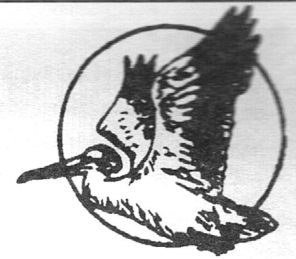


# THE PELICAN



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

VOL. 53 - NO. 7

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

January 2008

## CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

It seems that the relentless march of development continues no matter how many meetings we attend or letters we write. There are bright spots every now and then, at least temporarily.

The Volusia Growth Management Commission (VGMC) is comprised of representatives from the various cities and towns. The members can't be elected officials so most are from the local planning and/or zoning boards. The larger the municipality, the more weighted their vote. It brings to mind the line from "Animal Farm" about some animals being more equal than others. Usually, they tend to rubber stamp any proposal that comes before them.

Recently, they surprised everyone by rejecting a condo/townhouse development in Wilbur-by-the-Sea. Daytona Beach Shores and Volusia County had been in negotiations for nearly a year on a Joint Planning Agreement to permit construction of the multistory project in the middle of an area of single family homes. The residents strenuously objected to having their neighborhood converted to multifamily with what may or may not be a public-use marina. Even though the rules call for all affected parties to be included in discussions, the property owners weren't even notified of meetings that were held between the developers and the city and county staff. So the VGMC voted to reject the amendment and both the city and the county leaders cried foul. More to come on this issue in the future.

Tonight (December 19th) I attended a meeting of the VGMC where a proposed amendment was being put forward to allow annexation of 65 acres in the Tomoka River flood plain into the city of Daytona Beach. This will allow Riverbend Community Church to construct a new building. There are 23 acres of wetlands on the property. The new city zoning will allow much higher density, though at this point they're saying it'll all be institutional in character. This means a new sanctuary, a new school, etc. The problem is that once it's in the city limits of Daytona Beach all bets are off as to zoning, density, etc.

I raised the subject of the church at some point asking for rezoning to build a high rise retirement condo, like the First Baptist Church's plans for their building at the river's headwaters. Right now the property is listed as part of the Natural Resource Management Area and the western 20% is in the Environmental Systems Corridor.

This is land that is supposed to be set aside for environmental conservation only. Guess how long it'll be in that protected status once it's been annexed by Daytona Beach? Of course, that's why all of that land out west of I-95 that's owned by Consolidated Tomoka was annexed into Daytona Beach in the first place. Their development rules (such as they are) allow a much broader interpretation of environmental protections than Volusia county or Ormond Beach. This time, in spite of objections from neighbors and environmentalists, the vote was unanimous in the church's favor.

Win some, lose more.

## ENDANGERED BIRDS SPECIES

The WatchList 2007 of the most imperiled American bird species includes some of our Florida birds.

- Whooping Crane - Breeding attempted in Florida.  
Population: 593 birds
- Piping Plover - winters in Florida.  
Population: 6,410 birds
- Florida Scrub-Jay - Breeds in Florida.  
Population: 10,000 birds
- Kirtland's Warbler - Migrant through Florida.  
Population: 1,707 singing males; 4,500 overall
- Red-cockaded Woodpecker - Breeds in Florida.  
Population: 20,000 birds
- Reddish Egret - Breeds in Florida.  
Population: 67,500 birds
- Black Rail - Winters and breeds in Florida.  
Population: Unknown
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Migrant through Florida  
Population: 15,000 birds
  
- Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow  
Winters in Florida.  
Population: 250,000 birds
- Yellow Rail - winters in Florida.  
Population: 17,500 birds



Other red-watch-listed Florida birds are: Swallow-tailed Kite, Prothonotary Warbler, Red Knot, Mottled Duck, Magnificent Frigatebird, Least Tern, Bell's Vireo, Bicknell's Thrush, Henslow's Sparrow, and Seaside Sparrow.

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- Jeff Bouton** - The Evolution of Birding
- Jeff Gordon** - The Ten Greatest Birds of the Last 30 Years
- Kevin T. Karlson** - Birds on the Wind: The Miracle of Migration
- John Acorn** - Field Notes: An Odd Form of Self-Help Therapy
- Susan Epps** - **Mike Freiberg** - **Alvaro Jaramillo** - **Paul Lehman**
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To find out more contact: Neta Harris at [neta@natureandspace.com](mailto:neta@natureandspace.com)  
or 321-268-5224 or 800-460-2664 or visit [www.nbbd.com/fly](http://www.nbbd.com/fly)

Photos courtesy of Joel Reynolds



January 23-28,

## SPACE COAST BIRDING & WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

This year's Festival in Titusville and Brevard County will again present an extraordinary mix of programs that will intrigue everyone. A 48-page program guide presents something for everyone; to get a copy of the program, call 321-268-5224 or e-mail [netta@natureandspace.com](mailto:netta@natureandspace.com) or you can visit the web site [www.nbbd.com/fly/](http://www.nbbd.com/fly/)

Some of the field trips include areas in south central Florida, including pelagic, kayaking, and canoeing trips. Our very own Halifax River Audubon members David Hartgrove, Michael Brothers, and Kevin Doxstater (coming there all the way from Bryce Canyon) will lead some events.

One of the problems that you face is that some events are limited in the number of attendees. It's a very good idea to choose the things you want to do and register early.

## OPERATION MIGRATION

Neta Harris, *Habi-Chat*, newsletter of Merritt Island Wildlife Association

Come to the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival and hear the incredible story of how Whooping Cranes, the world's most endangered crane, are being taught to migrate following ultra light aircraft. Operation migration plays the leading role in the project, which is reintroducing Whooping Cranes to Eastern North America. Described as, "The wildlife equivalent of putting a man on the moon," you will be enthralled and awed as you learn how this ambitious project is safeguarding Whooping Cranes from extinction.

See one of Operation Migrations' working ultra light aircraft, and learn the inside workings of this amazing project from Joe Duff, someone who knows what it is like to fly with birds! Mr. Duff, co-founder and CEO of Operation Migration, is also its senior pilot, and has accumulated more hours in flight alongside more species of birds than any other human.

Presentation will be Friday, January 25 from 1-2pm and Saturday, January 26 from 10:30am – noon in the Brevard Community College Titusville Campus Auditorium. Seating is free on first-come-first-seated up to 150 people.



Rebecca Carr, HRA

Operation Migration will have a booth in the Exhibit Area. You can visit them for additional information about this program and learn how YOU can become involved. Visit the web site at [www.operationmigration.org](http://www.operationmigration.org)

*NOTE:* Neta is Executive Director of the Brevard Nature Alliance.

## 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 prior to trip to ensure details have not changed.*

### Wednesday, January 2

Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club program. Demystify Growth Management Planning, by Ron Paradise, government level planner. Holly Hill Club House, 1064 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. 7:00pm. [www.florida.sierraclub.org/volusia](http://www.florida.sierraclub.org/volusia).

### Saturday, January 5, 2008

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Viera Ponds. Meet at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd., 7:00am. Led by Bob North, 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (1)

### Sunday, January 6

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

### Monday, January 7

**Halifax River Audubon Board meeting**

### Tuesday, January 15

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, January 19

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Payne's Prairie. Meet at Publix parking lot, Granada and Williamson Blvds., Ormond Beach. 6:30am. Led by David Hartgrove, 386-788-2630. Bring lunch. (2)

### Monday, January 21

**Halifax River Program Meeting.** "Beautiful Music, Beautiful Nature" by Kevin Doxstater, Award-winning photographer and HRA member. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

### Wednesday- Sunday, January 23-27

Space Coast Festival & Wildlife Festival. Contact Neta Harris; 321-268-5224/800-460-2664 or [www.nbbd.com/fly/](http://www.nbbd.com/fly/). See article.

### Saturday, Sunday, January 26-27

Orange City Blue Spring Manatee Festival. Valentine Park, 1575 W. French Ave., Orange City. \$8. 775-9224.

## ANOTHER DAY AT CANA

Willie Burns

On Tuesday December 11th I again had a day of volunteering at Canaveral Seashore National Park (Cana). After several false starts, NASA had postponed our next shuttle launch until January. Considering that our beach is strewn with dead fish, mostly mullet, killed by the latest Red Tide "bloom" I'm happy to wait!

Red Tide is a bloom of red algae in salt water, usually in the ocean. In rare extreme cases it kills fish and sea mammals, and becomes an airborne irritant that can irritate lungs, throats, and eyes of humans, and an irritating red skin rash from prolonged contact, like while swimming or surfing.

The Red Tide algae had spread to the south east portion of Mosquito Lagoon. Since there is no link to the ocean except for Ponce Inlet far to the north, I have a theory. The airborne algae, either spores or organisms bounced into the air by the surf on the beach, are blown over the dune and into the protected Lagoon where the warm water helps it to thrive.

Last week three dead manatees were found in the Lagoon, all killed by the Red Tide. It apparently paralyzes their neck and/or throat muscles. It may be the same reaction that gives us humans a sore throat, but we can move away to safety.

Tuesday I picked up fellow volunteers Walt and Jean and we made our way to Cana. Joining us were Candace Carter, the acting Resource Manager of Cana, and Ashley, the new temporary Interpreter. Our Plan was to do a campsite cleanup on the islands in Mosquito Lagoon.

In the hierarchy of National Parks, Rangers are the most important. They are fully trained and armed Federal law enforcement personnel. The staff one usually meets are Interpreters, who "interpret" the flora, fauna, and mission and history of the parks to visitors. They also give training classes. Our friend and HRA member Kevin Doxstater is an Interpreter at Bryce Canyon National Park.

We volunteers are hard working unpaid workers. My area is mostly the North District, the northern half of the Park, located in Volusia County. The South District is located in Brevard County. They are conveniently divided by the County Line! Cana also has the Seminole Rest location, a bit of Park located in Oak Hill.

As we got the pontoon boat *Tortuga del Sol* ready for our task, we coughed a little from the airborne Red Tide that was blowing over the dunes on the light south east wind. Then off we went into clear air, cleaning campsites on our way down into Mosquito Lagoon.

The Usual Suspects of the bird world were in evidence, including lots of White Pelicans and a few scaup. These were diving, so we could not tell if they had the "square head" of the Lesser, or the Greater Scaup. These, and here and there a merganser, were the only ducks we saw.

One Common Loon was spotted, but I was too busy driving the boat to enjoy him. As we started working the campsites west of the Inter Coastal Waterway (ICW) and south of Oak Hill we began finding dead fish. Several puffers, a small Sting Ray, a Sea Robin, a bunch of mullet, and some Sail Catfish. The air was clear, but the wind was increasing. The waves were pushing floating fish onto the east sides of the islands from much farther south and east.

By the time we finished, we had a lot of trash. I aimed our boat to the closest channel marker on the ICW to check its number, as our maps are slightly in error. A large cruiser was rapidly approaching from the north, creating a bow wave like a destroyer.

As we approached the markers a medium sized catamaran sail boat was about to be passed by the cruiser. At the last moment the cruiser slowed, still jolting the catamaran with his wake. He moved slowly past us and on south, apparently intimidated by the five uniformed people (two with badges, Candace and Ashley) on our vessel! Walt wrote down his ID to report the jerk to the Coast Guard. He was not in a slow manatee zone but is required to slow down and not "wake" another vessel. The catamaran gave us a big friendly wave and smile as he passed.

Back to base we cruised, basking in the warm sun and blue sky. Behind us on the Lagoon the waves had gotten up to two or three feet, driven by the freshening wind from the south east.

We passed more herons, egrets, Osprey, and even a small flock of Western Sandpipers and another of Willets. There were many White Pelicans on Tiger Shoal to the east, along the western shore of the Lagoon, and north of our Parking Lot 5. Here and there were clumps of two to five, some feeding, and some simply swimming effortlessly.

Back at base things went downhill. The airborne Red Tide was much more in evidence. We all were coughing with irritated throats. As I already have very bad lungs from working in a steel mill, my lungs about quit. I had to sit and watch as the kids toted the bags of trash to the truck and dumpster. Walt too was having trouble breathing. He was wearing a mask later at his home, as it kept the airborne toxins away nicely. Odd, how minimal protection keeps it at bay. By the time I got on Route 1, I was no longer coughing.

Candace had to stay at the Park to collect water samples to check on the Red Tide, and managed to get soaked doing it! All in all, a good (mostly) day.

Oh, the camp sites? We have fourteen primitive sites, mostly on islands, scattered around the upper Lagoon. A boat is needed to access them, but they are literally like being camping on a desert island! And we do give cruises on Cana's pontoon boat.

## MOST WONDERFUL "BIRDS"

Louise Chapman, Volusia County  
Teacher on Assignment

The most unusual birds often don't have the finest, brightest feathers. They are often quiet, well-camouflaged, and bend so well with everything in their environment that you might not notice them. I have spotted three of the rarest organisms in the world. You might notice them and be as happy with seeing them as I have been. I thought that I would give you a description of them to watch for and a good indication of where to find them.

All three of these rare finds are altruistic, reliable, smart and have great eyesight. With their keen vision my three birds spot predators and prey from afar. They lead the "young chicks" behind them and train them as keen hunters. One is a larger "bird" with gray about his feathers, tall and patient, he never sleeps. He works vigilantly through the night so all of us can sleep well.

One of the birds is petite, quiet-spoken and she helps in every way. The third is a gentle soul who really wants the young to learn. Did you guess that my three rare birds are three remarkable people from Halifax River Audubon? These rare birds volunteer four days a week with the Volusia County Schools Environmental Service Learning Legacy Project (VCS ESLLP) at Rose Bay, Bicentennial Youth Park, and Lyonia Preserve. They represent Halifax River Audubon's education arm and are the quiet, remarkable, endangered species, David Hartgrove, Ray Scory, and Peggy Yokubonus. Thank them when you see them for they are responsible for thousands of kids who think "birding is cool" and that birds and preserving habitat for birds are important things for everyone to do.

## ARE YOU STILL BUYING BOTTLED WATER?

Peggy Cox, Conservation Chair, Orange  
Audubon Society newsletter *OASis*

If so, please go to the Natural Resources Defense Council's website and learn why it's a bad idea and getting worse; [www.nrc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp](http://www.nrc.org/water/drinking/bw/bwinx.asp).

"Got Water?" Almost everyone in the United States does – clean, safe, healthy water, right from the tap in their home. Several large cities in the US are trying to phase out the sale and use of bottled water, including San Francisco. By December 1<sup>st</sup> of 2007 the city switched from bottled water dispensers to water dispensers using water from the municipal water supply, instead of supplying bottled water to its employees. This water initiative is part of the city's Local Climate Action Plan. It's not just the cost of bottled water versus the cost of tap water that's a big problem, although it's considerable.

According to the Sierra Club website, tap water, on average in the US, costs \$0.0015 per gallon, while bottled water costs an average of \$1.27 per gallon. One of the biggest problems of bottled water is the bottles.

According to the Container Recycling Institute, 28 BILLION single-serving water bottles are sold in the US each year and more than 80% end up in landfills or incinerators! Manufacturing these plastic bottles requires more than 47 million gallons of oil, which is equivalent to one BILLION pounds of carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere.

There is some innovation happening in the bottled water industry. One is the manufacture of bottles from renewable resources and that are biodegradable. An example is BIOTA Brands of America in Colorado that makes bottles for spring water that are completely biodegradable, made from corn. They still fill them with Colorado Spring Water but maybe these bottles could be made for other products that currently use plastic, making a giant step towards eliminating the amount of plastic discarded by consumers into our overflowing landfills.

*NOTE:* Orange Audubon has opposed the application to the St. Johns River Water Management District to allow the Niagara Bottling LLC to withdraw 490,000 gallons per day from wells in Lake County. The District has asked for more information.

## DECEMBER BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported an operating balance of \$5,505.66.

Willie Burns reported Golden Dog Sales has added the book "Parrots of South Florida".

Membership Chair John Carr reported Chapter membership is approximately 470.

Field Trip Chair Bob North reported that the Merritt Island field trippers spotted 75 bird species November 30 and 77 species on December 1 including the rare Eurasian Widgeon.

President David Hartgrove reported on conservation issues and presented a photograph of a Swallowtail Kite to be used for a drawing for a new HRA tee-shirt.

Education: David Hartgrove will pick up 9 "Florida's Fabulous" books from Peter Larmie. Rachel Ramsey and Karen Mosher will distribute the new Audubon Adventures kits as soon as the order is received.

Financial Plan: Rachel Ramsey will contact H&R Block for Chapter's account history: discussion of investment of Chapter funds was postponed.

John Carr reported that Meret Wilson will contact the Board when she needs funds to purchase a mist net for bird-banding at Tomoka State Park. The Board-approved purchase was therefore tabled, and changed to an "as need" basis for up to \$100.

Canaveral Seashore bird count: Willie announced that the count will take place on Sunday, January 6 from 8:00am to noon or 1:00pm and asked for volunteers. Bob North and Peggy Yokubonus volunteered to help.



# THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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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	673-7619	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
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Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan and James Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	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		

JANUARY 2008

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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. Keesh 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. 8**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**February 2008**

## CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

On Tuesday, January 15, I attended a meeting at the Port Orange City Hall related to a proposed development on the little strip of land between Sea Bird Island Mobile Home Park and Port Orange Causeway Park. In some ways it was not unlike being in a time machine and going back to the late 40's when land owners asked for and received dredge and fill permits for the most destructive projects imaginable.

What is now habitat for Clapper Rails and a buffer of exotic vegetation for the home owners on Sea Bird Island would, under this proposal, become a marina, or yacht club with 150 boat slips and a bait and grocery store. The owners seem unsure of what they want to develop on the property because they're not sure what the city or other government entities would let them get away with. What would have to happen for this nightmare to become a reality is for a lot of dredging to take place so that a new parking lot could be built. This property would be operated under condo association rules where boaters would purchase their slips and a condo association would be responsible for management, maintenance, etc.

Tuscany Commercial is two guys from Titusville with such incredibly active imaginations as to have long since lost any grip on reality. Their plan is to have the city rezone their nearly 4.5 acres (2/3 of which is submerged) so that they can then apply for a variance to dredge the marina area to a depth sufficient to allow larger sail boats access. The current depth of the subject area is around 3 feet. A 42 foot sail boat draws around 6 to 7 feet. They would need a variance because current land development codes in Port Orange prohibit any dredging for the purposes of building a marina.

The effects of this project on Rookery Island, approximately 500 feet to the east, would be disastrous.

With the current state of confusion in the property insurance market, it's doubtful that the condo association that would be created to run this place would ever be able to get coverage. If they did it would only be with a deductible that would bankrupt the boat owners should a hurricane strike and damage the place. In that event, what is now a lovely spot from which to watch birds would be a littered site waiting for a government bail out. The condo association would declare bankruptcy and dissolve and we the tax payers would get stuck with the bill.

I doubt this project will ever get much beyond the stage it's in now. But stranger things have happened. We're keeping an eye on the situation and our options open.

## 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 beforehand to ensure details have not changed.

### Monday, February 4

**Halifax River Audubon Board meeting.**

### Wednesday, February 6

Volusia Flagler Sierra Club program. "The Jewels of Flagler County". Photographic tour of area's natural treasures. Holly Hill Club House, 1064 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. 7:00pm.

[www.florida.sierraclub.org/volusia](http://www.florida.sierraclub.org/volusia).

### Saturday, February 9

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Volusia County Landfill, 1990 Tomoka Farms Rd., Daytona Beach. Meet at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd., Port Orange. 7:30am. Led by David Hartgrove, 386-788-2630. Bring lunch. (1)

### Saturday, February 9

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

### Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, February 15-18

Great Backyard Bird Count. See article.

### Monday, February 18

**Halifax River Program Meeting.** "Our Smart Growth" by Steve Kintner for Volusia Co. Council of Governments. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments, 6:30pm; program, 7:00pm.

### Tuesday, February 19

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. "Washington Oaks State Park Improvement Plan" by Park personnel. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Socializing 6:30, program 7:00, then refreshments and business meeting.

