or can't fly, place him back in the box, and call a rehabber.

If on the other hand he can fly UP and around the tub area, then wait until he lands, turn out the light so he can't see you coming, gently scoop him up, place him back in the box, take the box outside, open it up and enjoy the sight of him flying off to freedom.

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lomax for their donation to our Chapter supported school educational program.

2007-2008 CALENDAR

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

Thursday Friday, Saturday, November 1-3

Audubon Assembly, Cocoa Beach. Programs and awards. Hilton Cocoa Beach Oceanfront.

Friday, November 2

Halifax River Beginner Bird Watching Class. Meet at Port Orange Public Library Auditorium, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. Instructor, Ray Scory. 9:30am to Noon.

Saturday, November 3

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR. Rehabilitating Injured Animals. Kathy Paynter. 9:00-11:00am. Learning Resource Center, 4490 Grand Ave., DeLeon Springs. Children encouraged to attend accompanied by an adult. Free, donations welcomed. Call Beth Cushing at 386-785-0458.

Tuesday, November 6

Reservation deadline for Echo Boat Tour at Marine Discovery Center, New Smyrna Beach. See entry for November 17.

Wednesday, November 7

Halifax River Beginner Bird Watching Class Field Trip. Volusia Landfill. Meet at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd., Port Orange. 8:00am. Led by Ray Scory.

Friday, November 9

Halifax River Beginner Bird Watching Class. See Friday, November 2.

Saturday, November 10

Halifax River Field Trip. Washington Oaks Gardens/ Matanzas State Park. Meet at Publix parking lot, Granada and Williamson Blvds. 7:00am. Led by Bob North, 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (2)

Saturday, November 10

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. River to Sea Preserve. 9805 N. Oceanshore Blvd., Marineland. (North on A1A). Meet at Publix parking lot at Granada & Williamson Blvds. in Ormond Beach. 8:30am. Bring water, sunscreen, hat, camera, binoculars, ID books, insect repellent. Contact Sonya Guidry at 386-690-1787, sonya940@cs.com for more information.

Saturday, November 10

Second Saturday Plant Sale. Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, 6400 N. Ocean Shore Blvd., Palm Coast. 10am-2pm. \$4/car.

Wednesday, November 14

Halifax River Beginner Bird Watching Class Field Trip. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd., Port Orange. 7:00am. Led by Ray Scory.

Thursday, November 15

Halifax River Audubon Field Trip. Deadline for reservations for DeLeon Springs boat trip. Contact Jean Rondeau at jrondeau1@cfl.rr.com or 290-3555. See article.

Saturday, November 17

Echo Boat Tour at Marine Discovery Center, New Smyrna Beach. 1:00-3:00pm. Cost is \$18.00. Call Sylva Parillo at 386-734-4821 for required reservation. Sponsored by West Volusia Audubon Society. Mail check to WVAS, PO Box 1268, DeLand, FL 32721-1268.

Monday, November 19

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Wildlife of Alaska" by Joe Shannon, Naturalist. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, November 20

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. "Flora and Fauna in a Changing Environment at Tomoka Basin State Parks" by Charley DuToit, Park Biologist. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Socializing 6:30, program 7:00, then refreshments and business meeting.

Sunday, November 25

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

Friday, November 30

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Publix parking lot, US-1 and Ridge Blvd., South Daytona. 8:00am. Led by John Carr, 386-255-9360. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, December 1

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Publix parking lot, US-1 and Ridge Blvd., South Daytona. 8:00am. Led by Bob North, 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, December 1

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR. Identifying Venomous and Non-venomous Snakes of Florida. Peter May and Terry Farrell. 9:00-11:00am. Learning Resource Center, 4490 Grand Ave., DeLeon Springs. Children encouraged to attend accompanied by an adult. Free, donations welcomed. Call Beth Cushing at 386-785-0458.

Saturday, December 1

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Turkey Creek Preserve. 8:30am. Meet at Publix parking lot at Dunlawton and Williamson Blvds., Port Orange. Bring water, sunscreen, hat, camera, binoculars, ID books, insect repellent. Contact Sonya Guidry at 386-690-1787, sonya940@cs.com for more information.

THE BIG SIT REVISITED

Ray Scory

October 16, 2007 Sitting THE BIG SIT at the Port Orange Bridge is an adventure. Sitting from 6:00AM to 7:00PM in a 17 foot circle looking for birds is truly a birding adventure. John Carr and I did it last Sunday. A Sunday at the Bridge is more than an adventure. It is a delightful cacophony of motion.

The people there on Sunday are recreationalists - dog walkers, coffee sippers and newspaper readers, bicyclists, walkers, bikers, boaters, sightseers, fishing people, people napping in their cars and even people interested in birds. Boats go in the water, boats motor by, boats sail by, birds flying, volunteer police - helpful, friendly, watchful. Boat-tailed Grackles squawking, chattering, whistling, screeching - all day long, every second. All the time everything is in motion at the Bridge, even the Sun moves steadily from east to west.

The birds are here at the Bridge - 42 bird species counted. Magnificent views of two Peregrine Falcons knifing through the intensely blue sky. Masses of Laughing Gulls and Rookery Island teeming with birds. Hundreds of Pelicans, many first year immatures. Rafts of White Ibis silhouetted from a sun setting canopy of pink trimmed clouds and darkening blue. Black Skimmers and hundreds of Royal and Caspian terns braving the winds on emerging oyster bars. A Common Yellowthroat and Palm Warbler, too.

On a Sunday, once a year, I choose to sit THE BIG SIT at the Bridge to watch the birds, the activity, to enjoy it all. It's a wonder.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a balance of \$6,906.28. Payment was made for our two insurance policies covering Board actions and field trip travel. After discussion on possible actions concerning a maturing \$10,000 CD, a Finance Committee was named with Jean Rondeau as Chair, Rachel Ramsey, John Roessler and Paula Wehr. Consideration shall be given to a possible need for attorney's fees for the Port Orange Sanctuary development.