### Sunday, February 24

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Dunlawton Bridge. Meet under Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. 3:30pm. Led by Kitty Albee. 386-254-8246. (1)

## WATER FOR OUR FUTURE – HARVEST WHAT WE ARE WASTING

Charles Lee, Audubon of Florida  
Director of Advocacy

Most of Florida remains in the grip of a record drought. The Withlacoochee River, fed entirely by rainwater originating in Central Florida's Green Swamp, went completely dry again in 2007. The U.S. Geological Survey has been keeping records of Withlacoochee River water levels since the 1930's. Only twice in 70 years of record has this river completely dried up for an extended period. Ominously, the first total dry-out of the Withlacoochee took place in 2001.

Also this year, Lake Okeechobee, the "liquid heart of the Everglades" – South Florida's major water supply – plunged to its lowest level in history. In terms of rainfall, the two-year period from November 2005 to October 2007 ranks as the driest in history dating back to 1932. The vast lake remains critically low and could fall to a new low of 7 feet above sea level in the 2008 dry season. As of November 14, the lake level was at 10.34 feet, or more than one foot below its previous historic low for this time of year.

There is more than idle speculation among scientists that the unprecedented drought stretching from Florida through the Southeastern United States could be linked to radically changing weather patterns sparked by global warming. Whether or not that is true, one thing is clear – we can't rely on the long held assumption that our state will receive 60 or more inches of rain per year on the average as we consider water supply planning for the future.

Against this backdrop, we at Audubon of Florida view the St. Johns River Water Management District's recently announced "Alternative Water Supply" proposals as utter folly.

The St. Johns District is in search of easy answers to keep providing cheap water to irrigate seemingly limitless unplanned urban growth. With ground water aquifers falling fast and springflows dropping off as a consequence, the District wants to begin siphoning water from the Ocklawaha, St. Johns and Withlacoochee Rivers.

District officials claim they would only allow water to be pumped from those sources when there is a "surplus" flowing down the river. The problem, of course, is that once the "surplus" disappears, political leaders won't be able to turn off the tap for millions of people who become dependent on the rivers for water.

The potential ecological harm caused by draining our rivers is no improvement over draining our groundwater aquifers. And, is there really any "surplus"? One of the rivers the District proposes to tap, the Ocklawaha, has experienced a 42% decline in flow over the last 60 years. Already stressed, it is hard to imagine sensible planners

proposing to draw water from this river – but astoundingly, they are.

So, how should Florida approach the coming water crisis and provide adequate water for future urban growth? The answer is close at hand, actually just outside your door and down the hall in your bathroom.

The reality is that between 50% and 70% of all water provided by every public water supply system in Florida never goes inside your home or business to serve useful purposes. Think of it – between two to almost three quarts out of every gallon drawn from wellfields never goes to flush a toilet, cook a meal, draw your bath or provide you with a glass of water. And, inside most homes, and commercial structures, antiquated plumbing fixtures use at least twice the water necessary for the chores of daily life.

Most of the potable water supplied in Florida gets sprayed on lawns and shrubbery consisting of inappropriate plants not well suited for survival in Florida's climate – plants that are simply not sustainable, particularly if our weather patterns are shifting toward a drier cycle.

Mandatory one-day-per-week limitations on lawn sprinklers represent a good but modest first step that will be useful if enforcement is adequate and sustained. But the truly meaningful changes that must happen are systemic.

If Florida's urban population is eventually going to double, as many experts predict, we simply won't be able to sustain water demands based on each home maintaining a lawn of a quarter-acre or more of St. Augustine grass that requires an irrigation system.

Attractive landscape alternatives exist and can be readily found by accessing the "Florida Yards and Neighborhoods" web site at: <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>. Simply by choosing the right plants and lawn grasses, these landscape alternatives can completely eliminate the need for a sprinkler system to irrigate the areas outside Florida homes, businesses, and in most public spaces.

The St. Johns River Water Management District and other such districts in Florida should immediately get busy doing the following things to provide for the state's future water supply needs:

- Limit outside watering everywhere to one day per week. Provide for watering time limits within that day and assure strong enforcement.
- Amend the "Environmental Resource Permit" rule to require drought resistant or xeriscape landscaping (such as those recommended by the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program) in all new subdivisions and commercial developments that receive permits from the district. Prohibit permanent in-ground irrigation systems in these new developments.
- Require all public water supply utilities holding "Consumptive Use Permits" issued by the District to impose limitations on their customers' existing outdoor irrigation systems. Soil moisture sensors that



shut off sprinklers when water in the soil is adequate should be made mandatory.

- Require public water suppliers to offer meaningful subsidies to owners of existing homes and businesses who are willing to change their landscape to drought-tolerant plants and disconnect their irrigation systems.
- Require utilities to install – and utility customers to accept – water-saving fixtures such as toilets and showerheads in homes and businesses as a condition of providing water service.
- Require utilities to produce reclaimed water from wastewater – but don't allow “reclaimed water” to become an excuse for excessive irrigation. Return reclaimed water to the aquifer near wellfields where it can be used again rather than encouraging it to be wastefully sprayed on lawns.

In the end, it will be far cheaper and more environmentally desirable for utilities and water managers to require or pay for new drought-tolerant lawns and shrubs and water conserving plumbing fixtures than it will be to run a network of pipes across our state to suck the rivers dry.

Only after an all-out effort has been made to engage in truly meaningful water conservation – an effort that really changes our unfortunate societal penchant for wasting water – should the pursuit of “alternative water supplies” be considered.

When that day comes, desalinization and reverse-osmosis plants utilizing seawater and mineralized water from deep aquifers should be the choice rather than sacrificing our beautiful and fragile rivers in Florida.

*NOTE:* A shorter version of this article appeared in the Orlando Sentinel, January 1, 2008.

## BIRDING BREVARD: NOW JUST WHAT IS THIS DARNED DUCK?

Dave Freeland, December 2007. From *The Limpkin*, newsletter of the Space Coast Audubon Society

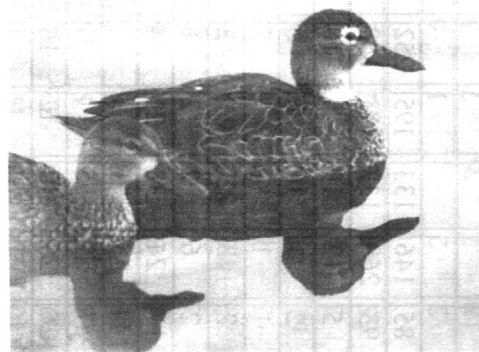
If you've followed this series on bird identification principles in the last few issues [of *The Limpkin*], you'll know the duck in this photo is a puzzle. Thanks to Charlie Corbeil, an excellent photographer who works Viera Wetlands often, we were able to get Charlie to shoot this oddity at Viera a few weeks ago.

When I first noticed it, resting in the south end of the central lake just off the dike, my first thought was female Wood Duck because of the eyepatch. But remember the order of bird ID – size first, then shape, then field marks. This bird is the same size as a neighboring female Blue-winged Teal and, most important, has an identical bill shape. A Wood Duck has a much smaller bill and is a larger bird overall.

We can also see in this photo that the duck has a white area at the base of the neck near where the chest

begins. Very odd for either a Wood Duck OR a Blue-winged Teal (and not right for the exotic Mandarin Duck, another possibility because of the white eyepatch).

Further examination shows a lot of new, dark feathers on the back and dark coloration on the top of the head. This duck also had a light blue forewing when it raised its wings as if to fly, and its femoral area (just forward of the undertail coverts) was pure white. This combination of features made identification even tougher.



I sent Charlie's photo to three experts – my old friend Murray Girdler of Brooksville; Bruce Anderson of Archbold Biological Station and the Florida Ornithological Society; and Wayne Petersen of Massachusetts, a past vice president of the American Birding Association and, like Murray and me, one of the “Wellesley Boys” who grew up under the tutelage of birder and education Doug Sands.

None of these experts could conclude for sure what the mystery bird was, though I am leaning toward an aberrant Blue-winged Teal because of the size and bill shape. It could be a hybrid, but none of my colleagues can put that tag on it for sure.

Size. Shape. Field marks. Next on the list of factors in good bird identification is habitat. This duck is on a pond with other Blue-winged Teal and a couple of American Coots. Ducks like ponds and marshes. On the day this duck was spotted, over 1000 Blue-winged Teal had settled in, a big increase from previous, recent visits to Viera.

Take note of where your mystery bird is lurking. Certain birds prefer ponds and marshes to open waters of the ocean. Woods can be deciduous in nature or piney. Some species prefer fields, scrub or grasslands. Others will accept visits to feeding stations more readily than their cousins. Some birds have specific food sources that attract them. Be sure to note where you see your mystery bird and use that knowledge to help in its identification. (Dave wrote on January 16, 2008 that the bird with the white eyepatch was present at Viera, but many of the REAL Blue-winged Teals had left for parts unknown.)



16									Sandpiper species
									Dowitcher, Short-billed
74	2	3	12	1					Snipe, Wilson's
				6					Jaeger, Pomarine
									Jaeger species
1363	1382	1057	627	2378	1349	700	497		Gull, Laughing
						5			Gull, Bonaparte's
3954	370	1753	1155	828	848	1350	2076		Gull, Ring-billed
7	20		7	10	18	22	16		Gull, Herring
1									Gull, Lesser Black-backed
3	3	2	1	6	6	1	3		Gull, Great Black-backed
75									Gull species
2	3		2			2	3		Tern, Caspian
20	161	66	159	33	153	129	149		Tern, Royal
	24	35	43	26	107	22	3		Tern, Sandwich
									Tern, Common
24	8	43	5	13	7	27	4		Tern, Forster's
	1		8						Tern species
202		5							Skimmer, Black
518	757	752	514	1002	620	356	325		Pigeon, Rock
14	109	76	71	76	59	35	55		Collared-Dove, Eurasian
135	294	271	127	213	352	166	285		Dove, Mourning
17		6				2	3		Ground-Dove, Common
	1								Owl, Barn
1	4	4	6	2	2	2	8		Screech-Owl, Eastern
3	1	1	2				2		Owl, Great Horned
5	4	3	6	1		2	2		Owl, Barred
							1		Whip-poor-will
						1			Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
19	29	10	8	13	8	15	9		Kingfisher, Belted
	4	1	7	1					Woodpecker, Red-headed
34	49	55	20	36	22	39	34		Woodpecker, Red-bellied
1	2	5	2	10	3	8	11		Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
8	17	22	18	7	7	28	19		Woodpecker, Downy
	2								Woodpecker, Hairy
1	6	1	3	1		7			Flicker, Northern
9	15	14	8	27	4	21	16		Woodpecker, Piliated
31	29	36	18	14	16	40	31		Phoebe, Eastern
	180	857	812	54	5260	65	159		Swallow, Tree
	2								Swallow, Northern Rough-winged

15	28	48	32	47	21	33	15		Jay, Blue
62	56	49	39	27	66	44	71		Crow, American
36	184	11	98	32	261	32	10		Crow, Fish
45	67	26	17	18	3	8			Crow species
2	2	6	5	2	5	4	3		Chickadee, Carolina
14	3	16	7	21	13	31	32		Titmouse, Tufted
					1				Nuthatch, Red-breasted
									Nuthatch, Brown-headed
22	6	11	21	6		6	15		Nuthatch, Brown-headed
15	20	46	16	17	7	45	11		Wren, Carolina
17	3	21	16	4	5	13	2		Wren, House
3									Wren, Winter
							1		Wren, Sedge
							3		Wren, Marsh
38	32	128	27	27	18	73	40		Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
5	13	29	17	14	19	13	49		Gratcatcher, Blue-gray
16	10	22	19	5	8	7	12		Bluebird, Eastern
2		10	6			3			Thrush, Hermit
7221	755	1339	1007	834	1325	6500	6350		Robin, American
9	25	65	35	20	16	71	28		Catbird, Gray
62	79	73	52	63	23	60	49		Mockingbird, Northern
		1							Thrasher, Brown
		66							Pipit, American
204		223		135		200			Waxwing, Cedar
27	45	40	29	23	11	8	22		Shrike, Loggerhead
92	490	439	135	340	532	52	92		Starling, European
13	2	18	17		5	14	6		Vireo, White-eyed
1	1	11	6	3	6	7	6		Vireo, Blue-headed
2	2	4	3	3	1	1			Warbler, Orange-crowned
									Warbler, Yellow
1406	728	1659	1416	822	632	4500	980		Warbler, Yellow-rumped
1	3	2	1	4		2			Warbler, Yellow-throated
27	7	61	41	12	17	14	33		Warbler, Pine
2	1	2	1						Warbler, Prairie
45	73	65	39	36	32	32	63		Warbler, Palm
1									Warbler, Blackpoll
1	2	2	2	2	1	6	2		Warbler, Black-and-white
18	5	18	7	6	7	5	8		Yellowthroat, Common
									Warbler species
30	33	83	32	50	26	76	43		Cardinal, Northern
8	1	6	13	1	4	4	1		Towhee, Eastern



49		29	25	7	2	9	26	Sparrow, Chipping
					1			Sparrow, Field
6				2				Sparrow, Vesper
23		5	6	19	35	68	8	Sparrow, Savannah
						2		Sparrow, Henslow's
							2	Sparrow, Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed
2					1			Sparrow, Song
1		9	9	3	1	10		Sparrow, Swamp
		1					1	Sparrow, White-throated
177	147	197	182	18	109	80	38	Blackbird, Red-winged
	6		3	4				Meadowlark, Eastern
127	230	81	208	57	54	153	38	Grackle, Boat-tailed
209	84	285	129	110	9	56	310	Grackle, Common
250	35	136	56		85	200	43	Cowbird, Brown-headed
		1						Oriole, Baltimore
				1		8	22	Finch, House
3	1	60	17	34	18	14	89	Goldfinch, American
10	81		13	22	1	1	16	Sparrow, House

2007 Data: Miles by car - 285; Hours by car - 31.5; Miles by foot - 10.5; Hours by foot - 18; Hours other - 2; Night miles - 48; Night hours - 4.5; Temp - 60-68; Wind - NE 5-15; %Clouds - 80-100; Precip - 0 to light rain. Time - 0300-1730; New species - 3; New individuals - 12.

February 18 program

**STEVE KINTNER**

All over Florida, communities are struggling with growth - How much is enough? What should new developments look like? How can natural resources be preserved and protected? Do we have sufficient resources to support the growth? Environmental groups, residents and local governments must tackle these questions every day.

On Monday, February 18, Stephen S. Kintner, Interim Growth and Resource Management Director for Volusia County, will make a presentation on how growth is being managed now and into the future. In his most previous assignment as Environmental Management Division Director for the County, he focused much of his time on Smart Growth and the impact of development on Volusia's environment.

Join us for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill. Mr. Kintner's presentation on "Our Smart Growth" will

2007 Observers: Michael Brothers, Rob Bowden, Renate Calero, John Carr, Jake Hanson, David Hartgrove, Rich Hugel, Ken Hunter, Patsy Hunter, Barbara Kieran, Luddy Lamberton, Veronica Merenda, Phyllis Myers, Bob North, Paul Rebmann, Ray Scory, Ingrid Swenson, Becky Tate, Paula Wehr, Meret Wilson, Peggy Yokubonus.

**Christmas Count History**

Christmas Count Date	Total Species	Total Individuals	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
12-22-07	107	17,548	21

begin at 7:00 p.m. Mary Swiderski, Executive Director of Volusia Council of Governments (VCOG) will accompany Mr. Kintner to answer questions.

**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 National Audubon renewal date to take effect. If you have questions about your renewal date, please contact me at 255-9360 or [jcarr14@junco.com](mailto:jcarr14@junco.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.

### JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported an operating balance of \$6,037.70. Board approved a financial proposal regarding the Chapter's investments.

Rachel Ramsey and Karen Mosher distributed Audubon Adventure kits to 25 teachers in 6 schools. Willie Burns presented \$505 from Golden Dog sales. John Carr reported Chapter membership at 478. Bob North reported unusual birds seen on field trips: Viera Ponds; Caracara, American Bittern and Painted Bunting; and Titusville Causeway; possibly a Red-throated Loon.

David Hartgrove reported on conservation concerns.

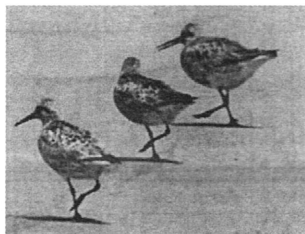
#### December 2007 Program

### SHOREBIRD ID

Paula Wehr

With about 200 species of shorebirds worldwide and only about 50 species found in Florida, it shouldn't be too difficult to learn the differences, right? Gian Basili began his presentation by showing a wonderful photo of various species of shorebirds on a mud flat seen at some distance.

Some of the birds were in poor light, others were only partially visible and many of the birds in good view had similar plumage patterns. These attributes made the photo only too familiar to birders everywhere. How can the good



birders make IDs so quickly in those kinds of conditions?

One answer is "size, structure, habitat and feeding pattern." Size is critical in comparing birds in mixed flocks. Structure includes the bill – is it straight, decurved, fine tipped or blunt on the end? Structure can also include the head size in relation to the body – is the bird chunky with a round head or slim with a long neck and tiny head?

Habitat is important in determining whether the bird should be found in a particular type of area. If you know that the bird is found more often in fresh water than in salt water, you can eliminate it from the possibilities in your ID process. For example, Eastern Willets breed in Florida and are gone during the winter

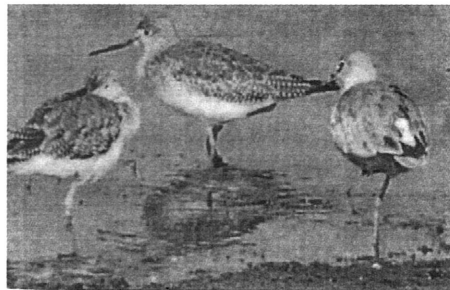


months. Western Willets winter in Florida.

Knowing the feeding pattern assists in identifying a shorebird. Does it forage along the surf line, running back and forth as the waves come on shore? Does it use a rapid up and down probing motion, like a sewing machine, to find food?

Gian showed photos of various shorebirds and provided tips on differentiating the species using size,

structure, habitat and feeding patterns. Seeing the similar species side by side in photographs made it easier for us all to note the differences in size and structure. By the end of the presentation, many members of the audience were able to correctly identify the various species in the photos. Now the trick is to remember what we've learned and apply it the next time we are in the field.



Note: Did you identify the Red Knot, Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, and the Willet? (Photos by Jerry Kerschner.)

### GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Paula Wehr

Join millions of birders with skills ranging from casual to accomplished who will participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count, a national event held during "Presidents' Day" weekend, February 15–18, 2008. You can count birds from wherever you are and enter the tally online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). These reports create an exciting real-time picture of where the birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes during February 15–18, 2008. Count birds at as many places and on as many days as you like—just keep a separate list of counts for each day and/or location.
2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time, and write it down.
3. Enter your results at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>.

If you don't have a computer call me, Paula, at 673-5332 and tell me your name, town, zip code, and phone number. You'll also need to tell when you began the count, how long you counted, who else counted, your birding acuity, and the weather.

Where were the birds (feeder, yard, large garden, hike, schoolyard, office, roadside, apartment, federal land, farm, wastewater pond, industrial site nature preserve, commercial property, city/county park)? Is this woods, scrub, grassland, agricultural, freshwater, salt water, rural, suburban, or urban?

# THE PELICAN



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FEBRUARY 2008

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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
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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
.....			
Vacant	Education		
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		

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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.



# THE PELICAN

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



**VOL. 53 - NO. 9**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**March 2008**

## CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR) is one of the jewels of our natural habitat. It was created in 1963 along with Kennedy Space Center (KUSCH) and the title to the land is held jointly by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS). The refuge was set up as a 140,000 acre buffer for NASA's space exploration activities. These activities often involve the use of very dangerous fuel materials and explosive rockets. So a safety buffer between the launch facilities and the general public is a good idea. MINWR is one of the premier birding spots on the east coast of the country, especially in winter. Bird watchers from all over the world know the names "Black Point Wildlife Drive" and "Scrub Ridge Trail."

So it's with utter disbelief that we learn of a plan to bulldoze over 200 acres adjacent to the road leading to Black Point in order to construct something called the Commercial Vertical Launch Complex. It's hard to imagine a more inappropriate place for this facility to be constructed. It would be hard against the Scrub Ridge Trail, east of SR 3, at its junction with SR 406, the road you drive to get to Black Point. The good news is that this is one of two sites under consideration. The other is on KSC property along the ocean, south of Launch Complex 39 A and it's the only one that should be in consideration.

Under the rules of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NASA is required to prepare an Environmental Assessment. It should catalog the impacts to the environment of the proposed facility and to the people who use that environment. They say that NEPA doesn't require public input in the decision making process but they're hosting a series of work shops in Brevard and Volusia Counties anyway. To an extent, they're right. NEPA requires public input for an Environmental Impact Statement. An Environmental Assessment is required to make the determination of whether or not the more comprehensive Environmental Impact State is required.

At any rate, required or not, there will be an opportunity for public input. By the time you read this the work shops will have been held. Rest assured, we will be there to comment. Once the Environment Assessment is published, there will be a public comment period for that too. Obviously, someone at NASA is cognizant of the fact that a public relations nightmare would be unleashed

should they make the wrong decision here. We, along with Space Coast Audubon and other interested parties, will try to assure that they make the right decision. Ruining the experience of going to Black Point or the Scrub Ridge Trail by selecting one site over another and far more appropriate site is not an option here. Surely they can be made to understand this.

## REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

Halifax River Audubon seeks nominations for two At-Large Board members to serve 3-year terms.

The term begins after the election at the June 16, 2008 Annual Meeting and expires after the election at the June 2011 meeting.

If you are interested in serving on the Board and can commit to attending the majority of Board meetings, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: Paula Wehr 673-5332; John Carr 255-9360; and Rachel Ramsey 673-1037.

Board meetings are held at the Dickerson Library on Keech Street in Daytona Beach from 1:30 – 3:30 pm on the first Monday of every month, July through June.

## FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported an operating balance of \$4,911.84. Notable receipts were donations from FP&L and Daytona Beach News-Journal.

Field Trip Chair Bob North reported that 186 bird species have been seen on field trips this year.

Member Willie Burns reported that NASA plans to take part of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge for a new launch site.

Board voted to donate \$50 to the Orlando Wetlands Park Festival.

President Hartgrove appointed Paula Wehr, Rachel Ramsey, and John Carr as a committee to nominate new 2008-2009 Board members.

*When will you have to renew?*

## CHECK THE LABEL

As you know, chapter memberships may be for either National Audubon, or Halifax River Audubon only. We let you know the status of your membership by the date on the address label on your *Pelican* newsletter.

When your membership renewal is due, we will circle the date with a red ring. We then give you three months grace after your renewal date before we remove your name from our membership and mailing list.

Welcome to Richard S. Adamovic, Patricia Allan, Renate Calero, Sonia Decastro, Jean Dellolio, Cheryl Eastwood, Walter Ellis, Anthony Ferrara, Peter Fielding, Ben Harrington, Roxanne Horn, Alan Hovey, E. M. Masica, Bob McDonald, Rowland F. McDowell, Barbara Melendez, Nancy Kay Moore, Charles Norman, Jim Patterson, R. F. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Pennicooke, Al Perkins, Virginia Phillips, David Reel, Constance Rodriguez, Kristi Rugar, John W. Sheirich, Charles Shields, Sheets, Elaine A. Stacy, Dorothy Stowell, Aliene M. Turner, Brenda L. Weiss, and Elaine Williams.

## MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM COASTAL SYSTEMS MODULE

The mission of the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida's natural world among Florida's citizens and visitors.

The Coastal Systems Module provides instruction on the general ecology, habitats, vegetation types, wildlife and conservation issues of coastal systems in Florida, coastal uplands, estuarine, and near shore marine

environments. The program also addresses society's role in coastal areas, develops naturalist interpretation skills and discusses environmental ethics.

The total training, held at Whitney Lab on A1A north, consists of 40 contact hours including 4 instructional videos, 12 presentations and 3 field trips. Students receive detailed course manuals (1,173 pages), University of Florida certificates, patches, and pins. Instructor for the program will be Whitney Laboratory biologist Jose Nunez. Registration deadline is March 4. Cost is \$225.

More information and registration at <http://www.masternaturalist.fas.ufl.edu> or contact Jose Nunez 904-461-4042, [jnunez@whitney.ufl.edu](mailto:jnunez@whitney.ufl.edu).



## March 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 beforehand to ensure details have not changed.

Saturday, March 1

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Blue Heron Wastewater Treatment Plant, Titusville and Boilable Drive, Merritt Island. Meet at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd., Port Orange. 7:00am. Led by Bob North, 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (1)

Monday, March 3

**Halifax River Audubon** Board meeting.

Monday, March 4

Registration deadline for Master Naturalist Program.

Wednesday, March 5

Ormond Beach Garden Club. Speaker Marion Tomblin, Journalist and Ormond Beach Historian. The Casements Cultural Center, 25 Riverside Dr., Ormond Beach. Tea served 9:30am. Meeting 10:00am. Program 11:00am.

Saturday, March 8

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

Wednesday, March 12

Friends of the Library Program. "Past Visions, Future Solutions: Solving the Conundrum of Suburban Sprawl" by Bruce Stephenson, Director of the Environmental & Growth Management Studies Program at Rollins College. City Island Library, 105 E. Magnolia Ave., Daytona Beach. 2:00pm.

Wednesday, Saturday, Wednesday, Wednesday, Wednesday, March 12, 15, 19, 26 and April 2.

Florida Master Naturalist Program Coastal Systems Module (FMNP) at Whitney Laboratory. See article.

Monday, March 17

**Halifax River Program Meeting.** "Osprey Watch" by Bob Montanaro from Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, March 18

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. "Birds in our Area: The Black Skimmers That Raised a Chick on our Beach" by our David Hartgrove. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Socializing 6:30, program 7:00, then refreshments and business meeting.

Saturday, March 22

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Orlando Wetlands in Orange County. Meet at Publix parking lot, Taylor Rd. and Williamson Blvd., Port Orange. 7:00am. Led by Bob North, 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (2)

Saturday, March 22

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR. Night Prowl under a Full Moon. Harold Morrow. 7:00-9:00pm. Meet at the main parking lot at Lake Woodruff NWR, DeLeon Springs. Children encouraged to attend if accompanied by an adult. Free, donations welcomed. Call Beth Cushing at 386-785-0458.

## Year End Report

**BIRD BANDING AT TOMOKA STATE PARK**

January 27, 2008

Meret Wilson

Since the fall banding season ended Nov. 30, banding has "tanked" so to speak. I did go out on New Year's Day and caught 9 Myrtle Warblers (MYWA) but since then not a single bird. I even did a banding demonstration at Merritt Island this past Friday and caught exactly one Gray Catbird (GRCA) in 7 hours of effort.

The fall did end up with banding a first ever Chipping Sparrow (CHSP) for TSP. That was the good news. The bad news is the numbers for this fall are way down from previous years. Much of this must be blamed on my being ill for a few weeks and some VERY screwy weather this fall. My assessment is that many of the birds just scooted over our heads above those weather clouds and winds. And, as you all have no doubt noticed, the numbers of Myrtle Warblers is way down from last year which served to be the bulk of my numbers in 2006-07.

The report is a copy of what I sent into the state and district about what was caught for the fall.

Hope you are all having a very good winter.

Meret Wilson

Tomoka Bird Banding Station

Ormond Beach, FL. Halifax River Audubon Society

## Fall 2007 Report:

First Day	9/18/07	Last Day	1/29/08
Total Days in Operation	29		
Range of No. Mist Nets Used	4-9		
Total Net Hours for Fall	755.5		
Number of Traps in Use	0		
Largest Daily Catch (includes recaptures)	22		
On Date	10/10/07		
Number of Birds Banded	158		
Number of Recaptured Birds	19		
Total Species Banded	33		
Birds/100 Net Hours	23.4 (including recaps)		
Number of males captured	21	%	3
Number of females captured	41	%	6
Number of sex unknown captured	96	%	61
Number of Hatch Year captured	84	%	53
Number of After Hatch Year captured	74	%	47

The fall banding season was heavily interrupted due to many days of heavy rain and high winds leaving a reduced number of days for banding as compared to the previous fall. Only 2 migrant birds from previous seasons were recaptured: An Ovenbird first banded on 9/7/06, recaptured on 10/3/07 and a Gray Catbird first banded on 10/18/05. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> recapture for this bird having been also recaptured on 10/5/06. This supports the theory that passerines have strong site fidelity as the bird was caught both times within 50 yards of the original capture site

Two lectures were given about banding and, in particular, my projects at Tomoka State Park. One was to the Orange Audubon Society in Orlando on 10/18/07 and the other was to the Flagler Audubon chapter on 11/1/07. Three more talks are scheduled for 2008.

A total of 73 cloacal swabs and sets of feathers were collected for the Avian Flu and Stable Isotope studies. Samples were sent to California on 12/3/07. Results are still pending from the samples sent in May, 2007. An inquiry as to when these results will be returned was asked but not responded to as yet

I conducted a Fall Migration Bird Count on Sept 15 for Halifax River Audubon and also conducted the Christmas Bird Count from TSP in December.

The following species and numbers were banded at TSP for the fall banding season:

Magnolia Warbler	4	Painted Bunting	1
American Redstart	8	Indigo Bunting	1
Bluegray Gnatcatcher	1	Savannah Sparrow	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	Carolina Wren	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	Veery	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	6	Eastern Tufted Titmouse	1
Chipping Sparrow (first ever banded at TSP)			1
Western Palm Warbler	8	Downy Woodpecker	1
Yellow Palm Warbler	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush	3
Hooded Warbler	1	Swainson's Thrush	3
White-eyed Vireo	8	Gray Catbird	26
Common Yellowthroat	13	Northern Mockingbird	1
Myrtle Warbler	30	Northern Cardinal	7
Cape May Warbler	2	Common Ground Dove	4
Northern Waterthrush	3	Blue Jay	1
Ovenbird	3	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1
Red-eyed Vireo	6		

In comparison to last fall the low numbers of each species reflects the weather situation. I believe a large number of birds flew above and/or around the storms. Many banders have reported a much slower than normal fall.

The recaptured species included: 4 Carolina Wrens, 1 Common-ground Dove, 2 Ovenbirds, 3 White-eyed Vireos, 6 Northern Cardinals, 1 Common Yellowthroats, and 2 Gray Catbirds.

*Note:* Meret welcomes persons to help with her banding. The nets will be opened ½ hour before sunrise. You can contact her directly at Mileybug@aol.com for the gate combo so you can enter the park early.

Here is Meret's banding schedule for March:

March 4-7 (Tues-Fri)

March 11-14 (Tues-Fri)

March 17-20 (Mon-Thur)

March 24-27 (Mon-Thur)



## AOF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Fran Carr

Audubon of Florida (AOF) is the organization that comprises all the state's Audubon chapters. The staff of AOF publishes information and runs workshops for the chapters, and strives to achieve goals to protect the Florida environment. All chapters, including ours, belong to local groups of chapters that meet quarterly to exchange information with each other and with AOF staff.

John Carr and I recently attended our Central Florida meeting. At that meeting, Charles Lee, AOF Director of Advocacy, presented the AOF legislative priorities for the year. The major topics are Land Conservation, Water Policy, Environmental Funding, Growth Management and Ecosystem Planning, Climate Change, and Wildlife Policy. Statements of special interest to our chapter are:

**Florida Forever** – The State's conservation land buying program is running out of funding to take advantage of opportunities presented by the softening real estate market. Additionally, the program is slated to sunset in 2010, despite the fact that many important wildlands remain to be protected in Florida. Audubon will work with our partners to double the Florida Forever appropriation to \$600 million and support creation of a successor program that will grow over five years to \$900 million per year.

**Environmental Trust Funds** – Funding for much of Florida's state environmental work is housed in trust funds that ensure revenues intended for conservation are spent for conservation. Nevertheless, in tight budget years, trust funds can look like easy pickings to budget cutters. Florida's budget shortfalls may lead to additional proposed reductions in environmental trust funds including the funds for alternative water supply and cleaning up polluted waterways. Audubon will oppose cuts to environmental trust funds.

**Springs Protection** – Audubon will support legislation creating pilot springs regulations.

**Water Conservation** – In this time of water shortages, Audubon feels Florida's best recourse is improving water conservation. We will seek to amend state water permitting laws to make water conservation a mandatory condition of receiving a consumptive use permit and requiring water management districts to prescribe water conservation practices.

**Water Policy** – Rather than putting more conservation features into new developments and retrofitting existing ones, many interests simply propose that we should respond to water shortages by raiding water resources without which Florida's wildlife cannot survive. Audubon pledges to defend environmental water policy from proposals to make it easier to ignore water resource and wildlife impacts in water supply planning and permitting.

**Mining, Fertilizer and Wetlands Preemption** – Audubon will oppose State preemption of local

government ordinances that will reduce fertilizer pollution; reduce wetlands protection; or reduce local approval of mining projects.

**Citizen Participation in Land Use Changes** – Audubon will support Department of Community Affairs Secretary Tom Pelham's proposal to increase citizen participation in land use decisions including making amendments to land use plans more difficult.

**Energy Policy** – Audubon will support Governor Crist's Climate Action Team recommendations including targets for reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and reduction in need for new powerplants by pushing legislation requiring aggressive energy conservation programs and renewable energy sources.

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Constitutional Authority Challenges** – In addition to reductions of the FFWCC base budget request, Audubon anticipates and will oppose legislation that would undermine the agency's constitutional authority.

**Seagrass Protection** – Seagrass legislation that did not pass last year is likely to be considered this year. Audubon staff contributed to the working group that drafted the original language and will continue to advocate for its passage this year.

**Dredging in Aquatic Preserves** – Audubon will guard against legislation allowing inland navigation districts to dredge new channels in aquatic preserves.

**Rooftop Nesting Seabirds** – Last session, building codes language keyed the phasing out of gravel rooftops to an evaluation by the state on the implications for rooftop nesting seabirds (such as imperiled Least Terns) and may be revisited this year.

While we do not view gravel rooftop as a replacement for suitable beach-nesting habitat, the roofing industry has taken up rooftop nesters as a way to preserve dwindling use of this roofing practice.



**Inlet Management Improvements** – We anticipate inlet management legislation that could help move the state away from the never-ending "renourishment" mentality, but may have implications for the inlet shoals essential to many of our shore-dependent imperiled bird species. We will work closely with other shore advocates to safeguard these resources while working to improve Florida's comprehensive coastal management strategy.

**State park Rule Violations** – A Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) bill decriminalizing some state park violations that failed to pass last year has returned this year. By making these civil instead of criminal infractions, we are hopeful DEP will be more likely to enforce important rules such as prohibition of dogs on state park beaches.

March 17 program

## OSPREY WATCH

Paula Wehr

Three miles south of Sebastian Inlet State Park Bridge (South of Melbourne Beach), just off A1A, you'll find Pelican Island, our first National Wildlife Refuge.

Our speaker Bob Montanaro is the office manager for the Pelican Island Audubon Society and volunteers at both the Pelican Island and Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuges. In addition, Bob spends most of his free time documenting the activities of ospreys on Pelican Island. His exploration into the life of the Fish Hawk there is documented at [www.ospreywatch.org](http://www.ospreywatch.org).



Pelican Island has had an infamous and fine birding history. Back in 1881, Paul Kroegel, a German immigrant homesteaded in Sebastian. His place looked out over a five-acre mangrove island, a roosting ground for thousands of brown pelicans and other water birds. An early visitor, Frank Chapman, curator at the American Museum of Natural History in New York and a member of the American Ornithologist's Union, discovered

that this island was the last rookery for brown pelicans on the east coast of Florida. He pledged his support to protect them.

In 1901, Kroegel was one of four wardens hired by Florida Audubon to protect the birds from hunters. Two of those wardens were murdered in the line of duty.

Chapman and William Dutcher appealed to President Theodore Roosevelt and his conservation ethic to protect the birds. In 1903, President Roosevelt signed an executive order establishing Pelican Island as the first federal bird reservation. He would later establish a network of 55 bird reservations and game preserves. These became the forerunners to our national wildlife refuge system.

Paul Kroegel was hired as the first national wildlife refuge manager and paid \$1 a month by Florida Audubon because Congress had not allocated funds for this purpose.

Join us on Monday evening, March 17, for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill. Bob's photographic presentation on "Osprey Watch" will begin at 7:00 p.m.

February Program

## OUR SMART GROWTH

Steve Kintner, Interim Growth and Resource Management Director for Volusia County, began his presentation with a brief background on growth management in our county. Approximately four years ago,

summit meetings and public workshops were held to seek agreement between cities, the county and the public regarding future growth. From these meetings, seven charter amendments which would have given extraordinary power to the County to oversee growth were put on the ballot. Six of those amendments failed at the election. Volusia Council of Governments recognized that although the electorate didn't like the proposed amendments, citizens continue to support the concept of Smart Growth. Therefore, workshops continue to be held and committees continue to meet.

Steve spoke about land masses in the central corridor which most citizens, and city and county governments agree should be preserved. Contrary to popular understanding, the approximately 750 square miles of undeveloped land comprising the Natural Resource Management Area (NRMA) would, under today's existing regulations, allow 21,000 houses to be built within NRMA, including 2.5- to 20-acre ranchette-style development on 50,000 of those acres.

If the current regulations are allowed to remain as they exist now and the allowable development takes place, the central core of environmental land will be virtually destroyed. While it is easy to recommend that the County purchase the approximately 170 square miles of this environmentally-sensitive area which is privately owned, the fact remains that the County does not have the funds available to purchase the land – even if it were for sale.

This leads us to search for alternative policies such as allowing higher density development in one area in return for preserving environmentally sensitive lands elsewhere. Of course, regulations must be in place to ensure that the preserved areas remain protected in perpetuity so that development cannot be allowed in the preserved areas by changing the zoning rules.

Higher density can come in the form of five single-family homes per acre vs. four homes, or five story buildings vs. four. Well-designed landscaping, buffers and sidewalks/trails will make the increase barely noticeable and very livable. If, as a community, we want mass transit, we must increase density around the transit stations. We can promote eco-tourism as a way to make it financially beneficial to preserve and protect our environmentally-sensitive lands. These, and many other ideas, are currently being explored.

Where do we go from here?

- Endorse the Smart Growth Report as a greenprint for going forward
- Focus on recommendations which are "doable" without Charter Amendments

*NOTE:* To learn more about the activities of VCOG regarding Smart Growth in Volusia County, see [www.volusia.org/smartgrowth](http://www.volusia.org/smartgrowth).

# THE PELICAN



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	Conservation Chair		
<b>Novetta Duffer</b>	Vice President	672-7745	nduffer@cfl.rr.com
<b>Paula Wehr</b>	Vice President	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
<b>Rachel Ramsey</b>	Treasurer,	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways and Means		
<b>Peggy Yokubonus</b>	Recording Secretary	673-7679	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
<b>Jean Rondeau</b>	Corresponding Secretary	290-3555	indyjean44@comcast.net
<b>John Carr</b>	Membership Secretary,	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
<b>John Roessler</b>	Past President	255-9826	birdman3651@aol.com
.....			
<b>Carol Branch</b>	At-Large Class of 2008	226-8588	jocanorth@voyager.net
<b>Barbara Kieran</b>	At-Large Class of 2008	672-2927	bkieran386@bellsouth.net
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<b>Willie Burns</b>	At-Large Class of 2010	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
<b>Bob North</b>	At-Large Class of 2010	352-302-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
.....			
<b>Vacant</b>	Education		
<b>Bob North</b>	Field Trips	352-302-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
<b>DeDee Blanchard</b>	Hospitality	673-6541	dedee@clearwire.net
<b>Paula Wehr</b>	Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
<b>Fran Carr</b>	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
<b>Joan and James Anderson</b>	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jinjanderson3@juno.com

## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	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		

MARCH 2008

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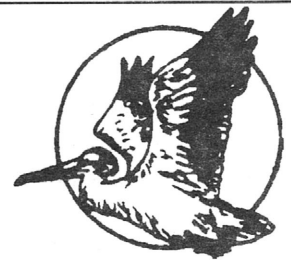
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**For Your Information** – All articles for *The Pelican* should be sent to Fran Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach, 32118. Articles for publication in next month's issue must be received by the third Monday of the month.