Membership Chair John Carr reported approximately 460 current members.

Jean Rondeau reported that reservations will be needed for the DeLeon Springs boat trip by November 15th.

President David Hartgrove reported that he has been asked to write two letters from the Chapter; one letter to the State Nursery Association advocating Chapter support for native plants; and another to DEP supporting their habitat restoration in Alachua and Marion counties. Copies of his letters are available.

The Pelican Vol. 51, No. 5, November 2007

Education Chair Peter Larmie reported via e-mail that 2/3 to 3/4 of teachers that received Audubon Adventures kits last year used them.

The Board unanimously approved \$100.00 to purchase a new mist net for Meret Wilson's bird banding project at Tomoka State Park. It was also decided to make that expense a regular item in each year's budget.

Corresponding Secretary Jean Rondeau has prepared a financial request letter to be mailed to last year's contributors and other businesses as appropriate.

A Wonderful Day

"GOLDEN DOG" AT TOMOKA PARK

Willie Burns, Proprietor

Saturday Oct. 6, 2007, was indeed a Wonderful Day (eventually). The Golden Dog team was straining at the leash all week, ready to go to Tomoka State Park for the Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail Ceremony. Then the weather reports drizzled in. "Strong winds and heavy showers all day." Swell. We had pop up tents from Ormond Beach, but rain would destroy both our books and audience participation at the event. So there I was, setting up after driving through rain, and muttering that I should have stayed in bed.

David Hartgrove was there, and we sat and waited for someone, anyone, to stop at our booth. Paula Wehr was next to us with her booth for the Loop and Trail folks. Peggy Yokubonus was there to help if needed. And finally, someone purchased two books.

By noon we'd sold several books. This continued, with a total of twelve sold by the end of the day at two PM along with two tee shirts and some rainforest coffee. It was a good sales day after all. We did have a sprinkle of rain, but moved our tables further under the tent. No Problem! No high winds! Just enough of a breeze to keep us cool.

Gina Holt arrived with two of her birds. She had her lovely little American Kestrel, Katie, and her Eastern Screech Owl, Frodo. This brought many people to our booth to see and talk about the birds. Few made a purchase, but informing the public is our main mission. Her owl especially drew in hordes of people. David played the owl's calls on his tape recorder, and I showed folks the Screech Owl pictures in our "...Birds" book. All in all it was a successful and fun day, albeit a bit hot.

The Golden Dog retrieved \$233.00 for the short day. In fact, Willie even got to pet and play a little with a nice old Golden Retriever who came by with his lady. Thirteen years young, with a very grey face to show his age, the dog leaned on Willie's leg as Willie gently stroked his head, neck, and shoulders. Bliss!

201	163	246	101	62	Swift, Chimney
1	2	3	2	9	Hummingbird, Ruby-throat
54	28	23	31	32	Kingfisher, Belted
21	13	21	12	23	Woodpecker, Red-headed
139	113	90	90	165	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
75	50	57	57	107	Woodpecker, Downy
1					Woodpecker, Hairy
9	3	4	3	11	Flicker, Yellow-shafted
58	54	33	38	66	Woodpecker, Pileated
1		1		1	Wood-Pee-wee, Eastern
2	1	1	1	1	Flycatcher, Acadian
1		1	1	1	Phoebe, Eastern
26	30	5	2	4	Flycatcher, Great Crested
1		5	3	7	Kingbird, Eastern
11	2	9	2		Kingbird, Gray
60	60	90	28	1	Martin, Purple
9	1	3			Swallow, Tree
	48				Swallow, N. Rough-winged
		6			Swallow, Bank
3	86	55	19	38	Swallow, Cliff
208	191	152	152	180	Swallow, Barn
18	22	9	10		Jay, Blue
96	95	124	46	124	Scrub-Jay, Florida
114	379	467	119	200	Crow, American
39	22	27	84	34	Crow, Fish
	5	4	2	20	crow sp.
146	125	118	95	210	Chickadee, Carolina
1					Titmouse, Tufted
10					Nuthatch, White-breasted
157	135	100	126	18	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
1		1		152	Wren, Carolina
5	2	1	1		Wren, House
93	41	60	40	2	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
12	23	1	4	63	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
1	3	2		42	Bluebird, Eastern
1		2			Veery
105			1	2	Thrush, Swainson's
3	4	1	3		Thrush, Hermit
364	310	174	188	4	Robin, American
18	15	6	4	8	Catbird, Gray
43	45	4	14	179	Mockingbird, Northern
1178	2439	1487	1752	10	Thrasher, Brown
49	17	28	19	21	Shrike, Loggerhead
1	3	1		256	Starling, European
1		1			Pipit, American
25	8	18	6	32	Vireo, White-eyed
1	1	1			Vireo, Blue-headed
1					Vireo, Yellow-throated
1				61	Vireo, Red-eyed
4					Warbler, Tennessee
19	3	8	4		Warbler, Orange-crowned
					Warbler, Nashville
				18	Parula, Northern

7	7	13	6	2	Warbler, Yellow
2				2	Warbler, Chestnut-sided
				2	Warbler, Magnolia
1		1	3	1	Warbler, Cape May
		9	2	2	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
				1	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
1	1			1	Warbler, Black-throated Green
4	5	4	5	13	Warbler, Blackburnian
27	7	12	20	30	Warbler, Yellow-throated
25	1	14	2	16	Warbler, Pine
8	3	8	1	2	Warbler, Prairie
3	4	1	4	2	Warbler, Palm
17	2	10	16	2	Warbler, Black-and-white
	1		1	16	Redstart, American
10	3		1	1	Warbler, Prothonotary
5	2	1	1	3	Ovenbird
	2	1	1	1	Waterthrush, Northern
1	2	1	1		Waterthrush, Louisiana
40	14	7	19	6	Warbler, Kentucky
3			1	6	Yellowthroat, Common
308	213	202	226	8	Tanager, Summer
1		3		310	Cardinal, Northern
1				2	Grosbeak, Blue
21	4	19	3	1	Bunting, Indigo
		3		15	Towhee, Eastern
				3	Sparrow, Chipping
		1		3	Sparrow, Savannah
					Sparrow, Seaside
				1	Bobolink
167	89	26	158	63	Blackbird, Red-winged
12	1		5	2	Meadowlark, Eastern
354	507	296	510	144	Grackle, Boat-tailed
209	393	93	140	131	Grackle, Common
35	20		51		Cowbird, Brown-headed
				1	blackbird sp.
		2			Oriole, Orchard
		2	1	10	Oriole, Baltimore
				13	Finch, House
34	46	59	13	15	Sparrow, House