**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.

# THE PELICAN

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



**VOL. 53 - NO. 10**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**April 2008**

## *Good-Bye to a Friend*

### **JAMES EDWARD "ANDY" ANDERSON 1932 to 2008**

Andy and Jo Anderson are always the first people you see when you enter the meeting room at Sica Hall. They've been the "face" of Halifax River Audubon, welcoming guests, reminding members to sign in, greeting new and old friends alike and providing information about our chapter. Sadly, James "Andy" Anderson passed away on Friday, March 14.

He was born in Princeton, Illinois, and moved to this area in 1955 from his birthplace. He served in the Navy during the Korean War and retired from Bell South. He was a member of Central Baptist Church, Pioneers of America, and the Board of Halifax River Audubon, and enjoyed collecting antique bottles, camping, canoeing and bird-watching. His sense of humor and smile touched all who knew and loved him. We will all miss our good friend and colleague.

## **CONSERVATION NOTES**

David Hartgrove

In last month's column I wrote of the threat posed to a portion of Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge by NASA's planned expansion of a commercial space launch facility. They were seeking public input as part of an Environmental Assessment of two recommended sites. While one site would virtually destroy the experience of some of the best birding Florida has to offer, the other is a stretch of prime, coastal scrub habitat that at present is undisturbed. All four meetings NASA hosted seeking public comment were standing room only and the NASA heard loud and clear that site #2, the one closest to Black Point Wildlife Drive, was sacred ground.

I spoke of a third alternative. There are a number of long unused launch facilities at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. That land has already been disturbed and is of minimal environmental value. NASA spokesmen were quick to point out that the land in question didn't belong to them and that they were mandated to look only at alternatives on their property. As I see it, all of that land, both NASA and Air Force, belongs to us. That's "us", as in US taxpayers. I suggested that everyone write to Senators Nelson and Martinez and Congressman Tom Feeney. Kennedy Space Center is in his district. You can find their contact information at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov). Please take a few minutes to contact

them and request that they facilitate a transfer to NASA of these unused Air Force launch sites. It simply makes no sense to destroy land rich in environmental heritage when vacant land with the requisite infrastructure in place sits just across the fence.

Here's the contact info for Congressman Feeney:  
323 Cannon House Office  
Building Washington, DC 20515  
His local phone number is (386)756-9798

Here's the contact info for Senator Martinez:  
United States Senate  
356 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Main: (202) 224-3041  
Fax: (202) 228-5171

Here's the contact info for Senator Nelson:  
United States Senate  
Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5274  
Fax: 202-228-2183

-----  
Holly Zwart-Duryea and I attended the meeting at City Island Library to unveil the latest draft of the County's Coastal Islands Management Plan. We received CD ROMS containing the results of the survey that was conducted last year of over 200 islands along the Intra Coastal Waterway stretching from Mosquito Lagoon to Tomoka Basin, including our own Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary. The survey sought to inventory the flora and fauna on all of the islands surveyed and to assign GPS locations, size estimates and ownership.

Now the various stake holders need to weigh in on how they'd like to see the islands put to use. There are four categories at this point: Education, Conservation, Passive and Active Recreation. Plans are moving forward too to connect to the Atlantic Coast Blueway, a paddling trail along the ICW. Possible options include primitive camp grounds and/or picnic facilities on some of the islands with volunteer groups helping in cleaning and maintenance. Be thinking of how you'll want to help out.



### MERET'S REPORT FOR MARCH

Note: Chapter member Meret Wilson bands birds she mist nets at Tomoka State Park north of Ormond Beach.

March 11-14, 2008: The weather is frightful this week and looks to continue the remainder of the week. Last week was such an improvement over the whole winter season. The weather was perfect and finally a little variety.

The first day brought 2 snowbirds, friends I have known for the past 10 years from AOL's Bird Chat Room to the station, on the same day. And, it turned out to be the most active day so far this spring.

The entire banding season I had not caught a single Hermit Thrush (HETH), only and Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes (GCTH, SWTH). On 3-12 I caught a Hermit Thrush that I had banded last spring on 3-7-07. Since it was an After Hatch Year (AHY) at that time, this bird is at least 3 years old now. It was also recaptured on 3-14-07. Must like it here. The other recapture was a Carolina Wren (CARW) that was originally banded on 10-27-04 as a Hatch Year (HY), the first season Tomoka Bird Banding Station opened. It has since been re-captured 5 times. It is still too early in the season to be able to tell if either bird is male or female.

<u>Birds banded for the week.</u>	<u>New</u>	<u>Recaptured</u>
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	
Northern Cardinal		1
Myrtle Warbler	4	
Gray Catbird	4	
Hermit Thrush		1
Carolina Wren		$\frac{1}{3}$
Totals	<u>10</u>	<u>3</u>

### MARCH BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported an operating balance of \$4,674.34. Board voted to rescind a sell order for some portfolio funds.

Board member Willie Burns reported that he will be selling Golden Dog inventory at Spring Fling at Sugar Mill Gardens in April and at Earth Day events at Washington Oaks.

Membership Chair John Carr reported Chapter membership is 497.

Field Trip Chair Bob North noted that 27 bird species were seen at Dunlawton Bridge and 70 species seen on the Blue Heron/Biolab trip. At the Blue Heron Wastewater Treatment Plant there were six Blue Heron nests.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove reported via email on a meeting he attended sponsored by NASA to hear comments on its site plans for building a new launch pad. There was strong opposition to locating the launch pad adjacent to Merritt Island national Wildlife Refuge. David said he recommended NASA use an abandoned launch pad at Canaveral Air Force Station.

Board approved change to Bylaws. The change will be published in the April *Pelican* and voted upon by Chapter membership present at the May Chapter meeting.

Board approved request to provide bird seed to an elementary teacher using Audubon Adventures.

Board approved sending Chapter newsletter *The Pelican* to elementary school offices, teacher's work rooms, and Audubon Adventure classrooms.

Board approved request by Marion Tomlin, owner of the Ormond Bookstore, to partner her store's new environmental education program. She requested volunteers to assist in field trips and in-store education programs for 3 to 6 grade school children.

Guests at the meeting were Becky Tate and Marion Monaghan, nominees for At-Large Board members.

Via e-mail post board meeting: Hinson Middle School teacher Marsha Shapiro requested \$75 to purchase a bench to be placed in a bird-friendly garden being constructed by her pupils. Board approved.

Jean Rondeau resigned the Board because she is moving to Indiana. The Board wished her well and expressed thanks for her contributions to our Chapter.

*April 21, 2008 Program Meeting*

### SPRING WARBLERS AND OTHER MIGRATING SONGBIRDS

Last spring Halifax River Audubon sponsored a field trip on a lovely Saturday morning. As our members walked the trails we met up with a group of birders who were also taking photographs. We struck up a conversation and the photographer offered to show us the digital image he had just captured of the bird we were all watching. One thing led to another, and the photographer, David Baker, retired Earth & Environmental Science teacher from upstate New York, agreed to share his photographs of migrating spring warblers and other songbirds with our chapter.

David and his wife live in the Hudson Valley during late spring, summer and early fall, and spend the winter in New Smyrna Beach. He is active with the League of Naturalists of Harriman State Park, the Hudson Highlands Nature museum in Cornwall, NY, the Mearns Birding Club in Orange County, NY, Orange County Audubon, Cape May Bird Observatory and the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna He has done workshops for the Volusia Land Acquisition and Management Department with Bonnie Cary (who will speak to HRA in June).

David earned a bachelors degree in geology from Lafayette College and M.A., MEd. and Ph.D. in Education from Columbia University.

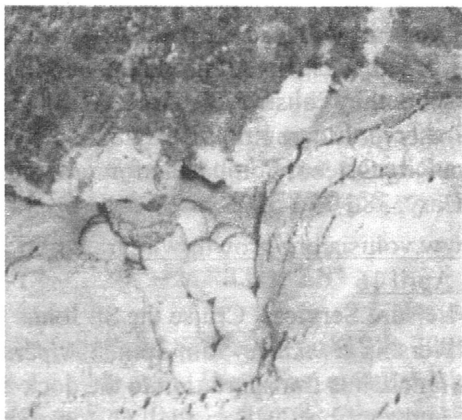
Don't miss this presentation of beautiful spring birds. Refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m. David's presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill.

## SEA TURTLES

The Volusia Turtle Patrol is sponsoring a Turtle Fest to support protection of sea turtles (see Calendar).

The Turtle Patrol reports that there are three species of these marine reptiles that nest on our beaches from April through September, the loggerhead, the green, and the leatherback

Loggerheads, named for their large heads, are brownish orange, weigh 200-350 pounds and measure three feet in length. Our area is the second largest nesting site for loggerheads in the world. Every other year a few greens and leatherbacks nest here.

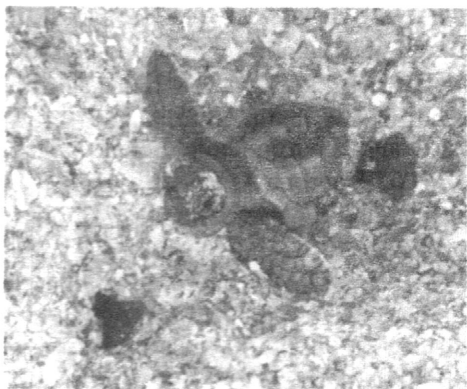


*Loggerhead laying eggs*

The female turtle usually crawls ashore at night to lay her eggs in soft sand. When she finds a safe place to nest, she will dig a nest cavity with her rear flippers and lay, on average, 100 soft leathery eggs that resemble ping-pong balls. After laying her eggs, she covers the nest to hide it and returns to the ocean. She may return to nest again at 14-day intervals, several times a season.

The nest must incubate undisturbed for 50 to 70 days before the eggs hatch. If the eggs are moved, if a nest is uncovered, or if severe tides inundation the nest, the eggs may perish. The nest needs safe stable habitat for success.

The Turtle Patrol marks all known nests on our beaches with four stakes, survey ribbon and a sea turtle nest sign. Even so, some nests are missed.



*Loggerhead hatchling*

Hatchlings usually emerge from their nest at night all together and madly crawl toward the water. This crawl is believed to imprint a memory that enables them to return to the same beach 15 to 20 years later to reproduce. On dark beaches, the hatchlings are drawn to the natural glow of the horizon. Once the hatchlings make it to the water, they have a difficult life ahead. It is estimated only one in 1,000 to 10,000 hatchlings will survive to adulthood.

For more information or to report sea turtle emergencies, contact the Volusia/Flagler Turtle patrol at 386-767-5257 or 386-763-0977.

## FLORIDA LEGISLATURE THIRD WEEK REPORT

ENR 08-09 Florida Forever Successor. Florida Forever is due to sunset in 2010. House Committee on Conservation and State Lands proposal to consolidate land management activities among several state agencies was of concern to the Florida Forever Coalition which thought that would weaken the bill. Conservation advocate Sen. Al Lawson shot the measure down.

PCB ENRC 08-01/SB 1544 Energy (Putting Powerlines on State Lands). Power companies push to make it easier to site electric transmission lines on state lands. Florida's Constitution sets a strict test for disposing of state lands. Audubon will work to make sure that "grants" of state lands are not allowed. The current process of leases and easements follow an environmentally protective "incompatible use" test.

HB 1267 Urban Fertilizer. This bill required local governments to adopt a model local ordinance for urban fertilizer use. The bill passed unanimously. Audubon opposed the bill because it limits local governments from enacting stronger measures. Audubon is proposing to Rep. Nelson that the language be changed so that local governments would be able to mandate stronger programs including stiff restrictions of the use of fertilizers, which are a primary source of water pollution.

SB 1544 Energy. Governor Crist is making good on his commitment to make Florida a leader in climate change strategies. A bill approved by the Senate Environmental Preservation Committee is carrying the Governor's good proposals and a few others. Key concepts for Gov. Crist are targets for greenhouse gases and state governance of energy decisions. Thanks go to Senators Burt Saunders, Paula Dockery and Lee Constantine.

*Editor's Note: Please let me know if you want to continue receiving these reports in your newsletter. For more information log into [flconservation@audubon.org](mailto:flconservation@audubon.org)*

## 2007-2008 CALENDAR

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

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

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, April 4-6

Audubon Academy. For more information contact Pelican Island Audubon Society PO Box 1833 Vero Beach, FL 32961, email [piaudubon@bellsouth.net](mailto:piaudubon@bellsouth.net), phone 772-567-3520 and [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org).

Friday, April 4

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Tiger Bay Wildlife Management Area. Meet at International Speedway Square (Circuit City is there) parking lot, ISB, Daytona Beach. 7:30am. Led by Ray Scory, 386-763-4260. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, April 5

Plant Faire, by Volusia County Master Gardeners. Plants for sale, etc. 8:30am-noon. Volusia County Agricultural Center, 8100 E. New York Ave., DeLand. Free. 822-5778.

Saturday, April 5

1st Annual Turtle Fest. Veteran's Memorial Park, Flagler Beach, at the corner of A1A & SR 100. 10am to 5pm. BBQ dinner to benefit Turtle Patrols, live music, environmental exhibits, kid's activities, and raffle prizes. Possible release of a rehabbed sea turtle. Free admission.

Saturday, April 5

County of Volusia: Land Acquisition and Management. "Snakes: Florida Critters That Deserve Our Respect". Field trip led by Jim Duby--Seminole County Natural Lands Manager and herpetology expert. Participants will learn about snakes and observe Jim's collection, then go on a short hike of the flatwoods and swamp to learn about their natural habitat. Bicentennial Youth Park, 3300 New York Ave., DeLand. 9:00-12:00. Space is limited. For more information contact Bonnie Cary, 386-736-5276.

Saturday, April 5

County of Volusia: Land Acquisition and Management. "Nature Photography: Naturally Digital". Class and field trip led by David Baker, Environmental Educator. Bring your cameras and favorite photographs to share. Class will include hands-on field experience doing some nature photography. 2:00-5:00 pm. Bicentennial Youth Park, 3300 New York Ave., DeLand. Space is limited. For more information contact Bonnie Cary, 386-736-5276.

Sunday, April 6

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

Monday, April 7

**Halifax River Audubon** Board meeting.

Saturday, April 12

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

Saturday, April 12

County of Volusia: Land Acquisition and Management. "Insects--Good or Bad?" Field trip led by Ray Jarrett, Environmental Scientist. This insect adventure will include inspecting insect traps and netting specimens to learn about the diverse insects in the habitats around us. We'll also learn about the exotic insects that are invading Florida and the problems that they cause. 9:00-12:00. Wiregrass Prairie Preserve, Lopez Rd., off Pell Rd., off Maytown Rd., Osteen. For more information contact Bonnie Cary, 386-736-5276.

<http://www.volusia.org/growth/wiregrass.htm>

Wednesday, April 16

Volusia Leisure Services. Cruise the St. Johns River on the *Rivership Romance* 9am-3pm. \$50/person includes lunch, bus transportation to the dock in Sanford, and a tour of DeBary Hall Historic Site. Bus pickup points are the DeLand Area Public Library, Orange City Public Library and DeBary Town Hall. Advance payment and registration are required by April 9. Download form at [www.volusia.org/parks](http://www.volusia.org/parks) and mail check and completed form to Leisure Services office, 202 N. Florida Ave., DeLand. For more info call Walt Bockmiller at 386-736-5953.

Saturday, April 19

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR. Dip Netting - Explore the Underwater World at Lake Woodruff NWR. Terry Farrell. Meet at the main parking lot at Lake Woodruff NWR, DeLeon Springs. Children encouraged to attend if accompanied by an adult. Free, donations welcomed. Call Beth Cushing at 386-785-0458.

Saturday and Sunday, April 1 and 20

Earth Day. See Article.

Monday, April 21

**Halifax River Program Meeting.** "Spring Warblers and Other Migrating Songbirds" by David Baker, retired Earth and Environmental Science teacher. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Thursday, April 24

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. "Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles" by Peggy Lantz, co-author of the book. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Socializing 6:30, program 7:00, then refreshments and business meeting. NOTE: meeting date is at a different time.

Friday, April 25

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Kingsley Plantation, Fort George Island, Jacksonville. Meet at Publix parking lot, Granada and Williamson Blvds. 5:00am. Led by Bob North. 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (2)

Friday, May 2

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Buschman Park, 4575 Spruce Creek Rd., Port Orange. Meet at Park. 8:00am. Led by Ray Scory, 386-763-4260. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, May 3

Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR. Ethnobotany – Identifying Native Edible and Medicinal Plants at Lake Woodruff NWR. Georgia Zern 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.

**EARTH FEST**

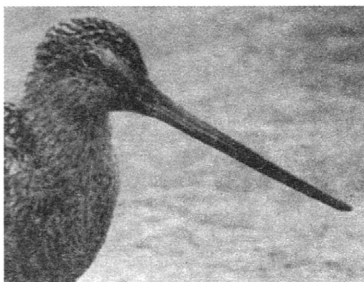
David Hartgrove

On Saturday and Sunday, April 19 & 20th, we will again have a table at the Earth Fest event at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park. Located at the north end of the Hammock, on A1A in Palm Coast, this is one of Florida's loveliest spots. It offers both a tranquil walk under moss draped live oaks and formal gardens that were originally started by one of George Washington's grand daughters. It also has one of the only rocky beaches in the state, though there's plenty of sand too. We will be leading guided bird walks at 10:30 and 1:30 both days. Willie and the Golden Dog will be selling all of those books and Audubon coffee you've been telling yourself you wanted to buy. It will be an excellent way to spend the day. Come and join us from 10:00 to 4:00 either or both days. You'll be glad you did.

**GFBT**

David Hartgrove

March 22. I just received formal notification that Port Orange Causeway Park is the newest stop on the Great Florida Birding Trail. We applied for this some months ago. The brown GFBT signs announcing the spot should be erected early next year. From now on we could be sharing the park with birders from Europe, Japan or anywhere.



**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 for senior citizen or student. All of 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 *The Naturalist*, the publication of Audubon of Florida.

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## March Program

### OSPREY WATCH

Ospreys are large, beautiful raptors seen all over the US, especially along the coastlines and on the Florida peninsula. Because of their numbers and their size, most birders recognize them easily and would probably say they are fairly knowledgeable about Osprey habits. However, after Bob Montanaro's presentation on March 17, even the most advanced birder in the room felt he/she had learned more than one fact.

Bob was intrigued after reading David Gessner's book "Return of the Osprey." To research the book, Mr. Gessner followed four pairs of ospreys for an entire nesting season and chronicled their activities. Bob decided to emulate Mr. Gessner's experience, but to document his findings with photographs instead of text. Bob found an osprey nest at Pelican Island NWR in 2006 and spent 104 days, from sunrise to sunset,



Photo by Gene Herzberg

watching the pair. He repeated his experience in 2007, spending 112 days at his spot in the refuge. He didn't use a blind, but tried to be unobtrusive. He became so successful at becoming "part of the landscape" that wildlife ignored him and came extremely close. He jokingly stated that if he had stood in place any longer, the grass would have grown up around him. The result of his dedication is a chronicle of the life cycle of a pair of breeding Ospreys documented with magnificent still photographs and video of startling detail and clarity.

The Osprey – also known as the fish hawk – has a 5-6 foot wingspan and a 22-25 inch body. Ospreys live 14-18 years in the wild, weigh 4 to 4.5 pounds and can carry fish weighting 50% of their weight. The adult male has an all-white breast. The larger adult female has brown streaking on the breast, forming a necklace shape. Florida has a year-round population of Ospreys. Other Ospreys which breed in northern states, migrate to South America where young adults will remain until they reach breeding maturity at 3-4 years of age. At that time, migrating Ospreys will return to the northern areas where they born.

When hunting, the Osprey flies slowly, searching the water for fish. The bird dives head first, then rotates his body so his feet, with the very sharp talons, hits the water and grabs the fish. Osprey can close their nostrils to allow for complete submersion. After snagging the fish, the

Osprey climbs 20-30 feet and shakes his body to remove water and lighten the load.

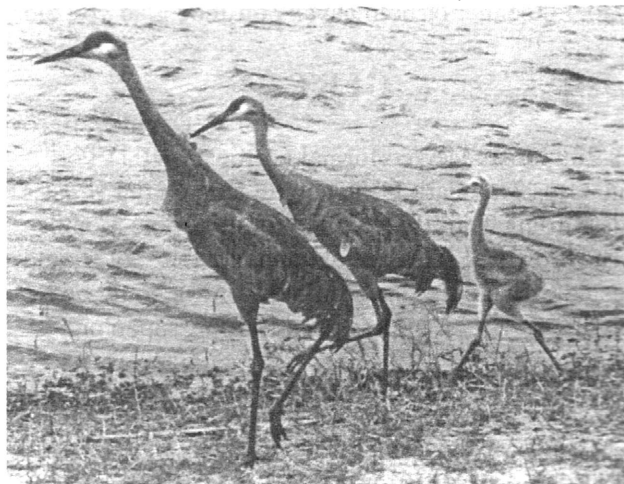
Mating begins in late December to early January, lasting for 3-4 weeks while the pair works on the nest. Ospreys mate for life, returning to the same nest year after year. However, after the young become independent, the adults go their separate ways until the following breeding season. Nests can be as large as 6 feet across and constructed of a variety of material, including branches and twigs, lengths of rope and even small orange utility flags used to mark gas lines or underground pipes. Seagrass and seaweed line the nests.

When the eggs are laid, the Osprey parents take turns on the nest. The male does all the fishing, removing the head and eating it before bringing the body of the fish back to the female. At 38 days, the chicks begin to hatch. They grow at a phenomenal rate as the male returns numerous times per day with fish. At 29 days, the chicks are exercising with wing flapping and hopping. At 40 days, they are feeding themselves with the fish brought to the nest by the male. At 57 days the first of the three chicks flew to a nearby branch. At 61 days all three juvenile birds had left the nest. For the next 4-6 weeks, the parents continue to bring fish to the young while they learn to hunt.

Bob Montanaro is the office manager for the Pelican Island Audubon Society and a volunteer at Pelican Island NWR and Archie Carr NWR. See [www.ospreywatch.org](http://www.ospreywatch.org) for more details.

### PLATTE RIVER CRANES

Audubon Rowe Sanctuary Crane Cam views the nearly 500,000 Sandhill Cranes along with hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese converging on Platte River. [video.nationalgeographic.com/video/cranecam/](http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/cranecam/)



Sandhill Cranes - Viera Wastewater Treatment Plant  
May 2007 Photo by Rebecca Carr

## PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

The Halifax River Audubon Board has approved a change to the Chapter Bylaws. The change must have the approval of members present at the May 19 Chapter meeting for the changes to become effective.

As background to the change, the Board discovered confusing language in our existing bylaws regarding filling vacant board positions. Article III, Section 1 says,

“Vacancies of **non-officers** occurring on the Board may be temporarily filled by the Board until the next annual meeting.”

That implies that it means At-Large Board members who would be “elected” at the next general meeting. At-Large members are the only elected non-officers on the Board. Committee chairs are never elected so there would be no reason to “temporarily” fill the position until the next annual meeting (when presumably the replacement would be elected.) Article IV, Section 2 gives the president authority to appoint committee chairs, as does Article VIII in the first paragraph.

The Board approved a change in the wording of Article III, Section 1 to read:

“Vacancies of **elected** members occurring on the Board may be temporarily filled by the Board until the next annual meeting.”

That will cover all elected positions, including both officers and non-officer.

*Attention Snowbirds*

## SUMMER ADDRESS CHANGE

John Carr, Membership

Halifax River Audubon members, if you leave your winter address for longer than a month you need to send me your summer forwarding address so you will receive *The Pelican* newsletter.

I need to know when you leave and when you will return. You may notify me by snail mail or by email. My address is John Carr 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118. My email address is [jcarr14@juno.com](mailto:jcarr14@juno.com).

If you leave a message on my answering machine, please speak slowly and be sure you give all the information. My number is (386)255-9360.

## BIRDS ON THE WEB

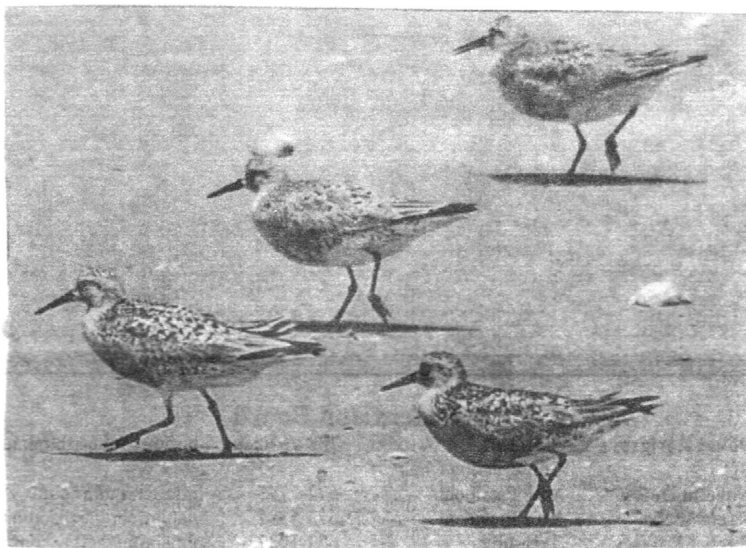
Look up great color images of birds from North America and Australia by both professional and amateur birder-photographers. Sometimes they don't know what kind of bird it is and it is a challenge to identify them. Your Internet provider may let you add [alt.binaries.birds.free](http://alt.binaries.birds.free).

*New Jersey Legislature*

## HELP FOR IMPERILED RED KNOT SHOREBIRD

The New Jersey bill imposed a moratorium on the harvesting of horseshoe crabs. Already approved by the General Assembly, it was approved by the Senate in a unanimous vote of 39-0.

Last month, conservation groups including Audubon sought emergency protections from the federal government to prevent further catastrophic declines in numbers of Red Knots. The emergency petition for listing the species for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act came on the heels of a new report by 20 shorebird biologists from around the world, which detailed the rapid and ongoing decline of the migratory shorebird's populations in the Western Hemisphere.



2007 Photo by Jerry Kerschner

The new report confirmed that both the *rufa* and *roselaari* subspecies of red knot in the United States need immediate protection or risk further decline and extinction. In addition to the evidence showing decreased populations of both subspecies of red knot, the report also found that weights of red knots caught in the Delaware Bay during their spring stopover have suffered significantly due to the reduced availability of horseshoe crab eggs that are needed to sustain the shorebird on the last leg of their migration to breeding grounds in the Arctic.

Delaware and New Jersey currently do not have strong enough conservation measures in place to ensure adequate numbers of horseshoe crabs, and the Department of the Interior has failed to request the funds necessary to deal with the growing number of candidates-now totaling 282 species.

For background on the protections, please visit <http://www.audubon.org/campaign/esa/redknot.html>.

# THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer,	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
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John Carr	Membership Secretary,	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
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Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan 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		

APRIL 2008

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

Thank you

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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.

# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 53 - NO. 11**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**May 2008**

## CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

In 1963 Bald Eagle population estimates in the continental United States stood at just 417 nesting pairs. Bald Eagle populations began to decline in this country in the late 18th century due to habitat loss and the shooting and poisoning of the birds by those who considered them a nuisance. This was long before anyone thought of legislation to protect any wild species, even though the bird was then the national symbol of our country. In 1918 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was ratified by Congress, in response in part to the depredations of the plume hunters whose activities helped birth the National Audubon Society earlier. Bald Eagles had some level of protection under that act but in 1940, after continued harassment and killings by ranchers and others, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act was passed. An amendment to this act in 1972 increased the already substantial fines for any harassment of these birds. In the early 1980's a rancher in Wyoming was fined \$100,000.00 for shooting over 100 Bald and Golden Eagles from a helicopter.

The real problems for these birds began with the introduction of the new organophosphate based pesticides, especially DDT. In 1962, when Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring" was published, the evidence showed that not only Bald Eagles but Brown Pelicans, Ospreys, Peregrine Falcons and many other species were being seriously affected. The DDT ingested by these birds because of their position at the apex of the food chain was causing the eggs they produced to have such thin shells that they were unable to successfully incubate them and populations were crashing. With the inception of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973, all of nature finally had a friend in the federal government. Of course, the enforcement of this act has depended on the commitment of the administration in power at various times.

In 2002 the Environmental Protection Agency proposed de-listing Bald Eagles from the ESA. That effort was derailed by a law suit until 2005. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission established a panel of experts to draft a new Bald Eagle Management Plan for the state 3 years ago. The results of those efforts were adopted at the FWC meeting this April 9th. The plan was applauded by Audubon of Florida as a victory for science based environmental regulation. I attended one of the

stake holder's meetings that was held in Gainesville and was part of the discussions held electronically across the state. Bald Eagles will continue to be protected in their nesting territories here in Florida thanks to the efforts of this group of dedicated scientists and advocates.

Last year there were 9,789 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles in the country. 1,218 were in Florida, which has more Bald Eagles than any other state besides Alaska. The real story here though is the triumph of the Endangered Species Act. Because of it, DDT was banned in this country in 1972 and bird populations, including Bald Eagles began a slow recovery that continues to this day. The publication of "Silent Spring" helped set the stage for the environmental movement as we know it today. As I write this, it's Earth Day. The first Earth Day was held 38 years ago, in 1970. It was the creation of Wisconsin Senator, Gaylord Nelson, another of those names we hear and ask, "Who?"

### *May 19 Program Meeting*

#### **SEA SHELLS**

Can you identify the common shells that are found on our local beaches? Join us on May 19, when Joel Wooster, HRA member, will display some of his favorite local shells and make a presentation to provide tips on identifying shells.

Joel began collecting shells for his high school biology project and has been collecting them ever since. He is a retired Tech Support Engineer for Siemens Medical Systems, working with their Nuclear Medicine, PET, and Ultrasound equipment. Since retiring Joel's been volunteering at the Marine Discovery Center, Marine Science Center, Volusia County Land Acquisition, and leading shell walks. He completed all 3 modules of the Florida Master Naturalist Program and is certified as a Florida Master Naturalist. Locally he is known as "The Mollusk Man."

Refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m. at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill. Joel's presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

As an added treat, Joel is leading a "Shell Walk" at Lighthouse Park in Ponce Inlet at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6. There is a \$3 fee for admittance to the Park; officials there were unable to waive the fee for Joel's field trip.



## IT'S SPRING, TIME TO COUNT THE BIRDS

David Hartgrove

Saturday, May 10th, will be the Spring Migration Count. Once again we will fan out to cover as much 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 join us, the more successful the count is.

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 or send me an e-mail so I can begin putting together teams: 386-788-2630, [birdman9@earthlink.net](mailto:birdman9@earthlink.net).

Welcome to new members Argirstas, Winifred S. Augusta, Linda Belmain, Larry Carrico, Russ and Sally Cole, Connie D. Curtis, Holly Green, Verlan Enck, Thomas R. Ingersoll, Ruth Kent, David Monaco, Caroline Laubheimer, H. D. Minnis, Ingolf Peterson, Gary Roberson, Ann Rodgers, Lori Staudt, Everett D. Stout, Norma N. Washburn, Catherine Wharton, Stephanie Wilson, and Rosa Zidelis..

### APRIL BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey an operating balance of \$3,686.67.

Board member Willie Burns reported good Golden Dog sales at Sugar Mill Gardens Spring Fling. He will attend Washington Oaks Earth Fest. Sales YTD are \$760.50.

Membership Chair John Carr reported Chapter membership is 500.

Field Trip Chair Bob North reported that special birds seen on the Orlando Wetlands trip were Purple Gallinules, Least Bittern and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. The Tiger Bay trip provided really good looks at a Bachman's Sparrow.

Bob welcomes suggestions for 2008-2009 field trips. On his list are trips to Lake Woodruff, Orlando Wetlands, MINWR, Emerald Marsh, Guana River, Kissimmee Prairie, Tomoka State Park, Turkey Creek Preserve, and possibly an overnight trip to Cedar Key.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove reported that Palm Coast Linear Park has been added to the Great Florida Birding Trail.

Rachel Ramsey sent letters to schools asking for feedback on their use of Audubon Adventures kits.

Vice President Paula Wehr reported on a conference call with National Audubon about "Together Green," a \$20 million grant from Toyota to Audubon to be used to benefit the environment.

Board approved a \$1,500 grant to Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail CME, Inc. to provide signage on Walter Boardman Lane to mark the path to the observation platform, and on Pine Tree Road identifying public access to Mud Pond.

### MAY CALENDAR

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

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

#### Friday, May 2

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Buschman Park, 4575 Spruce Creek Rd., Port Orange. Meet at Park. 8:00am. Led by Ray Scory, 386-763-4260. Bring lunch. (1)

#### Sunday, May 5

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. Native landscape tour. TBA

#### Monday, May 5

**Halifax River Audubon** Board meeting.

#### Tuesday, May 6

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Shelling at Lighthouse Park, 100 Lighthouse Rd., Ponce Inlet. Meet at Park. 3:00pm. Led by Joel Wooster, 386-314-4111. Park admission fee \$3.00 (1)

#### Saturday, May 10

**Halifax River Field Trip.** Spring 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)

#### Saturday, May 10

International Migratory Bird Day. This day celebrates the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central, and South America. This year's theme is "Tundra to Tropics" for more info, visit [www.birdday.org](http://www.birdday.org).

#### Monday, May 19

**Halifax River Program Meeting.** "Sea Shells" by Joel Wooster, HRA member. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

#### Tuesday, May 20

Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. "Deland Ridge Ecology: Missing the Forest for the Trees" by Steve Strawn. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Socializing 6:30, program 7:00, then refreshments.

## TIGER BAY STATE FOREST FIELD TRIP

Ray Scory

April 4, 2008, we tamed the Tiger. At Tiger Bay State Forest, on a beautiful Friday field trip, we found our targeted birds - the Brown-headed Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadee and Bachman's Sparrow. The Brown Thrasher, a dramatically brown colored bird' was our secondary targeted bird. We found all four in the morning hours.

The trip ended near State Road 40 on Rima Ridge Road with the sighting of three Swallow-tailed Kites. They rose over a tree lined horizon and sailed down across tan colored fields toward our excited watch.

In between these wonderful events we enjoyed the sun filled, cool breezy day, lunched under the canopy of classic Live Oak trees and quietly and slowly drove the well groomed forest dirt roads. Periodically we ventured off the road to walk the earthen trails or walked into tree covered open spaces. A forest bird-watching trip is a search for the living jewels that inhabit that forest. Here the birds are not openly on display but require you to find them.

The highlight of the day was the sighting of a Bachman's Sparrow, a sweet singing little brown bird of rather indistinguishable field ID markings. It presented its serenade not more than twenty feet away from our group. It remained singing for some time, giving everyone a good look. In fact, it hopped around on the branch to give us great back and front views. Quite a showoff.



Bachman's Sparrow photo by Ray Scory

Tiger Bay State Forest is a multi-use area managed under the direction of the Florida Division of Forestry, covering such important areas as forest restoration, watershed management, recreation and archaeological and cultural management.

Also, the state forest is noted among many birders as the home of the much sought after Bachman's Sparrow.

We observed a total of forty species, but missed some of the expected residents and visitors. However, quantity is no assurance of quality. On this day this adage held true. We certainly had a quality bird watching day.

April 21 Meeting

### SPRING WARBLERS AND OTHER MIGRATING SONGBIRDS

David Baker, retired Earth & Environmental Science teacher, spends the winter in New Smyrna and the remainder of the year in the Hudson Valley, NY.

Using photos of some of the 260+ species he has digitally captured, David described migration. Most birds

migrate because of food – or the lack of it. Severe winters bring birds from northern areas into locations they may not normally frequent. As an example, a sparse pine cone crop in Canada forced Pine Grosbeaks and Hoary Redpolls to the Hudson Valley where they are rarely seen.

Brants, members of the goose family, migrate south only as far as necessary to find open water. They, like a variety of other species, use one migration route in the fall/winter (south along the coast line) and a different route to return to breeding grounds (inland going north).

Bear Mountain in the Hudson Valley is a great place for hawk watching. Migrating hawks ride the thermals formed by hot air rising from the earth and cruise along following the ridges southward along the east coast. Some species will stop in Florida; others will continue on to Central and South America. Kettles of up to 150 birds are often seen. On one special day, hawk watchers were treated to a total of 521 Peregrine Falcons passing through!

Much migration is completed at night, possibly because birds use the stars as navigational aids. Perhaps they follow the lights of cities. Or perhaps they prefer to travel at night because of the rising hot air which creates thermals.

The Trans-Gulf route entails flying across the Gulf of Mexico. The first landing areas in the panhandle of Florida are "microtraps" where migrants stop en masse to sleep and eat. These areas are essential to the welfare of migrating birds. Without the ability to refuel, they will not be able to survive until they reach their breeding grounds. The Circum-Gulf route crosses Mexico, Texas and inland to their destination.

Try your hand at navigating a migration route at [www.ny.audubon.org/missionmigration](http://www.ny.audubon.org/missionmigration). This game portrays the perils and stresses met by migrating birds.

David also recommended the following books about migration: *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds* by Scott Weidensaul; *Atlas of Bird Migration: Tracing the Great Journeys of the World's Birds* by Thomas E. Lovejoy and Jonathan Elphick and (his personal favorite) *Eye of the Albatross: Views of the Endangered Sea* by Carl Safina.

### PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGE

The Halifax River Audubon Board has approved a second change to the Chapter Bylaws. The change must have the approval of members present at the May 19 Chapter meeting for the changes to become effective. This change is very minor and corrects an error in the existing version.

**Article I, Membership: Section 2: For National Audubon's purpose of external communication, there will be one Audubon membership, which is National Members.**

Our existing Bylaws contain an error which states that National Audubon accepts "Chapter-Only" members, which is inaccurate.

# THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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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
Vacant	Corresponding Secretary		
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
.....			
Vacant	Education		
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 Anderson	Membership Recruitment	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com
	and Retention		

## 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		

MAY 2008

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON  
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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.

# THE PELICAN

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



VOL. 53 - NO. 12

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

June 2008

## Florida Scrub Jays on sentinel duty

Picture by  
John Roessler



## SERIOUS HEADS UP

Captain Willie Burns

*Here is a serious Heads Up for all bird watchers and Audubon members .....*

This week at Canaveral Seashore National Park a man from Orlando was feeding Scrub Jays peanuts. This is against the law all over the state, much less in a National Park. One of the main reasons of course is that this habituates them to people, and the next person may do the birds harm.

Anyway, this guy is feeding the jays, just west of the South Fee Booth. A Fish & Wildlife cop comes along in a plain pick up truck and tells him, pleasantly, that he "should not be doing that."

The guy says with a sneer, "What are you going to do, arrest me?" Wrong answer.

The cop gets out of her car, in complete uniform w/firearm, and proceeds to write him a ticket. For

\$175.00. The National Park Service fine is \$100.00. He said he was from Audubon of Orlando, like that not only excused his violation but his stupid attitude.

**BUT TAKE HEED - - - IT IS ILLEGAL TO FEED SCRUB JAYS! ANYWHERE!** And the tickets are expensive. Oh, and never smart mouth at a cop. ANY cop.

## AHA! GOTCHA

You have a new weapon to stop environmental crimes. You have a new tool for protecting the state's natural resources.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recently announced that most cell phone customers in Florida can dial **#DEP** to report environmental crimes including illegal dumping of hazardous materials, construction debris, oil drums and biological waste.



## VOTING AGENDA FOR JUNE MEETING

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee has prepared this slate of names for approval as Board members for the Class of 2011. Members present at the June 16 annual meeting will vote. Nominations for the position are allowed from the floor. **“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.”**

Becky Tate ..... At-Large Class of 2011  
Marion Monaghan ..... At-Large Class of 2011

### PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES APPROVED BY THE BOARD

**Change 1.** There is confusing language in our existing by-law regarding filling vacant board positions. Article III, Section 1 reads:

“Vacancies of **non-officers** occurring on the Board may be temporarily filled by the Board until the next annual meeting.”

This wording implies that non-elected offices would be appointed by the Board rather than by the President.

The Board approved a change in the wording to:

“Vacancies of **elected** members occurring on the Board may be temporarily filled by the Board until the next annual meeting.”