September 15, 2007 Observers: Arja Applegren, Dot Backes, Cindy Barrow, Kathy Booth, Norman Boulterisse, Michael Brothers, Chandra Bruce, Matt Bruce, Charlie Buchy, Maritta Buchy, John Carr, Beth Cushing, Roger Cutler, Gail Domroski, Richard Domroski, John Eggert, David Hartgrove, Keryn Hoffman, Barbara Kieran, J. Knowlton, Luddy Lamberton, Bob North, Sylvia Parillo, Kaysea Pivec, Rachel Ramsey, Ralph Resch, Harry Robinson, John Roessler, Ray Scory, Arnette Sherman, David Stock, Sarah Taylor, Larry Wallberg, Helen Washington, Paula Wehr, Mary Lou Weiner, Meret Wilson.

Species: 141
 Individuals: 14,049
 Temperature: 74-92-80
 Wind: ENE 10-18-10
 %Clouds: 10-40-30
 Precipitation: none

Note: 2004 count was not held because of weather conditions. Count listings from 1997 through 2007 are available.

October 15 Program Meeting Review

ROSEATE SPOONBILL

A Look into the Past, Present and Future
Of the Flame Bird

Paula Wehr

Brynne Langan told us some extremely interesting things about Roseate Spoonbills and her adventures researching them. Brynne is based at the Audubon of Florida Tavernier Science Center far south in Florida Bay. Audubon of Florida has been monitoring Roseate Spoonbills in the Bay since the 1930s. The current study is 10 years old.

Banding in Tampa Bay and Florida Bay began in 2003. The study is important not only for the birds but because Roseate Spoonbills are considered to be an indicator species for the overall health of the Everglades. The conditions required for Spoonbills to thrive are the same conditions that indicate a healthy ecosystem in the Everglades.

The plume trade in the late 1800s to early 1900s almost sent Roseate Spoonbills to extinction. A single pelt was sold for \$5, a fortune at the time. The cruel irony, however, is that the lovely pink faded from the feathers after the birds were killed so the decorated hats had a short shelf life.

Guy Bradley, an Audubon game warden in Monroe County was killed protecting the colonies of wading birds, including Roseate Spoonbills. His death prompted enactment of a law banning plume hunting. By 1920 there were believed to be only 20-40 birds remaining in the Everglades. Since then, spoonbill population has gone up and down over the years due to the population explosion/development in 1950-60 and government decisions to redirect water flow in the Everglades.

Roseate Spoonbills breed throughout the season running from November through April and build their nests in the red and black mangroves. Three to five eggs are laid in nests 3 to 50 feet off the ground. The 12-18 inch nests are lined with green leaves. After 21 days of incubation, the chicks hatch, covered with light pink downy fuzz, the size of an egg, and with conical bills. By six weeks, they are nearly adult size, and their bills have flattened out.

They feed by tactile location. The tips of their bills are lined with pores connected to nerve cables. As the birds sweep their slightly open bills through shallow water, the pores contact tiny food in the water. The nerve sends a signal to close the bill, capturing the food.

Banding is done to understand movement of the birds. We identify, count the eggs, and observe the hatchlings. Flight lines of adults are observed and recorded. When chicks are 10-20 days old – and their legs are adult width -- they are banded with a Fish & Wildlife tag on the “ankle.” A unique alpha-numeric band is placed above the tibia which allows the tag to be seen while the

birds forage. Of 2,300 nestlings banded over the past five years, 230 (10%) have been re-sighted throughout the state. The first birds banded are coming into breeding age now.

Banding provides good movement data, but the birds must be re-sighted in order to capture data. A new tracking method is the satellite transmitter, weighing 30 grams and using solar power. The transmitter weighs less than 3% of the adult’s weight. A transmission is sent once each hour (during daylight) to a NOAA satellite providing the GPS location of the bird, date/time, altitude, flight speed and heading. Brynne downloads this data every three days. Satellite transmitters provide ongoing information, but must be attached to adult birds, captured using mist nets, net guns or nest traps. Brynne showed us a picture of mist nets set up while they lured birds to them with decoys. The decoys fooled the birds, but not us. They were a flock of Florida yard-flamingoes painted to look a bit like spoonbills.

Prior to this banding study, it was believed that Roseate Spoonbills lived approximately 7 years. A recently recaptured bird was wearing a leg band put on him 15 years and 4 months ago! Banding and satellite tracking data have also provided information on natal site fidelity, how far Roseate Spoonbills fly during the day, when they leave the nest and where they go during wet and dry cycles.

It takes years of data before accurate analysis can begin. The hope is that data will provide maps to the habitat which should be preserved and maintained.

If you see a banded Roseate Spoonbill
call 305-852-5318 or log on to
http://www.audubonofflorida.org/who_tavernier_reportspoonbills.html

Program Meeting – November 19, 2007

WILDLIFE OF ALASKA

Bears, Birds, Moose & More – Alaska remains a vast home to multiple species. It has one of the only cities in the United States that has a moose problem. Hundreds of moose live within the city limits of Anchorage. The list of wildlife to be observed in Alaska is long, ranging from animals to migratory birds. For example, 13,000 Trumpeter Swans nest in Alaska. It is also home to more than 445 species of birds. As many as 140 million seabirds feed in Alaskan waters.

Joe Shannon has traveled to Alaska numerous times and has been a lecturer on Norwegian Cruise Lines. Don't miss his photo show of Alaskan wildlife: come early to enjoy refreshments with other HRA members and guests at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill.

Saturday, December 8 Boat Trip – Reserve now!

DELEON SPRINGS BOAT TRIP

Jean Rondeau

Halifax River Audubon has planned a leisurely boat trip for us from DeLeon Springs State Park to wend our way down stream from the spring to Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge borders the St. Johns River and is comprised of 19,000 acres of freshwater marsh, swamp, and uplands. Our excursion



boat will travel for about 1½ hours and will give us good viewing on both sides of the lake. We'll be able to sit offshore from areas that we can't visit by foot and view the amazing birds and animals including 21 species of waterfowl that overwinter here, including Fulvous Whistling Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers. Bald Eagles nest here from November

through April.

Other birds you may see include Sandhill Cranes, Limpkins, Tree Swallows, warblers, and Wood Ducks.

Otters fish in canals and ponds, and bobcats prowl

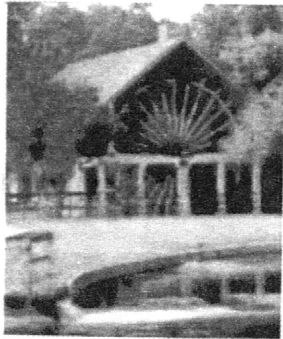


the dikes. The boat is accessible by wheel chair and is an easy walk for those of us who can't walk far.

After we return to DeLeon Springs, those who want to may enjoy lunch at the Old Spanish Sugar Mill and Griddle House, where you might include the specialty – grill-your-own-pancakes – made from grain stone-ground on site with French buhr millstones.

What's more, there is excellent swimming in the spring, 72 degrees year-round.

Make your reservations now for the trip; cutoff is November 15. Contact Jean Rondeau at 290-3555 or irondeaul@cfl.rr.com.



The cost of the boat is \$14.00, to be paid when we assemble for the boat ride. If you plan to car pool, meet at the Publix parking lot at Granada and Williamson Blvds. in Ormond Beach by 8:00am. There is an additional cost of \$2.00 for car pooling. If you don't car pool be sure to be at the park by 9:30; the boat will leave at 10:00. Park entrance fee is \$5.00 per vehicle for up to 8 people. The park address on Hwy 17 is 601 Ponce DeLeon Blvd., DeLeon Springs, FL 32130. Phone 386-985-4212.

Letter from Meret

MIST NETTING AT TOMOKA

Week of October 9: I began my second year of Avian Flu studies by collecting cloacal swabs for UCLA. Last year some Avian Flu was found, not in my birds, but none was to be of the human strain. Hopefully we will never see it. Collection is not easy for me or the birds and I do it after all other data is collected so they can be released immediately.

The DNA studies are an extra bonus. By taking 2 feathers, the Stable Isotopes show where the bird just came from and where its origin earlier in the season was. Collecting feathers from local birds puts Ormond in the database for future comparison. Migrating birds caught here can be compared with data already in the database and give information about the bird's history. A wonderful opportunity to learn more about birds caught in TSP!

Another study done on all birds is a notation about the amount of fat that is present. A non-migrating bird whether resident or overwintering will not show fat on the breast or other parts of the body. When a bird is getting ready to migrate, even after a short stay in the park, it will start to deposit the classic yellow fat just like in our own bodies. The bird depends on this collection of fat as a food source during its flight from one place to another, including over large bodies of water where no food is available.

A total of 43 birds were captured or recaptured and another wonderful recapture occurred this week as well. A Gray Catbird (GRCA) was recaptured on 10/11/07 in net 19 at 7:00 AM. It was originally banded here on 10/18/2005 from net 6 at 8:00. These 2 nets are about 50 yards apart! Amazing. Two years ago it was a hatch year bird and now a lovely adult that probably has had 2 broods of babies by now.

Note: Halifax River Audubon member Meret Wilson has undertaken a multiyear study of birds at Tomoka State Park. To read more of Meret's diary and see close-up pictures of birds she's netted, log into our website www.halifaxriveras.org.

Welcome to new members Elizabeth Abrams and Marion Monaghan.

WHOOPING CRANE MIGRATION

Operation Migration set October 10th as their target date to begin flying to Florida with the next group of 17 cranes following an ultra-light aircraft. You can follow their progress on their website at www.operationmigration.org. Click on "In the Field".

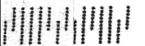
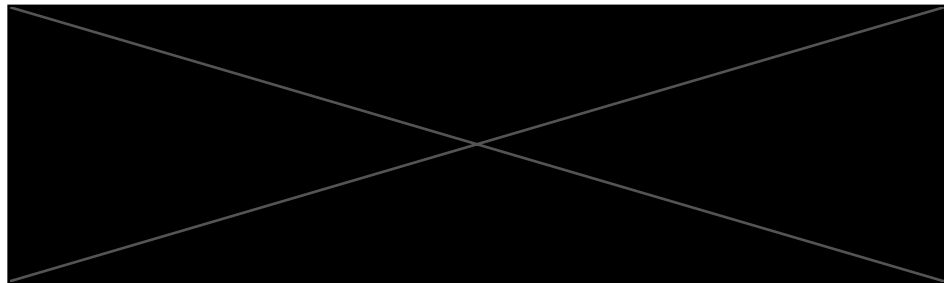
THE PELICAN