**Change 2:** This change corrects a minor error in the By-Laws that states that National Audubon accepts “Chapter-Only members” which is inaccurate. The change reads:

“Article I, Membership: Section 2: For National Audubon’s purpose of external communication, there will be one Audubon membership, which is National Members.”

Class of 2011

### NOMINEES FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

## Marion Monaghan

As a Daytona Beach native, I grew up spending time at the beach with the shorebirds and smaller waders. The Ruddy Turnstone and the Sanderling, running in and out of the waves, were my delight. Of course, my family maintained a bird bath and feeder in the side yard. My favorite time of day occurred when the sparrows took their dust bath at the base of the feeder. Then, in mid-life, I bought my first field guide to help me identify birds during my beach walks.

Today, I am retired from the Volusia District Schools. I worked as both a teacher and an administrator. I continue to have a strong desire for life-long learning. Consequently, I enjoy the continuing learning that birding provides. Since joining HRA in 2007, I have become a “birder,” and as such, I have come to realize that we are so fortunate to live in Florida which is known for its biological diversity, its conservation ethic, and its whopping six hundred documented bird species. I truly enjoy sharing my enthusiasm for birds and birding with fellow HRA members and others. I am so fortunate to learn from experienced birders on trips, at meetings and at festivals. Currently, the most challenging birds for me to capture in my binoculars are the wary warblers. But, as a result of our last field trip, I can now say that I “own” the Northern Parula and the American Redstart.

From the beach to the woods this is just “it” for me. I can’t wait to add the next bird to my life list.

## Becky Tate

I was born and raised in Daytona Beach. In 2007, I retired from Halifax Health Medical Center (where I was also born) after 30 years of service, spending 27 years as a nurse. I had always been a backyard birder growing up and enjoyed seeing birds because of their beauty and behavior, but never spent any time learning more about them.

With retirement came more free time, so I enrolled in Ray Scory’s class last year after seeing a copy of “The Pelican” at my parents’ home. Now I’m hooked! I know Audubon is about much more than birds and I enjoy learning about other aspects of wildlife and habitat preservation and conservation. Birds are certainly a challenge, as were many of my patients, but without the extra stress.

Program Meeting - June 16

### VOLUSIA COUNTY CONSERVATION LANDS OUTREACH PROGRAM

Volusia County supports various conservation programs. Don’t miss the June 16 meeting to learn more about the Conservation Lands Outreach Program.

Bonnie Cary, Outreach/Education Coordinator, will provide details on the development of educational programs to get folks of all ages out onto Volusia County Conservation Lands to experience and learn about natural Florida--the Real Florida! She leads guided tours, coordinates volunteers, develops interpretive trail signage, develops multi-use trails and monitors species.

Join us for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill. Bonnie’s presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

## New Rules

### LANDFILL BIRDERS

This message was sent by David Hartgrove, President & Conservation Chair, Halifax River Audubon, Daytona Beach, FL

After several incidents over the past winter, where persons looking for various gulls exhibited far more enthusiasm than common sense, the management of the Volusia County Landfill has issued new guidelines for bird watchers accessing that facility. The management, as a courtesy, sent me a letter outlining the new rules. They are listed below. Please follow them when going out to this excellent birding spot. Failure to do so could result in loss of access for all of us.

1. All visitors must sign in and out at the Administration office or, if it's closed, (weekends, holidays, etc) at the scale house. Sign in time will be after 8:15 a.m. Sign out time is before 5:00 p.m. weekdays, 2:30 p.m. on weekends
2. Four areas have been designated as parking and birding areas and they will be clearly marked. In addition, when you sign in you'll be given a map with the areas marked and a summary of the rules.
3. Birders must remain in the designated areas. Due to the limited parking available at these sites, car pooling from the office is encouraged.
4. Large groups and those with more than one vehicle are asked to make arrangements with the office ahead of time. The phone number is 386-947-2952.
5. If anyone in a group fails to follow the rules, all members of that group will be asked to leave.

These new limitations on our movement at this facility are the result of the actions of just a few. They chose to drive right up into the active dumping area, park their cars in such a way as to hinder the trucks and heavy equipment and then got testy with the on-site managers when asked to move. This is a working landfill and as such, can be a dangerous place. The rules are for our safety as well as the efficient operation of the facility. We'll see you out there.


### MAY BOARD MEETING

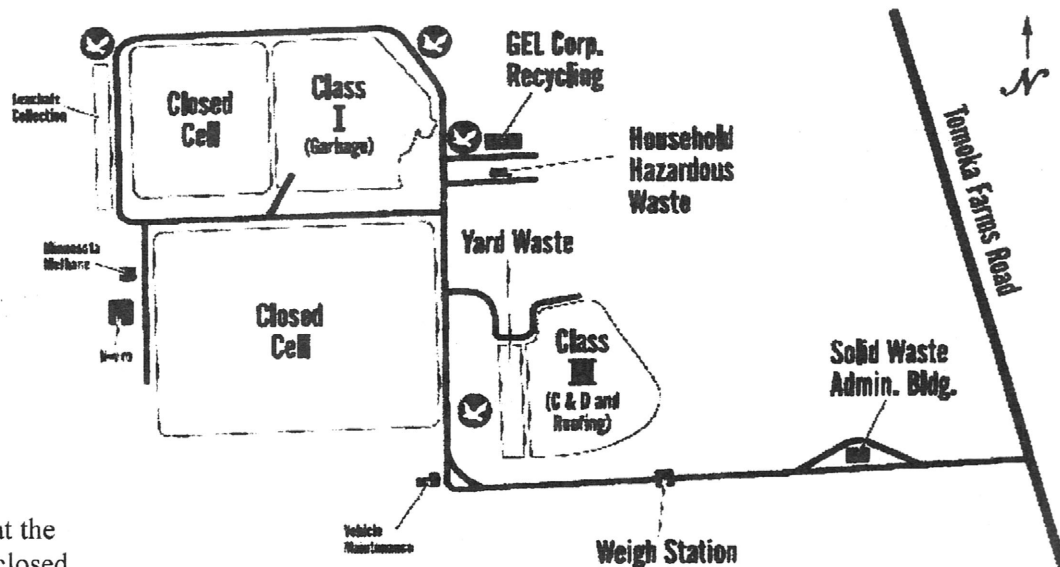
There was no Treasurer's report as Treasurer Rachel Ramsey was out of town.

Golden Dog: Willie Burns reported that books and coffee were sold at the Washington Oaks Earth Day celebration. He presented a check for \$408.53.

Membership Chair John Carr reported 513 members.

# TOMOKA LANDFILL

 = Bird Observation Area



Field Trip Chair Bob North reported that 91 species of birds were seen on the field trip to Kingsley Plantation. 42 species were seen on the field trip to Buschman Park.

Bob led discussion of proposed 2008-2009 field trips. Further discussion is planned for the June Board meeting.

Conservation Committee member Holly Zwart-Duryea presented a Chapter position letter in support of Low Impact Development to be sent to Kelly Green, Director of the St. Johns River Water Management District. It is signed by President and Conservation Chair David Hartgrove.

Vice President Paula Wehr brought the Board up to date on the status of our grant of \$1500 to Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail CME, Inc. for signage on Walter Boardman Lane and Pine Tree Road. Seabreeze High School students will construct the signposts using blueprints provided by Crystal Graphics Mfg. Co. The two 3x4-foot signs are estimated to cost \$400 to \$600 each. Chapter funding will be supplemented by funds from Save the Loop.

Action Item: Board approved the purchase of a bird feeder for up to \$500. Claudia Hutchenson of the Indian Lake Road Library Support Center requested that HRA install a bird feeder and supply seed at the Center. Peggy Yokubonus will research and purchase a feeder, John Roessler and Ken Hanson will install it, and Ken will deliver seed.

Welcome to new members Mr. James A. Bray, Mr. William Klug, Ms. Rose Levering, Ms. Ethel Lincoln, Jazz Morgan, Ms. Rebecca Singer, Mrs. Katherine Tignor, Ms. Nellie Wise.

## CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

"Restoration" is the name given to a new development planned for a huge section of land west of I-95 between SR 44 and SR 442. It has gone through a number of design changes since it was first unveiled. The once proposed golf course is now gone from the plan. The wildlife corridor to be placed along the western edge of the development has been increased to nearly a mile in width. The shopping center which was to have been located in the southwest corner of the property has now been moved to the southeast corner, near I-95 and away from more sensitive lands to the west. Deed restrictions will mandate native plant communities in place of the usual Saint Augustine sod at all of the home sites. The entire site is to be a laboratory for implementing low impact development protocols. And to top it all off, negotiations are under way to have the developer fund the construction of an Audubon nature center on the site and for Audubon, in partnership with some public agency, to hold the conservation easements.

Now, does all this mean that we think it's a good idea to develop this land? No, it's still prime wetlands for the most part and the last thing we need is another big development anywhere in Volusia County. But this project is the result of the largest and most expensive land deal in the history of the county and something was going to be built there. Thanks to the efforts of people like Clay Henderson (Holland and Knight), Charles Lee (Audubon of Florida) and Karyn Hoffman (West Volusia Audubon) the end product will be far less damaging than originally planned.

A 16 month investigation covering 5 states by the US Fish & Wildlife Service has culminated in the arrest of 13 men involved in raising "roller" pigeons. "Roller" pigeons are Rock Pigeons that carry a specific gene that causes them to stop in mid flight and tumble before resuming normal flight. This behavior is a surefire way to attract the interest of raptors like Cooper's Hawks, Peregrine Falcons and Red-tailed Hawks. USF&WS investigators estimate that between 2,000 and 3,000 of these raptors were being killed each year along the west coast. Typically, the birds were poisoned, beaten to death with clubs or suffocated in plastic bags. Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act the men could only be charged with a Class B misdemeanor, a slap on the wrist at best. This seems especially wrong since Peregrine Falcons were just removed from the Endangered Species List in 1999. Congressman Peter Fazio (Dem. Oregon) has introduced a law amending the MBTA to make the killing of protected birds a felony with punishment ranging up to 1 year in jail and fines to \$50,000.00.

Finally, there's some good news too. The US Navy has been considering the construction of a flight training facility just 3.5 miles from Poccoin National Wildlife Refuge, in eastern North Carolina. This refuge is the wintering site for over 100,000 Snow Geese, Tundra Swans and all kinds of other migrating water fowl. The potential conflicts with having high speed jets crossing over this site were obvious to all but the Navy folks for the past 5 years. Now comes news that they've finally seen the light and are exploring the possibilities of two other sites in the state. An 8 pound Snow Goose meeting an FA 18 Super Hornet at 6,000 feet is a recipe for disaster; for the bird, the jet and potentially for the pilot and people on the ground. Let's hope they move the proposed facility somewhere else.

*Field Trip - May 7*

### BUSCHMAN PARK

Ray Scory

Buschman Park is a lovely park in Port Orange not too far from the Post Office on Dunlawton Avenue. Once Native Americans roamed there, and later it was a farm. Birds flew overhead. Some stopped and some nested here.

It is still going on. A little different now. People still walk the land and birds still fly in and out. Wildlife is still here - butterflies, snakes, insects, certain fearless animals like squirrels and sometimes a Florida otter. The birds still come to this twenty-seven acre jewel in the city.

Ten members of Halifax River Audubon can vouch for the birds - thirty-five different species during a leisurely two hour stroll through some sections that still look like old Florida.

Buschman Park is a good place to get familiar with bird songs and calls especially in the spring because many birds here can easily hide in the thick canopy foliage. Diligent searching normally brings visual results and discovery brings enjoyment to wooded area birding. We observed Downy Woodpeckers feeding their recently fledged youngsters, listened to the trilling song of the Pine Warbler and spied Black-throated Blue Warblers and American Redstarts high in the trees. We looked at the birds, the flowers and butterflies and felt the cool sunny breeze of a Florida mid time spring.

All these wonderful songs, scenes and wildlife were recorded and videotaped by Jim Arevill, a Port Orange Government TV (POGTV, channel 199) cameraman. The tape isn't ready for viewing yet, but we think it will be shown the end of June or early July. To view our two hour adventure at Buschman Park, please check Channel 199 programming or go to [www.port-orange.org](http://www.port-orange.org) and click on link POGTV, Channel 199 - schedule.

Our day ended at Spruce Creek Park with an addition of 9 more different species for a total of forty-four. This place is another interesting Port Orange park that features different Florida habitats and wildlife.



## LOCAL SHELLS

Joel "Mollusk Man" Wooster displayed a wide range of local shells that he has collected over the years. Joel recommended two excellent resources for information about many of the local mollusks: [www.jaxshells.org](http://www.jaxshells.org) and "Florida Living Beaches" by Blair & Dawn Witherington.

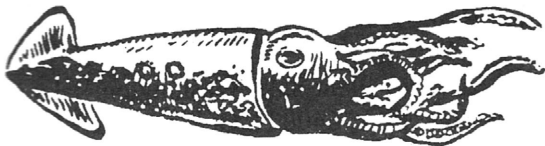
Florida native species of Mollusks range in size from near-microscopic to conchs several feet in length. Those types commonly found locally include:

**Univalve (one-shell)** creatures such as snails and their relatives are called Gastropods. Most often their hard shell is whorled to the right. Lightning Whelks are distinguished by having a left-side opening. The Knobby Whelk—commonly found locally—has a right-side opening. Gastropods, in general, feed on marine plants and animals by scraping food with tiny teeth as they crawl or swim. Whelks eat clams by using their large foot to open the clam. They wedge the edge of the clam shell against their own shell and suck out the meat.

The Shark-eye or Moon Snail is very carnivorous. Beach walkers often find a clam shell with a perfectly round hole near the hinge. The Moon Snail surrounds the clam with its foot and scrapes at the clam shell using a radula which is covered with tooth-like rasps. The snail excretes a weak acid onto the clam shell to hasten the drilling process. When the hole is complete, the snail injects digestive enzymes into the clam and sucks the meat from the clam, leaving an empty shell.

**Bi-valve (two-shell)** species such as clams and oysters have two protruding siphons and a muscular foot. These animals are filter-feeders. Bi-valves most often attach to a hard surface (oysters) or burrow into the sand (clams). Scallops, however, can swim. They also have a series of eyes which look like round beads on the rim of the bottom shell.

**Cephalopods** are the most advanced mollusks and include squids which have a thin internal shell-like skeleton and octopi which are shell-less. All have well-developed eyes and long tentacles. They swim and feed on crabs, fish and other mollusks.



The Chambered Nautilus shell is made by a squid. The very beautiful and delicate-looking Argonaut shell is formed by a female octopus which builds the shell to protect her eggs. Two modified tentacles excrete a calcium-type material to form the white, translucent shell. The octopus lives out in the ocean, so finding the shells is not common. A beautiful Argonaut is on display at Smyrna Dunes Park.

**Chitons** have eight separate, overlapping shells held together with a girdle to create an armor to protect the animals which crawl on jetty rocks and pilings in search of algae and microscopic animals to feed upon. They roll up into a ball if disturbed.

## REPORT FROM CANA

Captain Willie Burns

On Tuesday May 6, I was finally able to spend a good long day volunteering at Canaveral Seashore National Park again. We pulled the Park's pontoon boat from the water for servicing, and then found a lovely Coral Snake crossing the boat ramp driveway.

He stopped and turned his head towards me. Perceiving no threat, he continued on, entering a large grass field. No, I did not pick him up. If God had wanted us to pick up snakes She'd have put handles on them!

With three of us (Captain Walt, Ranger Mike, and myself) now watching, he continued crossing the field, stopping now and then to eat a plump insect. Interpreter Laura joined us with a camera and took pictures. The snake ignored us and continued on into the scrub.

After servicing the motor of the boat, we returned it to the water. Our next bit of fun was fighting a small battle with the trailer to unhook it. We prevailed, but it was not easy!

Then I rode an ATV up the beach, checking on some paths that had been made into the dunes. This is a major problem, and we will install more sand fencing to stop this practice. It is sad so many people do not understand the National Park means Do Not Destroy It!

The ride was truly wonderful after all these months of taxing. Now that my income tax site is closed for the year, I can get my knee replaced. Seeing Willets, Sanderlings, and a few other small peeps was a nice send off.

As I left the Park, I was fortunate enough to see a nice plump Black Racer snake crossing the road in Bethune Beach near JB's Fish Camp. I missed her head, so could not tell how long she was, but she was pleasantly plump. I'd guess she has been feasting on rats and mice.

Meanwhile at the South District of the Park, our friend from Resource Management and Ranger Kathey had rescued an immature Gannet with a fishhook caught in his throat. A trip to rehab got the hook removed and 60cc of Pedialite into the bird. Then it was returned to the ocean, since Gannets do not do well in captivity.

He was not ready for the ocean yet, either, flopping around clumsily, so Candace waded back in and retrieved him again. They took him to the Lagoon, where he reacted very happily, even dunking his head into the shallow water to catch some small fish!

Another lovely Day in Paradise. Despite a nice breeze, the ocean was calm and fairly flat. The first Loggerhead Sea Turtle has arrived and laid her eggs, the harbinger of many more.



# FLORIDA LEGISLATURE – WHAT HAPPENED

--- this Session that was good for our environment

## Good and Generally Good Conservation Bills that Passed

**SB 542 Florida Forever – Sen. Burt Saunders** – Extends \$300 million per year for ten more years, but reserves funds for capital improvements. Working ranch and timber lands will benefit from \$10 million annually that will be used for agricultural protection agreements authorized in the Rural and Family Lands Protection Act. A new Working Waterfronts program will attempt to preserve parts of some of Florida’s historic fishing ports, which are under serious pressure from upscale development. The bill also allows public lands to be used for mitigating impacts to imperiled species.

**SB 1094 Clean Oceans Act – Sen. Mike Haridopolous** – The bill forces gambling vessels to treat rather than dump their onboard sewage.

**SB 1302 Leah Schad Memorial Ocean Outfall Program** – Bans new ocean outfalls and requires existing outfalls to first use advanced treatment and ultimately reuse wastewater in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Named after longtime Audubon leader and board member the late Leah Schad.

**SB 1552 Everglades Bonds (and FL Keys Wastewater Bonds) – Sen. Burt Saunders** – Extends by ten years the authority to use the sale of up to \$100 million a year in bonds to generate funds for Everglades restoration. Also adds \$50 million per year for four years starting in 2010 for the overdue Florida Keys wastewater program.

**HB 5001 General Appropriations** – Funds Florida Forever at \$300 million, Everglades at \$50 million (down from \$200 million) and holds other trust funds for water quality and land management at carryover levels. Alternative water supply was cut down to less than \$10 million. Sadly the appropriations process was used to wreck vengeance on the Department of Community Affairs, which will lose a major part of its planning staff in what was clearly retribution for Secretary Tom Pelham’s courageous stands.

**HB 7059 Seagrass Protection and Seagrass Mitigation Banks – Rep. Stan Mayfield** – A last minute amendment to allow the Cabinet to authorize seagrass mitigation banks was opposed by Audubon. The language was changed from "shall" to "may" and the bill was passed securing a long-sought goal of allowing enforcement against intentional harm to seagrass in aquatic preserves.

**HB 7135 Energy – by the ENRC, Rep. Paige Kreegel and Rep. Stan Mayfield** – A top Audubon priority was achieved in this bill, requiring that electric power utilities work with their customers to reduce demand through conservation and efficiency. The bill also had Governor Crist's top priority – endorsement of a state cap and trade program for greenhouse gases. The bill made it easier to site and pay for nuclear power plants and powerlines. Audubon worked hard to minimize the effect of the transmission line language. Opponents of powerlines on public lands should know that the Cabinet routinely grants use of state lands for powerlines. The policies Audubon worked to secure were to avoid and minimize impacts and to secure adequate compensation.

## Good Bills that Did Not Pass (Maybe Next Year)

**SB 2394 Springs Protection– Sen. Burt Saunders** – A proposed pilot project to clean up pollution in Rainbow and Silver Springs was opposed by builders and agricultural interests.