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NOVEMBER 2007

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David Hartgrove	President,	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
	Conservation Chair		
Novetta Duffer	Vice President	672-7745	nduffer@cfl.rr.com
Paula Wehr	Vice President	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer,	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways and Means		
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary	673-7679	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
Jean Rondeau	Corresponding Secretary	290-3555	jrondeau1@cfl.rr.com
John Carr	Membership Secretary,	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
John Roessler	Past President	255-9826	birdman3651@aol.com
.....			
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
Karen Mosher	At-Large Class of 2009	322-3790	f.r.mosher@worldnet.att.net
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2010	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
Bob North	At-Large Class of 2010	352-302-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
.....			
Peter Larmie	Education	672-0042	flarmie@cfl.rr.com
Bob North	Field Trips	352-302-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
DeDee Blanchard	Hospitality	673-6541	dedee@clearwire.net
Paula Wehr	Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	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		

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON
appreciates the support of the newsletter
The Pelican by

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In Recognition of David Hartgrove

Thank you

THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL

COLONIAL COLONY

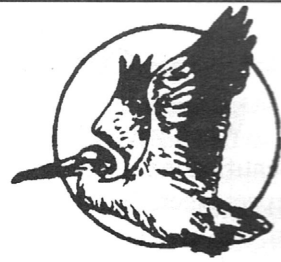
ORMOND BEACH GARDEN CLUB

For support of our 2007-2008 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 p.m. 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. 53 - NO. 6

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

December 2007

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Trip difficulty. (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, December 1

Halifax River Field Trip. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at Publix parking lot, US-1 and Ridge Blvd., South Daytona. 8:00am. Led by Bob North, 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, December 1

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR. Identifying Venomous and Non-venomous Snakes of Florida. Peter May and Terry Farrell. 9:00-11:00am. Learning Resource Center, 4490 Grand Ave., DeLeon Springs. Children encouraged to attend if accompanied by an adult. Free, donations welcomed. Call Beth Cushing at 386-785-0458.

Saturday, December 1

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Turkey Creek Preserve (Possible Maple St. Native Nursery Visit.) 8:30am. Meet at Publix parking lot at Dunlawton and Williamson Blvds., Port Orange. Contact Sonya Guidry at 386-690-1787, sonya940@cs.com for more information.

Monday, December 5

Halifax River Audubon Board Meeting.

Saturday, December 8

Second Saturday Plant Sale. Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, 6400 N. Ocean Shore Blvd., Palm Coast. 10am-2pm. \$4/car.

Saturday, December 8

Halifax River Field Trip. DeLeon Springs State Park, 601 Ponce DeLeon Blvd., DeLeon Springs. \$4/car. Boat Trip. Meet at Publix parking lot, Granada and Williamson Blvds. 8:00am. Boat departs 9:00am. Breakfast and/or lunch available at Sugar Mill Restaurant in Park. Boat trip cost - \$12, trip time - 1½ hours. Reservation required. Call Jean Rondeau, 386-290-3555.

Monday, December 17

Halifax River Program Meeting. "Shorebird ID Using Size and Structure" by Gian Basili, St. Johns Water Management District. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Pot-Luck Dinner at 6:00; program at 7:00pm. See article.

Tuesday, December 18

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. SICA Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Pot-luck

dinner and plant auction with Volusia\Flagler Sierra Club. Dinner at 6:30.

Saturday, December 22

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

KNOW YOUR PRESIDENT

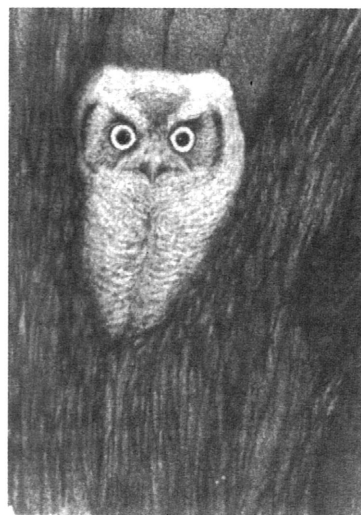
HRA President David Hartgrove presented a program to the Sea Rocket Native Plant Society. This write-up is what he wrote about himself, which was published in The Limpkin, newsletter of the Space Coast Audubon Society.

"I went to work for Florida Power & Light the summer I graduated from high school. I bought my first field guide in 1976, the day after an encounter with a Loggerhead Shrike. My wife and I moved to Daytona Beach in early 1981 from Miami, where she was born and I was raised. In 1986 I saw a brief public service announcement on TV early one Sunday morning asking for volunteers to work on the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas. Up until then I was a novice backyard birder.

My wife and I spent the next 5 breeding seasons working on the Atlas project. We met and spent time in the field with very experienced people and learned a lot. Along the way I began to read and do more research on birding. In 1989 I became the Conservation Chair for Halifax River Audubon, a position I've held ever since. I compile the Daytona Beach Christmas Bird Count and am

the county compiler for The North American Migration Counts in Spring and Fall each year. I've led birding trips for the museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach, the Nature Conservancy, the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival and other Audubon chapters.

I've worked for FPL for over 42 years and one of the things I'll miss most when I retire will be the use of their bucket truck to put baby owls back in their nests."



Screech Owl

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

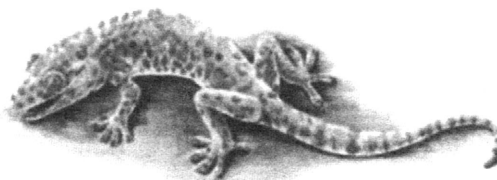
When you're listed as the person to answer bird identification questions, you just never know what to expect when the phone rings. A short while back I got a call one evening and the woman at the other end of the line asked if I could help her identify a bird. She said the bird sang or called at all hours of the night and disturbed her sleep. Being too late in the season for a Chuck-will's-widow to be calling, I told her I thought the bird must be a young male Northern Mockingbird. She said, "No, I don't think so. All this bird says is 'Uh Oh'." Now I'd heard of a mockingbird mimicking a cell phone ringing and a variety of other things, but this certainly didn't sound like any bird call I was familiar with. She told me she had recorded the calls and asked if I wanted her to play the tape into the phone. When she did I was sure this was a new call to me. She offered to send me the tape if I thought it would help solve the mystery. Several days later a Sony micro cassette recorder arrived in the mail.

After listening to the tape several times, I was convinced it was some kind of frog, perhaps the creamy colored Cuban tree frog we see so often around porch lights or landing with a splat on our picture windows. These interlopers are displacing our native tree frogs at an alarming rate. Frogs, iguanas, snakes, birds, all kinds of invasive plants and plant diseases are making life (and sometimes even survival) difficult for our Florida native species. The arrival of the tape set in motion a chain of events to try to solve the mystery of the "Uh Oh" call.

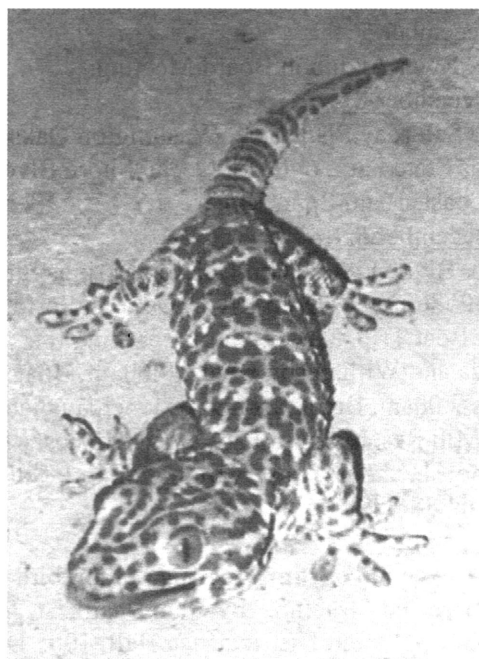
I quickly located several online libraries of frog and toad calls but none, including the Cuban tree frog, sounded remotely right. I thought of calling Michael Brothers, Director of the Marine Science Center, to see if he had any ideas. I called and caught him just as he was walking into Publix. He listened as I played the tape into the phone. He was stumped too but thought something about the call sounded vaguely familiar. He said he had a CD of frog and toad calls at home and would get back to me. When he called back a short while later he said nothing sounded like "Uh, Oh."

Next, I called Michael Meisenburg, president of Alachua Audubon. Since some of that chapter's members are professors at the University of Florida, I thought one might be able to help out. It turns out that their membership chair is a man named Paul Moler. Paul retired after 28 years as staff herpetologist with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He's the last person to have discovered a new species of frog in the United States. He sounded like he might just be able to solve our mystery. I called him, introduced myself and asked if he'd help solve the mystery. He asked me to play the tape. After the third call on the tape he said I could stop. He said it wasn't a bird or a frog but a Tokay Gecko. At up to fourteen inches, they're the largest gecko in the world and

are native to Southeast Asia. Paul's been to Viet Nam four times in the past six years on collecting trips and said there, they make sleep difficult too. They've been imported here for years in the pet trade and there are breeding all over south Florida as far north as Merritt Island and St. Petersburg. Add Volusia County to their list of colonized territory now. Though considered arboreal, they prefer to stay on or around buildings. So they pose little threat to birds or their nests. They aren't poisonous but can deliver a painful bite if cornered. They love to eat roaches.



The woman who called me is muralist and artist, Summer Kirn. Before she contacted me she tried a little exercise in human relations. She asked a group of people with whom she was standing in the check out line at Publix if they'd ever heard a bird call that went "Uh, Oh". Their looks of stunned silence and uneasy disregard spoke volumes about the state of human interaction in our increasingly isolated society. When I called her to say the mystery had been solved I learned that she was born on the big island in Hawaii. There, it's considered good luck to have a gecko in the house. So she's decided to learn to live happily with the call of the "Uh, Oh", even if it does disturb her sleep.



Editor's note: Google Tokay Gecko in Wikipedia to hear a recording of the male's call. Yep – it's "Uh Oh"

December 17 Program Meeting

SHOREBIRD ID WITH GIAN BASILI

Paula Wehr

Isn't it frustrating when you see a mudflat just full of shore birds – but they are pretty far away? Or it's late in the day and the sun is setting which throws the entire scene into a silhouette. Do you wonder how some of your birder



friends can identify all the species in the mixed flock when you are having difficulty picking out a field mark? Shorebird ID can be very difficult because so many species are similar.



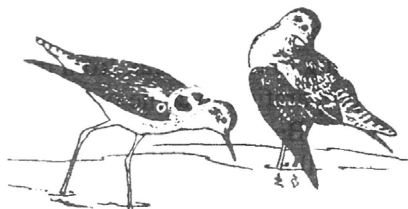
Join us at the December 17 monthly meeting when Gian Basili will provide tips for making the identification using size and structure of the birds. Learn how to differentiate species by their feeding habits, how they stand or how they move.



Gian holds a M.S. and Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is employed currently by the St. Johns River Water Management District as Assistant Director, Department of Operations and Land Resources. Before joining the District in 1999, Gian served as Director of Ornithology for the Florida Audubon Society.



As noted below in the newsletter, the December meeting begins at 6:00 pm with a potluck inner. Gian will begin his presentation at 7:00 pm. See you there.



Birds in order from top: Baldpate, Ruddy Turnstone, Least tern, Herring Gull, Yellowlegs.

HOLIDAY POT LUCK DINNER

Before our speaker Gian Basili presents our program, we will enjoy a potluck dinner brought by our members and guests. Our fabulous Refreshment Chair DeDee Blanchard will supply turkey breast, ham, desserts, drinks, and table settings. The rest of us will bring side dishes, appetizers or salads. We will start serving at 6:00 and the hall will be open to us at 5:00; the program will start at 7:00. DeDee says for those of you who will bring a hot dish and need to keep it hot, to call her.

The Pelican Vol. 51, No. 6, December 2007

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported an operating balance of \$6,670.48. The Board discussed the need to balance investments of our portfolio funds. Some funds will be put in a Money Market account and the some will be put in CD's or possibly a mutual fund. Jean Rondeau will research socially responsible mutual funds.