## Bad Bills that Died

**HB 761 by Pickens and SB 1376 by Dean** – Preemption of Local Environmental Laws

**HB 1267 by Nelson and SB 2352 by Aronberg** – Preemption of Local Fertilizer Laws

**HB 1173 by Mayfield and SB 2242 by Baker** – Preemption of Local Development Laws

**HB 7143 by Mayfield and SB 1296 by Saunders** – Legislative Oversight of Water Management Districts

**SB 774 by Baker and HB 7135 by ENRC** – Preemption of Local Mining Laws

**SB 7129 by EEIC and Cannon** (SB 474 companion not viewed unfavorably)

## 2007-2008 CALENDAR

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

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

Monday, June 2

**Halifax River Audubon Board meeting.**

Saturday, June 14

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

Monday, June 16

**Halifax River Program Meeting.** “Volusia County Conservation Lands Outreach Program” by Bonnie Cary, Outreach/Education Coordinator for Volusia County Land Acquisition and Management. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Hi all,

Below is a picture of the little female Common Yellowthroat that flew around the boat several times before landing on one of the other birder's hat. We were about 50-plus miles out in the Atlantic on a pelagic boat trip sponsored by the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet on May 17. Nearly everyone was trying to get a glimpse of the Audubon's Shearwaters that were on the water near the boat. This photo (by Andrew Boyle of Orlando) was taken sometime later. Of course I didn't have a camera with me to get a shot of the bird on the guy's hat.

She stayed aboard hopping around all through the cabin and out onto the deck for at least 6 hours and flew off as we were on our way back in. I was hoping she would ride back in to shore with us.



I know even tiny birds like this one are quite capable of long, over-water flights. Still I'd have felt better seeing her fly out into the night as we docked, knowing she could easily obtain food and water for the rest of her northward trip.

David Hartgrove

May 2008 - Greenwich, Connecticut

**ERIC DRAPER HONORED**

Eric Draper, Deputy Director/Policy Director of Florida Audubon, was awarded the 2008 Charles H. Callison Award by National Audubon Society's President John Flicker. This award is their highest award for excellence.

David Anderson, President of Audubon of Florida, praised Eric for his remarkable passionate and effective advocacy. His achievements include the \$300 billion Preservation 2000, and its successor, Florida Forever, and he has been fighting to protect the Everglades for over 25 years. Much of today's legislative environmental successes are greatly due to Eric's advocacy.

Anderson wrote, "In my opinion, Eric is the most influential environmental advocate in any state capital in the country."

**APPLICATION TO JOIN**

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

\$15.00/ year for 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to **National Audubon Society** and mail with 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 for senior citizen or student. All of 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

# THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer,	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
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Vacant	Corresponding Secretary		
John Carr	Membership Secretary,	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Chair		
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Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

## Bird Information and Web Site

### Injured Birds

Mary Keller Rehab. Ctr. of  
the Marine Science Ctr.

Chris Wise	304-5530	cwise@co.volusia.fl.us
Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
Gina Holt	386-299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
David Hartgrove	788-2630	
Maitland, FL	407-644-0190	
	www.halifaxriveras.org	
	http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html	

Bird Identification  
Birds of Prey Center  
Halifax River Audubon  
Florida Rare Bird Alert

JUNE 2008

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

Thank you

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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, 1665 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. 54 - NO. 1**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**July 2008**

## CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

In a press release that didn't get too much press, the Florida Hometown Democracy group announced that they had filed a law suit in federal court to force the state of Florida to place their amendment on the ballot this November. Opponents of Hometown Democracy, and they are a powerful group, had done everything in their power (and the power of those they helped elect) to prevent the amendment from getting on the ballot. They know that if given a chance, the voters will put an end to the status quo of comprehensive plan amendments being handed out like Halloween candy to developers as our quality of life goes down the drain. The state Division of Elections and numerous local elections supervisors engaged in a variety of methods designed to make sure that the petitions submitted would not be verified in time to meet the deadline. In fact, the deadline is one of the main issues challenged in the suit. FHD has retained the services of the top ballot access attorney in the country and I believe they have a good shot at winning if the suit is heard. Stay tuned. As election day nears, things could become even more interesting as changing events unfold.

One of the interesting aspects of the Internet is that it allows us to almost instantly participate, vicariously, in the adventures of others. Jean Iron is a volunteer with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and works for a time each summer at the Ministry's field camp on Akimiski Island, in James Bay, 700 miles north of Toronto. When someone speaks of being in the "middle of no where", this is the kind of place they have in mind. I first wrote of her adventures 2 years ago when she reported a Northern Mockingbird having been seen and photographed on the island. Imagine walking over ground covered by lichens and sedges and topping a small rise on an early morning in June. The temperature hovers in the upper 30's because most of James Bay is still covered in sea ice. In front of you are nearly 1,000 pairs of nesting Canada Geese. Lesser Snow Geese nest on the west side of the island in smaller numbers. The Canada Geese already have young goslings chasing their siblings and looking for food. The Lesser Snow Geese arrive and nest later, so they're just reforming pair bonds and beginning incubation. Nearly all of these are of the subspecies *caerulescens*. That means they're the Blue Goose. At one time thought to be a separate species from their lighter colored brethren, they were lumped together some years

ago by the American Ornithologists' Union after DNA studies confirmed that they were just a different color morph of the same species.

Marbled Godwits nest on the island too and they're incubating eggs at this point or just beginning to. Their nests are much more difficult to find. Though loosely colonial, their size, coloration and secretive habits when near the nest make banding much more difficult. Polar Bear tracks are seen and field crews have fire works to scare them away and weapons if necessary. These are the southern most Polar Bears in the world and after the ice breaks up in the bay, 50 or so will summer on the island. Most nest predation is due to Herring Gulls, Northern Ravens, Lynx and Red Fox. It's great fun to read of these adventures and dream of participating too.

Have a good summer. In some places the weather's still cool.

## HRA ELECTION RESULTS

Halifax River Audubon members in attendance at the annual meeting in June elected the following officers by acclamation.

Marion Monaghan – Class of 2011

Becky Tate – Class of 2011

Welcome Becky and Marion. Thank you for volunteering to co-chair the Education Committee of the Board of Directors.

Retiring from the board from the Class of 2008 are Carol Branch and Barbara Kieran. Thank you Carol and Barbara for your fine service to HRA.

We hope members will consider how they can assist our Audubon chapter. Each year, two at-large members of the board are elected. Remember, to serve on the HRA board, the only qualification is that you be a member of the chapter; if you are, please begin contemplating your service to the chapter at some future date.

At this time, our Chapter needs a Corresponding Secretary. This person would be a voting member of the Board.

## BY-LAW CHANGES ADOPTED

By-law changes detailed in the May Pelican were adopted by acclimation by Halifax River Audubon members present at the June 16 program meeting.



## MESSAGE FROM MERET

*Note: Meret Wilson is a member of Halifax River Audubon. She is conducting a long-term study of birds she mist nets in Tomoka State Park in Ormond Beach.*

For some unexplainable reason, the migrating birds were just not around this spring. Many hours were spent waiting for 4-6 hours to pass by daily as I anxiously inspected the nets every 20 minutes for few, rare or no birds at all. Some days not a speck passed over my head as I daily record all birds seen. So, what did I do with my time? I inspected my little turf on Helicopter Island with a fine-toothed comb. I discovered a whole other world within Tomoka State Park, a blessing in disguise.

In a few words and a bunch of pictures, I wanted you to see through my camera lens and the lens of one of my volunteers, Denise Huckaby, what can be found on what some might call a "boring day". Anything but.

The manatees kept me company almost every day this year, adults and babies, who exhibited an activity that Park Biologist Charles DuToit says he had heard of but never seen before: they partially climbed out of the water to get to the vegetation along the shore. Here is what Charley found:



Free ride for the Spotted Sandpipers as the manatees munch on grasses at shore

The other day I walked the shoreline in the area where the manatees were foraging. They appear to be cropping black rush, *Juncus roemerianus*, sea ox-eye, *Borrchia frutescens*, and perhaps glasswort and saltwort, *Salicornia* and *Batis*, and coastal samphire, *Philoxerus*, all of which grow along the edge canal in your photos.

I also found that Spotted Sandpipers think that the backs of manatees make great surfboards as I witnessed their riding around on the backs as the manatees munched.

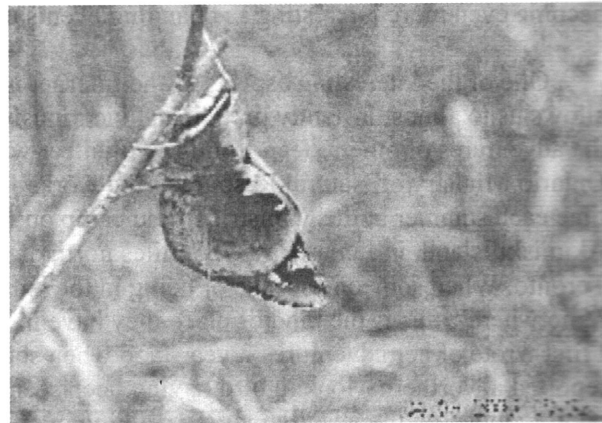
Nests became a new obsession with me. I have never been good at finding them. While at Corkscrew banding someone pointed out what a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher's nest looked like, and lo and behold I found on right over the main road heading towards the museum. After that, I found a Mourning Dove on a nest, several woodpecker nest holes, a few cardinal nests, old nests ... nests, nests, nests everywhere.

The micro-managed world also started to get larger to my not so observant eyes: Bugs, a rat scampering under

leaf, ants with their organizational management we should consider, spiderwebs glowing with dew in the early mornings. The Click Beetle and the Palm Weevil were the most curious, interesting and prettiest to see.

Denise asked me one morning if I had ever seen snakes in the park. I had only seen one two falls before - a Cottonmouth. The words were no faster out of her mouth than when I spied a gorgeous little Eastern Ribbon Snake crossing the road between nets 5 and 9. Not 30 minutes later an incredibly beautiful Eastern Diamond-backed Rattler graced us. It was obvious the only thing he was interested in was finding a mate.

Butterflies were in abundance as well. One day, after catching only one lone bird, Linda and Buck Cooper arrived to do a butterfly survey of Tomoka State Park. Having never been on a count before I asked if I might accompany them. They graciously allowed me to tag along. They know their butterflies! You know how incredibly small some of them are: as they float by, barely seen by me, the name and count are shouted out. No different than taking a bird census. What was so amazing that day was Buck spotting a rarely if ever seen butterfly cross in front of the car and land on a stick. It looked exactly like a dead leaf to me so it took about 10 minutes for me to finally see the darned thing. I was teased that I shouldn't be allowed to see one on my first ever census because there are butterfly enthusiasts out there who have never seen it. It took Buck 8 years to see his first one. I saw mine in my first hour! Poetic justice for all those hours I waited for birds to come to my nets I'd say.



Uncommon Yucca Giant Skipper

What is a forest without birth and death? Joe Isaac, the resident ranger, found a small nest with 4 baby birds on the ground. The winds were howling that day and the night before at 30-40 mph. The babies were healthy appearing so we placed the nest in the cradle of 3 branches. Later I checked and found that a pair of adult cardinals was feeding them. GREAT! The next day I came armed with my camera to get more photos only to find all the little bodies scattered on the ground below the trees and the nest at a right angle. The wind was not done. The

MESSAGE FROM MERET continued ...

babies were dead and the parents were beside themselves. It happens and life does go on.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Red-bellied Woodpeckers nesting right above net 4 had one baby. To hear it you would have thought there were 4 in there. He grew so quickly and was out and on his own before I could get really good photos of him ... I should say IT. I don't know what sex it is at this point. I have banded both the parents. Maybe it will be next so we will know. And, the Pileated Woodpeckers fledged THREE young out of one opening that had to have been humongous on the inside to house all those folks. I got one photo of the very last baby just moments before it fledged. They never returned to the nest hole but they WILL be caught in one my nets one day. The mom was.



Pileated Woodpecker preparing for its maiden flight

So, that is what I did when the birds didn't come. I had great fun showing many of you who visited me, hoping to see birds in hand, what laid beyond the nets. I hope you enjoy a few of the photos as well. Remember, there is always something there even when you think there is not.

### JUNE BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported operating funds for March of \$3,686.67 and May of \$3,699.61.

Membership Chair John Carr reported Chapter membership of 470.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove attended the Audubon of Florida (AoF) Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee meeting. He reported extensive discussion of a planned large development "Restoration" straddling New Smyrna Beach and Edgewater. Also he reported that NASA and the Air Force are discussing development of unused Air Force land instead of Merritt Island NWR. There is a new AoF staff ornithologist, John Ogden. An updated list of Audubon Sanctuaries will be distributed to all chapters.

Spring Migration Count netted 129 daytime species and 5 night species. A total of 12,139 birds were counted

by 41 observers Volusia County-wide. Highlights were a Connecticut Warbler and an Uplands Sandpiper.

Rachel Ramsey had sent letters to teachers who had gotten *Audubon Adventures* kits last year asking for their evaluation of the kits. At this date she had received one return postcard from a teacher.

Action Item: Board approved up to \$200 for newly appointed Education Co-Chairs Marion Monaghan and Becky Tate to purchase *Audubon Adventures* kits for evaluation.

Action Item: Board will reimburse Bob North for a new canopy he purchased on sale to replace our old tattered one.

Action Item: Board approved \$1000 donation to Friends of Lake Woodruff to help fund cost of pads for parking of recreational vehicles used by volunteers.

Action Item: Board approved a pledge of \$1000 to Friends of Chassahowitzka (FoC) to purchase 60 acres of land surrounding the Three Sisters Springs. The pledge will be redeemed if the FoC succeed in raising the additional funding.

### 2007-2008 FIELD TRIP BIRDS

Field Trip Chair Bob North

This has been a great year for the number of bird species seen on our field trips – 212! The Great Blue Heron was the only species seen on every occasion. We saw 23 species of the Warbler family.

We're putting together a calendar of field trips for this year now. Our bird sighting may even outshine this past year. Please plan to come on out and join us.

### SPRING COUNT 2008 DATA

Date	05-10-2008	Car hours	72.00
# Species	129	Boat hours	4
Individuals	12,101	Other hours	12
Observers	41	Cloud %	25-50
Time	0300-1930	Temperature	67-85
Owling hours	9.00	Wind	SW 10-18
Foot hours	53.00	Precipitation	None

Observers: Kathy Booth, Charlie Buchy, Maritta Buchy, John Carr, Roger Cutler, Patty Darlington, Gail Domroski, Jean Doyle, Novetta Duffer, John Eggert, Thomas Happrich, David Hartgrove, Karyn Hoffman, Danielle Ivey, Barbara Kieran, Carol Martin, Carol Mason, Jean McNeal, Jazz Morgan, Fern Murphy, Sheldon Murphy, Bob North, Ken Park, Andrea Peterson, Roger Peterson, Paul Rebmann, Ralph Risch, Harry Robinson, John Roessler, Jenna Sabitini, Ray Scory, Madeline Shaddix, Steve Sprawn, Becky Tate, Sara Taylor, Yvonne Teitsworth, Helene Washington, Mary Lou Weiner, Fred White, Nancy White, Meret Wilson.

### Spring Count 2001-2008

Birds new to spring count are **bolded** and CAPITALIZED

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Name of Bird
-	-	-	5	5	-	2	-	Loon, Common
3	8	8	5	2	7	-	2	Grebe, Pied-billed
2	-	8	-	-	-	64	1	Gannet, Northern
1	328	-	-	-	-	-	-	Pelican, White
558	1011	1949	802	1054	1136	615	1049	Pelican, Brown
147	142	74	89	128	130	70	59	Cormorant, Dbl-crested
118	93	53	58	32	67	41	33	Anhinga
8	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bittern, Least
78	96	97	32	50	50	91	28	Heron, Great Blue
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Great White Heron
412	498	788	328	468	353	250	195	Egret, Great
192	205	425	186	118	237	213	482	Egret, Snowy
77	78	73	63	57	60	58	125	Heron, Little Blue
60	82	255	12	36	49	21	30	Heron, Tricolored
1	-	1	-	-	-	3	1	Egret, Reddish
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	White phase
717	799	800	566	590	1009	796	1125	Egret, Cattle
13	20	30	20	14	16	10	19	Heron, Green
3	2	17	15	-	-	3	29	Night-Heron, Black-crowned
6	23	3	23	5	3	5	8	Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned
510	188	459	170	195	195	203	481	Ibis, White
14	26	-	12	13	18	9	7	Ibis, Glossy
1	-	1	-	5	-	3	2	Roseate Spoonbill
82	52	22	45	109	116	26	14	Stork, Wood
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Goose, Canada
19	41	69	25	99	40	88	83	Duck, Muscovy
36	58	66	86	13	73	82	35	Duck, Wood
5	7	3	3	0	14	10	6	Duck, Mottled
85	72	70	44	42	29	23	35	Mallard
-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	Teal, Blue-winged
-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	Duck, Ring-necked
1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Scaup, Greater
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Scaup, Lesser
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	Merganser, Red-breasted
507	313	216	231	346	367	292	684	Vulture, Black
155	200	110	183	99	139	135	214	Vulture, Turkey
113	155	83	71	78	74	108	68	Osprey
12	9	17	15	6	15	29	25	Kite, Swallow-tailed
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Mississippi Kite
26	24	18	17	12	15	4	5	Eagle, Bald
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	Harrier, Northern
2	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
2	1	-	-	2	3	3	2	Hawk, Cooper's
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	accipiter sp.
46	57	43	78	48	74	73	69	Hawk, Red-shouldered
18	8	5	8	8	11	-	10	<b>HAWK, BROAD-WINGED</b>
-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	Hawk, Red-tailed
2	3	1	-	2	2	1	1	kestrel sp.
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	Kestrel, American
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	Merlin

9	19	26	6	51	33	20	23	Turkey Wild
23	39	11	19	23	5	6	15	Bobwhite, Northern
2	-	4	6	-	1	7	14	Rail, Clapper
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Rail, Virginia
1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	Sora
4	16	-	-	2	-	3	-	Gallinule, Purple
103	132	42	82	59	75	57	17	Moorhen, Common
19	13	1	1	1	10	28	3	Coot, American
12	13	-	1	2	5	2	1	Limpkin
62	42	83	93	92	104	205	70	Crane, Sandhill
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Crane, Whooping
52	84	27	24	53	37	78	71	Plover, Black-bellied
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	Golden-Plover, American
-	-	2	-	4	7	12	15	Plover, Wilson's
146	-	29	46	298	211	385	43	Plover, Semipalmated
36	75	35	52	61	48	53	48	Killdeer
9	4	25	13	9	5	11	8	Oystercatcher, American
13	34	-	26	8	7	-	-	Silt, Black-necked
-	-	2	1	-	2	18	2	Yellowlegs, Greater
1	-	-	4	1	10	4	-	Yellowlegs, Lesser
-	2	1	1	1	18	18	-	Sandpiper, Solitary
13	1	8	15	43	73	49	19	Willet
5	7	2	7	9	19	58	7	Sandpiper, Spotted
-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	<b>SANDPIPER, UPLAND</b>
-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	Whimbrel
245	356	80	113	361	253	180	131	Turnstone, Ruddy
5	17	-	3	34	6	22	-	Knot, Red
156	536	151	85	479	1474	692	408	Sanderling
250	123	92	287	62	15	431	15	Sandpiper, Semipalmated
-	-	-	16	-	29	31	7	Sandpiper, Western
8	-	3	-	4	-	81	3	Sandpiper, Least
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Sandpiper, White-rumped
-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	Sandpiper, Pectoral
-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	Sandpiper, Purple
2	-	-	-	5	1	250	9	Dunlin
-	-	-	10	6	60	-	-	peep, sp.
-	-	-	-	-	1	17	2	Dowitcher, Short-billed
-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	Snipe, Common
859	977	622	813	880	1663	950	1547	Gull, Laughing
224	230	59	65	220	15	53	70	Gull, Ring-billed
4	4	11	2	14	6	16	3	Gull, Herring
-	-	2	-	-	1	1	4	Gull, Great Black-backed
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	gull, sp.
2	1	12	3	7	-	3	2	Tem, Caspian
147	97	130	61	291	3	607	285	Tem, Royal
-	1	-	2	-	-	22	-	Tem, Sandwich
4	4	7	1	23	-	5	-	Tem, Common
87	46	55	47	90	114	88	69	Tem, Forster's
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	Tem, Least
-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	sterna, sp.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Skimmer, Black
234	350	311	251	290	164	224	185	Pigeon, Rock
139	174	168	149	87	24	45	69	Collared-Dove, Eurasian
-	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	Dove, White-winged