Willie Burns reported a Golden Dog sales balance of over \$80. New books for sale are "Florida's Birds", "Common Coastal Birds of Florida and the Caribbean" and "Parrots of South Florida".

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove discussed the pros and cons of the "Rural Land Stewardship" proposal and our Chapter's position.

Membership Chair John Carr reported 470 members Board approved the purchase of 21 Audubon Adventures kits for \$616.00 as requested by Education Chair Peter Larmie. Board further approved the purchase of three books for a Horizon Elementary School teacher. John Carr donated funds to purchase "Florida's Fabulous Water Birds", "Florida's Fabulous Birds" and "Florida's Fabulous Reptiles".

Jean Rondeau reported sending 16 letters to request funding donations to support the Chapter this fiscal year and will send more if there are positive results.

Board approved \$100 donation for prizes to student winners in the Volusia Science Fair, a project of the three county Audubon Chapters

Board approved a \$20 Holiday bonus for the Sica Hall maintenance man.

OUR CHAPTER'S WONDERFUL WEB SITE

What a treat it is to see all the good things Paula Wehr has added to our Halifax River Audubon web site. You can see beautiful pictures by our Chapter members, current bird count results, and our latest newsletter at www.halifaxriveras.org. The newest additions on our Links page are links to the web pages of the three other Audubon chapters in our area: West Volusia Audubon, Flagler Audubon, and Southeast Volusia Audubon.

Welcome to new members Mrs. Dorothy Berry, Mr. Andres Contempo, Mr. Mory Eck, Mrs. Virginia Fortenberry, Salley M. Hobling, Roxanne Horn, Ms. Susan Kidd, Mr. Kendal Lambert, Ms Jean Lewis, Ms. Muriel A. McLaughlin, Ms. Kathryn Morris, Ms. Nancy Murray, Ms. Katherine Pernat, Ms Donna Peterson, Ms Adrienne K. Remer, Mrs. Kathleen Riban, Mr. Mathias G Serwas, Mr. Kenneth Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Spiller, C. Ruby Stern, Becky M. Tate, Ms Irene Tworkowski, Ms Lois C. White, Ms Susan Wilson, Lynda D. Wilson Ms Lisa Windham, and Ms Helen Woodfall. Please join us on our field trip activities and our interesting programs.

Note from the teacher

BEGINNER'S BIRDWATCHING CLASS - 2007

Ray Scory

From fourteen to eight-five years young they came this year. Twenty-six fledgling bird watchers selected to join our beginner's birdwatching class for a three week birding adventure. Six hours of classroom instructions at the excellent Port Orange Public Library and three field trips primed the students for their birdwatching careers. And what an auspicious beginning.

The weather for the three field trips was Florida Autumn warm and the skies clear. The birds were there. Seventy-eight different species of birds were the foundation for the beginning Life Lists of our new bird watchers. Only thirteen species out of the total seventy-eight observed were counted in all three locations.

"It's just fantastic," "I've lived here a long time and never knew this place existed and so many birds," "I've learn how to identify birds," "this class gave me what I hoped to get and more," "I can't wait to go out birding with my new found friends," "It was great." These are just a sampling of the many comments express by the new bird watchers.

The Dunlawton Bridge trip offered us 23 different bird species with American Oystercatchers, Royal Terns, Great Egrets and frenzied bird activity, all contained in a small park under the bridge. The Volusia Landfill can reveal surprises like a Brown-headed Woodpecker, Sandhill Cranes, Eastern Bluebirds, many Bald Eagles and hundreds of Laughing Gulls. Thirty-eight different species of birds were observed there.

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, our last field trip, is noted as one of the best birding spots on the East Coast. A trip here is a trip into another world - a birdwatching world. Twenty new bird watchers were not disappointed. The Refuge lived up to its reputation. Fifty-six species observed. A friendly assault on the book store and a comprehensive audio/visual show of the Refuge's story reflected the excitement of the day for the group. The special bird, Roseate Spoonbills - many, many Roseate Spoonbills highlighted the day.

A successful Halifax River Audubon Beginner's Birdwatching class would not have happened without the energetic assistance of Paula Wehr, Rachel Ramsey, John Roessler and Peggy Yokubonus. Successful because goals were achieved and people had fun.

A note from the student

HOMAGE TO VOLUNTEERS

Marion Managhan

As a new member of the Halifax River Audubon, I paid my twenty-five dollars and took the beginner's bird watching class. The price is certainly right. Twenty-two of us attended three informational classes each followed by a field trip to a productive birding site. With the expert

guidance of our volunteer leaders, the group listed 23 birds on the first trip down under the Dunlawton Bridge on a wet and windy day; 38 birds on the second to the Volusia County land fill; and 52 birds at the Merritt Island NWR. I saw more eagles at the land fill than on my trip to Alaska!

Ray Scory, our leader, along with John Roessler and Peggy Yokubonus, our scope handlers, are the quintessential volunteers. Ray taught the classes. He created his slide shows using his own professional photographs of the birds of the area. After each field trip, he put together a new slide show of the birds viewed and created a "matching" worksheet of their names, which reinforced the learning. During the field trips, Ray, John and Peggy were always available to answer the questions of the birders and to remind us not to step in the ant hills, and not to point, and to use our quiet voices.

Several other members of the HRA participated in the class. We all know there are always new birds to view, and new information to glean, and new conservation areas to experience. The bird conservation project at Merritt Island NWR is a natural wonder. The beauty and quiet of the area must be unsurpassed. This was brought home to me as we returned to civilization at the end of the last field trip of the bird watching class to NINWR. The crush of the road congestion and the jar of the sounds of the city again made me appreciate the areas that have been set aside for quiet and learning and for organizations like HRA that guide us in those experiences.

Thank you to Ray, John, and Peggy for the best new experience in learning.

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

David Hartgrove

As you may know there are 3 CBC's held here in Volusia. 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 will be held on Saturday, December 22. We'll meet in the Publix parking lot at SR-40 and Williamson Blvd. 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 (see back page) if you're going to attend. It makes planning much easier. As always, we can make arrangements if you can't make the whole day.

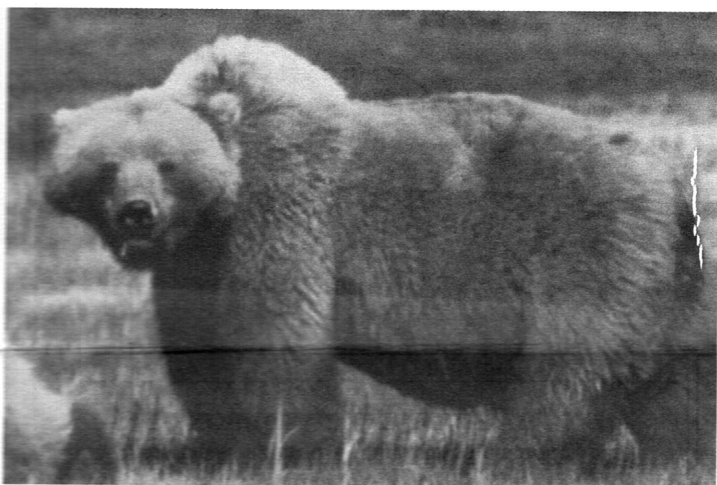
There are 2 other CBC's to participate in locally and the compilers could certainly use your help on those if you're so inclined. The West Volusia CBC will be held on Saturday, December 15. Contact David Stock, 386-736-1893 or dstock@stetson.edu. The Ponce Inlet CBC will be held on Saturday, December 29. Contact Don Picard, 386-957-1886 or dpicard@cfl.rr.com. I'll be doing all 3 but then, I'm obsessed. Please come out and join us on one or all, but especially ours. Have a great holiday!

November's program

WILDLIFE OF ALASKA

Paula Wehr

Joe Shannon, lecturer and naturalist, could have talked for hours – just about the grizzly bears. Visitors to National Parks, State Parks and just ordinary undeveloped areas in Alaska are given recommendations on what to do if a bear is encountered. Never hike alone. Carry a “bear bell,” which could be a cow bell or a whistle or other noise maker to alert the bear that you are in the area. Don't turn and run (which triggers the hunting reflex in the bear,) but instead remain calm, raise your arms above your head to appear larger and back up slowly. Yeah, right! Fortunately for Joe, he's had the opportunity to see many grizzly bears but only once had to put these rules to use.



USFWS

Photos of the grizzlies usually showed the bears as solitary creatures. They have a hump below their neck, can be colored from a cinnamon brown to a light, almost yellow brown or be very dark – almost black. Individuals control a very large territory and are generally seen with their heads down, digging. They eat almost anything – roots, insects, berries, bugs, etc. Blueberries are a particular favorite. They carefully remove the berries from the bush with their tongues, preserving the bush to produce berries next season. They will eat carrion, too. Grizzlies aren't great hunters, but do have a powerful sense of smell and will follow the scent to an injured or dead animal. If more than one bear arrives at the scene, they will fight for control of the food, with the loser leaving the area.

One exception to the solitary grizzly is a sow with cubs. Mating takes place in June/July. Females go to their dens in November/December and give birth to one to four cubs in the February timeframe. Cubs stay with their mothers for two to three years before the mother abandons them and moves to a different territory. Grizzlies mate every two to three years.

Another time when multiple grizzly bears will be seen together is when the salmon are running. It's a common sight to see bears lined up along the rapids, catching fish. They love the salmon eggs (roe) and often eat only the roe, discarding the other fish parts on the stream edges.

Coastal bears are larger than interior bears, weighing as much as 900 to 1,000 pounds, compared to 500-600 pounds for bears living in the central regions.

Probably the next most popular animal of Alaska is the moose – the largest member of the deer family. When heavy snowfall makes foraging difficult in the wild, it's fairly common to see moose walking down the streets of town – and even the larger cities, such as Anchorage. Urban moose are often photographed licking the salt and other chemicals off the roadways. Moose, too, are solitary animals other than when multiples may be seen gathering at water holes. With their large size and strength, several moose together can defeat an attacking grizzly bear.



The musk ox is found in the wild, as well as on farms where they are raised for their fur. The herd will form a circle around their young to defend them from predators.

Caribou are found in herds in Denali. Both males and females have antlers. Caribou hooves are very hard in the winter because they use them to break ice and snow to forage. In the summer, the hooves soften to walk over the mushy ground. They migrate through the ANWR area where the pipeline has been raised to allow caribou and other animals to move freely under the pipe.

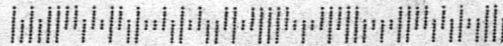
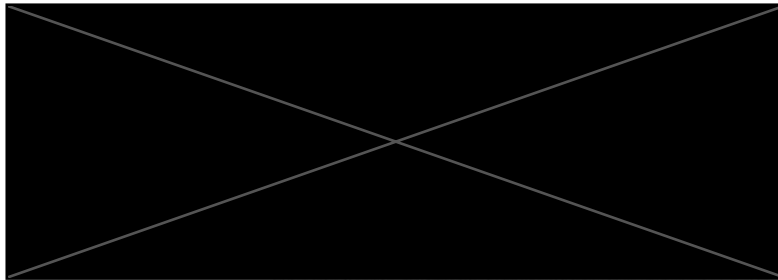
Joe completed his presentation with photos of Dahl sheep, mountain goats, wolverines, walrus and otters as well as waterfowl such as King Eiders, tundra swans, loons, grebes, scoters and the beautiful Alaska State Bird, the ptarmigan. Of course, the Bald Eagle is seen everywhere – if you don't see a Bald Eagle, you must not have looked outside!

THE PELICAN



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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	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		

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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 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and time.