464	670	699	399	315	505	469	439	Dove, Mourning
21	19	16	2	9	6	19	18	Ground-Dove, Common
-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	Parakeet, Monk
-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	Parakeet, White-eyed
-	1	-	1	2	1	11	-	Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	Owl, Barn
5	4	1	10	1	2	5	19	Screech-Owl, Eastern
1	1	3	2	0	3	3	6	Owl, Great Horned
3	12	6	7	11	6	7	6	Owl, Barred
4	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	Nighthawk, Common
51	32	41	53	9	27	27	11	Chuck-will's-widow
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Whip-poor-will
241	311	326	7	293	220	261	79	Swift, Chimney
9	3	4	7	11	10	9	6	Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
8	-	1	-	-	2	6	-	Kingfisher, Belted
6	17	19	13	14	23	13	22	Woodpecker, Red-headed
112	161	138	137	119	82	123	167	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
-	-	-	-	-	11	11	-	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
37	75	46	37	50	49	70	41	Woodpecker, Downy
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Woodpecker, Hairy
5	10	5	3	2	1	13	13	Flicker, Northern
35	43	40	42	26	46	47	40	Woodpecker, Pileated
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Wood-Pee-wee, Eastern
2	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	Phoebe, Eastern
97	105	104	92	94	106	107	102	Flycatcher, Great Crested
-	-	-	2	2	7	7	1	Kingbird, Eastern
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Kingbird, Gray
96	96	78	28	39	50	37	13	Martin, Purple
9	4	6	25	34	47	112	25	Swallow, Tree
6	7	-	3	5	3	-	-	Swallow, N. Rough-winged
28	51	-	5	2	5	110	55	Swallow, Barn
135	195	178	202	135	136	128	101	Jay, Blue
10	12	8	5	11	4	11	-	Scrub-Jay, Florida
40	98	171	92	68	47	49	128	Crow, American
292	316	238	210	220	172	194	234	Crow, Fish
67	74	77	50	47	-	46	-	crow, sp.
27	8	-	10	3	1	7	7	Chickadee, Carolina
137	218	203	186	234	199	175	204	Titmouse, Tufted
7	10	-	1	3	-	-	-	Nuthatch, White-breasted
-	-	-	5	3	-	9	5	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	Creeper, Brown
145	210	175	178	169	113	224	217	Wren, Carolina
1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	Wren, Marsh
17	38	33	65	76	27	61	48	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
6	6	7	14	13	4	13	24	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	Bluebird, Eastern
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Veery
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	Thrush, Hermit
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Thrush, Wood
3	5	7	5	1	5	19	7	<b>ROBIN, AMERICAN</b>
566	527	509	504	454	333	331	361	Catbird, Gray
49	57	45	38	34	27	35	31	Mockingbird, Northern
15	-	6	62	4	-	232	22	Thrasher, Brown
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Waxwing, Cedar

63	82	52	44	22	23	12	12	Shrike, Loggerhead
276	395	292	258	197	197	194	169	Starling, European
8	20	15	32	33	14	23	15	Vireo, White-eyed
-	-	1	-	4	-	3	-	Vireo, Blue-headed
-	1	2	-	1	-	6	1	Vireo, Yellow-throated
11	15	14	18	35	6	28	24	Vireo, Red-eyed
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Warbler, Tennessee
75	177	100	150	117	110	187	114	Parula, Northern
-	-	7	-	-	4	-	-	Warbler, Yellow
-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	Warbler, Magnolia
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	Warbler, Cape May
2	-	-	1	1	3	11	3	Warbler, Black-throated Blue
-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	Warbler, Yellow-rumped
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Warbler, Black-throated Green
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	Warbler, Blackburnian
-	-	-	5	3	1	6	9	Warbler, Yellow-throated
12	30	8	65	44	27	36	22	Warbler, Pine
-	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	Warbler, Prairie
-	-	2	-	1	10	-	3	Warbler, Palm
1	-	-	-	1	28	59	20	Warbler, Blackpoll
-	-	-	1	-	13	18	3	Warbler, Black-and-white
-	-	15	4	4	45	21	74	Redstart, American
-	-	-	-	5	1	1	-	Warbler, Prothonotary
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	Warbler, Worm-eating
-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	Ovenbird
-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	Waterthrush, Northern
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	Waterthrush, Louisiana
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	<b>WARBLER, CONNECTICUT</b>
5	-	1	15	41	18	19	59	Yellowthroat, Common
1	10	3	10	17	9	5	10	Tanager, Summer
345	481	464	389	400	337	472	399	Cardinal, Northern
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted
-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	Grosbeak, Blue
2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bunting, Indigo
7	42	51	45	95	26	20	22	Towhee, Eastern
1	-	-	5	2	5	-	4	Sparrow, Bachman's
2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	Sparrow, Chipping
-	-	-	1	-	45	35	-	Bobolink
604	700	391	217	482	267	197	160	Blackbird, Red-winged
18	62	17	3	8	5	16	4	Meadowlark, Eastern
1015	874	460	490	360	329	330	275	Grackle, Boat-tailed
172	135	165	108	106	101	119	114	Grackle, Common
12	1	17	5	4	7	7	-	Cowbird, Brown-headed
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Cowbird, Shiny
10	4	4	7	8	5	-	-	blackbird, sp.
-	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	Oriole, Baltimore
1	-	2	4	3	8	13	19	Finch, House
-	-	8	24	32	3	1	-	Goldfinch, American
56	128	96	57	87	47	76	35	Sparrow, House
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Storm-Petrel, Wilson's
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	Swan, Mute
-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	Shelduck, Ruddy
-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	Duck, Peking



# THE PELICAN



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	and Retention			

## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds			
Mary Keller Rehab. Ctr. of the Marine Science Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5530	cwise@co.volusia.fl.us
	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	386-299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
Bird Identification	David Hartgrove	788-2630	
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland, FL	407-644-0190	
Halifax River Audubon			www.halifaxrivercas.org
Florida Rare Bird Alert			http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html

JULY 2008

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

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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, 55 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach, at 1:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and details.

# THE PELICAN



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

**VOL. 54 - NO. 2**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**August 2008**

## CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

When I was a kid there was a guy from the 40's who was still doing news on the radio, Gabriel Heatter. He opened each broadcast with the phrase, "Ah, there's good news tonight." And as I write this, there is. Word has arrived that NASA has altered its plan to place its proposed commercial, vertical launch facility on property at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Thanks to the efforts of Senator Bill Nelson and Congressman Tom Feeney, NASA and the Air Force have decided to include several of the long unused launch pads at Canaveral Air Force Station in the list of options open to NASA. There's a report due in October that should call for removal of the original sites from consideration.

Three years ago we discovered that there was something called the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary created in February, 1960. Now, thanks to some diligent research by librarians at Stetson and FIU, we learn that in February, 1908, President Teddy Roosevelt issued Executive Order #763, which established the Mosquito Inlet Bird Reservation. This could finally be the instrument through which we see some meaningful protection extended to the bird life that utilizes Ponce Inlet and the adjacent islands.

Volusia County has a special permit to allow continued driving on the beaches in our area. Part of the requirements for maintaining that permit is that the County publish and enforce a habitat conservation plan. That plan includes protection for nesting and resting birds, as well as sea turtles.

Daily, dog owners bring their dogs to both Lighthouse Point and Smyrna Dunes Parks. Though County law specifically states that dogs are to be on a leash any time they're not on their owner's property, people are seen to turn their dogs loose routinely to run through bird nesting habitat at will in both parks.

Enforcement is non-existent. County park personnel see themselves as maintenance people, not law enforcement. If law enforcement is called, whether it's Ponce Inlet or New Smyrna Beach Police Departments, or Volusia County Beach Patrol, their response times for such actions could be measured with a sun dial. They'll respond if their superiors impress upon them the necessity of enforcing the leash laws.

Our task, as stewards of this environment we all hold dear, is to persuade the County Council and city

commissions that doing so is in their interest. How these enforcement issues will be dealt with on Disappearing Island, where the real infractions occur, is anybody's guess. The Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt just over 100 years ago gives the agencies the power to enforce protections for birds in this area. Now we need to see to it that they find the will.

## CANADA MOVES FOR BIRD CONSERVATION

One of the biggest conservation stories ever emerged last week, but received relatively little press here in the States. The premier of Ontario has pledged to set aside half of the province -- about 55 million acres, an area the size of the entire UK -- for permanent conservation, with requirements that industry work with First Nations and the government to craft sustainable development plans for the rest.

Protected now, 35.9 million acres are in key areas of the Boreal Forest throughout Canada's Northwest Territories, including the Nahanni National Park Reserve, the Ramparts River and Wetlands in the heart of the Mackenzie Valley, and the East Arm of Great Slave Lake.

Given that Canada's Boreal Forest is the great bird factory of North America, producing billions of migratory songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors, this is arguably the single biggest win in history for bird conservation.

It is the summer breeding ground for over 300 species of birds, including the rapidly declining Lesser Yellowlegs and Olive-sided Flycatcher and the endangered Whooping Crane. This fragile area is home to some of the world's largest populations of caribou, wolves, and bear; sustains First Nation's communities and shields us from global warming.

Anyone who enjoys the seasonal flow of warblers, thrushes, sparrows and other Neotropical songbirds passing through owes a huge debt of gratitude to Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty for his visionary move, part of the larger Boreal Forest Conservation Initiative, a collaboration of conservation groups, First Nations and industry which aims to protect at least half of the 1.4 billion-acre Canadian boreal forest.

Welcome to new members Clyde R. Bridewell, Adele Hessler, Big John, Robert R. Klenner, Patricia Laughlin, Ethel Lincoln, Jeannette Reynolds, Scott R. Rost, Charlene Schaefer, Joan H. Smythe, Ralph Tesnow.



## Audubon ADVENTURES

### Member Alert

This is your chance to turn young children on to the wonders of nature! A tax deductible gift of \$45.00 will provide one Volusia County fourth grade class with an **Audubon ADVENTURES** classroom kit which includes four consumable lessons. Of course, you may send more or less. Just designate your gift for **Audubon ADVENTURES** and send your check today:

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

Thanks to last year's HRA generous donors, twenty-four teachers were provided with Audubon Adventures classroom kits. The teachers report success and a desire to use the materials in the 2008/2009 school year.

### JUNE PROGRAM MEETING

Paula Wehr

Volusia County has approximately 30,000 acres of conservation lands. Some of this land is held in conservation easements.

Bonnie Cary, Outreach/Education Coordinator for Volusia County Land Acquisition and Management, is responsible for programs which get people out onto the land. As coordinator, Bonnie is involved with multi-use trails, interpretive signage, guided tours, educational programs and events and volunteerism. The department consists of three parts:

- Volusia Forever, a tax-supported program which searches for appropriate property to purchase, especially in the conservation corridor.
- Acquisitions, whose staff survey and appraise the land and handle all the legal paperwork involved in purchasing the property.
- Land Management which manages, protects and conserves the land after the purchase.

Volusia County provides public land for hiking, bicycling, horse-back riding, photography, plant/wildlife ID, fishing, hunting and a new interest—geo-caching, similar to a scavenger hunt using GPS equipment.

Volunteer Opportunities: abound, including marking and maintaining trails, species monitoring, building benches/kiosks/bat & bird houses, planting and more. Eagle Scouts have completed numerous projects to benefit the public while working with Volusia County.

Education Educational programs include field trips, night hikes, star tours and expert demonstrations. The goals of the educational programs include building physical strength, increasing critical and creative thinking, building confidence, acquiring knowledge about the natural world and increasing a sense of stewardship with our public land.

For information regarding educational programs, volunteer opportunities and recreational events, see <http://volusia.org/growth/outreach.htm>.

### JULY BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a balance of \$3,341.71.

Willie Burns reported that Golden Dog store paid \$1,554.03 to HRA in the 2007-2008 year.

Education Co-chairs Marion Monaghan and Becky Tate reported they had reviewed this year's Audubon Adventures kits. Board approved up to \$1,500 to purchase kits for 16 to 32 teachers.

John Roessler and Ken Hansen made plans to install a bird feeder donated by Peggy Yokubonus at the Volusia County Library Support Center.

Board approved increase in honorarium to monthly program meetings to \$75.

Board approved up to \$100 to Meret Wilson to purchase a bird banding tool for the project at Tomoka state Park.

*Tuesday, August 19, Sica Hall*

### PAWPAW PROGRAM MEETING

The Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will present a program on Latin American ecology. Elston Raimundo Chavarria will talk about conservation efforts in Central America. He is a graduate of Forestry, School of Natural Resources at Humboldt State University in California. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 5 years, mainly in reforestation and restoration of our ecology. From the Olympic National Forest in Washington to the El Dorado National Forest in nearby Lake Tahoe, Nevada, he was experienced the diverse natural treasures of our National Forests. Along the way he worked restoring Pacific salmon habitat in the Pacific Northwest, as well as experiencing the natural wonders of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, and Brazil.

## VOLUSIA COUNTY BIRDING - JULY 08

Meret Wilson

Recently John Carr and I did a little birding survey of our own around the north part of Ormond Beach. We went to check out the possible nesting area near I-95 for the Barn Swallows I noted a while earlier. Indeed, we found that they were nesting in a culvert on the grassy area between the south entrance and I-95 itself at LPGA.



It appears there is more than one pair using the site. We also found more active nests just north of SR-40 under an overpass of I-95 at US-1. This was a very active site with a number of nests and swallows present



We also did a cursory count of Loggerhead Shrikes and were pleased to find at least 11 at or near nests. The total count on Migratory Day in May for the Daytona area was 12. Although the LOSH seems to be declining somewhat, according to Loggerhead Shrike specialist Susan Crain of Colorado, this seems to be a very healthy find for our area.

As an aside from birds, John and I were thrilled to find a young bobcat walking down a dirt road behind the ball field off Hull Road in Ormond Beach just in front of our vehicle.

Today I had a surprising visit from a singing Red-eyed Vireo high in my oak tree. He sang for about 3 minutes before moving away from my earshot.

*Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission*

### Question

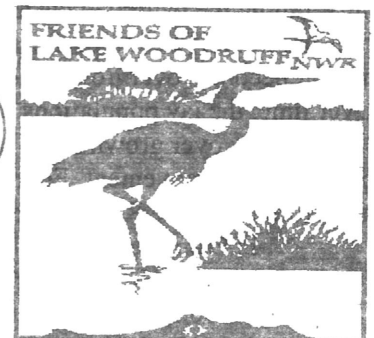
#### How do the same fish end up in different lakes?

There are two general explanations for how a fish species might end up in different lakes separated by hundreds of miles. The first is termed "vicariance" by biogeographers, who study the distribution of organisms. In this case, we begin with a species that occupies a much larger, continuous range. Over long periods of time, geologic, biological and climatic events act to cause populations to go extinct in scattered places throughout their range, leaving behind present-day populations that are isolated by hundreds of miles.

The second explanation is based on "dispersal" (or movement of individuals away from the population to which they were born). In rare cases, individuals disperse into new areas previously unoccupied by members of their species. In fish, where most species require male-female sex in order to reproduce, a minimum of one of each sex would be needed to colonize a new lake. Whereas the chance of this happening once is quite small, given sufficient time there will have been enough opportunities for these rare dispersal events to result in the colonization of new lakes.

As well, humans are responsible for "dispersing" fish great distances. In many cases, this occurs intentionally because people want to be able to fish for a particular species outside of that species' native range.

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON is proud to be patrons of these organizations.





Florida Scrub-Jays are the centerpiece of this August Pelican newsletter. Read about jays at Merritt Island and Volusia County.

### SCRUB RESTORATION

From *Habi-Chat* - Newsletter of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association – Summer 2008.

Dorn Whitmore, Refuge Operations Specialist, USFWS

We're getting lots of questions about what the Refuge is doing in the area along SR 3 north of Wilson's Corner. "We see bull dozers knocking down trees and now the area is black from the recent fires. What's going on?" We understand the concern; it does look dramatic! However, it is a necessary first step in restoring scrub and improving the habitat of the threatened Florida Scrub-Jay.

A big part of our mission as an agency is helping endangered and threatened species recover. When we completed our Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Refuge last year, it put into sharp focus how vital Merritt Island NWR was to the recovery of the Scrub-Jay. There is no other place in the world that has both excellent Scrub-Jay habitat and a mandate for helping Scrub-Jays recover! Without overstating it, Merritt Island NWR is the species' best hope, and we have initiated steps to help it survive.

Scrub-Jays occur only in Florida and Merritt Island NWR provides habitat for about one quarter of the state's population (about 500 families). The Ocala National Forest is another Scrub-Jay stronghold, but Scrub-Jay recovery is a secondary mission for the U.S. Forest Service. The Lake Wales Ridge still has a good Scrub-Jay population and about 130,000 acres are in public ownership, but the lands are scattered and widely separated along a 100 mile-long corridor, which is not the best scenario for Scrub-Jay recovery. The remaining healthy populations are found in smaller tracts of public land scattered around Florida. Jays still occur on some private lands, but unless the lands are managed with fire, these isolated populations will eventually disappear. The Refuge has some of the best quality jay habitat due to habitat management activities, including fire. The Refuge is playing a critical role in the Scrub-Jay's recovery and they are a featured species in our management activities.

To remain productive for Scrub-Jays, scrub sites must mimic the natural cycle and burn every 3-5 years. If fires are not allowed to perform their natural role, scrub habitat becomes overgrown and jays abandon the site. Over time, the jay populations on the refuge have become separated by over grown scrub vegetation, which presents barriers to jay movement. Four isolated jay populations have formed on the Refuge and they are located:

- 1) From Tel-4 Road to KSC Headquarters,
- 2) From Headquarters to the VAB,
- 3) From VAB to Haulover Canal, and
- 4) From Haulover Canal to the north.



Over 25 known species of plants and 20 species of animals endemic to scrub communities in Florida are listed as rare, threatened, endangered or species of special concern. One of these, the Florida Scrub-Jay is Florida's only endemic bird species.

A fifth population occurs on Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and the Refuge is working with the Air Force to better manage the habitat and help connect this population with MINWR. The four populations on the Refuge no longer inter-breed and the habitat separating them is in poor condition.

To connect the isolated groups of jays and improve the habitat, habitat restoration is required. In some cases this means knocking down the overgrown oaks and other vegetation before the habitat is burned. This is what occurred between Dimmitt Cove and Haulover Canal. It looks drastic at first, but in the long run this is a necessary step in restoring scrub habitat and providing a corridor for Scrub-Jay movement. Within a few years, the scrub oaks and other native plants will sprout and you may once again see Scrub-Jays and other scrub loving species using these restored sites.

### FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY WATCH PROGRAM

Holly Zwart-Duryea

It all started with the Volusia County email subscription service asking for volunteers to participate in the Florida Scrub-Jay survey. Several days passed by as I

contemplated whether to respond when Becky Tate, a fellow new birder, enthusiastically said, "let's do it. We'll have fun!"

On the morning of May 31st several of us from HRA met at Leonia Preserve to receive information and field training during a 4-hour session. We learned that the Florida Scrub-Jay is one of North America's most endangered birds and unique to Florida. They live primarily in the oak-dominated scrub along the coastal and inland ridges. Scrub-Jays are omnivores, surviving most of the year on grasshoppers, crickets, and caterpillars and yet during the fall and winter acorns become the main staple of their diet. They are monogamous (6% divorce rate) and territorial. Nest building occurs from February to June with an average of four eggs laid. Nestlings fledge at 18 days and become independent at about 85 days. This was all very interesting but our task at hand that morning was to learn the standardized procedure for producing consistent quality data in the field.

Approximately 50+ volunteers gathered to assist in the surveys. Equipped with our training manuals we listened intently to the required protocol and subsequent documentation. On several occasions nearby scrub-jays willingly appeared thereby assisting the trainer with their proper identification. Upon completion of both the classroom and field training we were now ready! Sign-up sheets were provided to select your preferred Scrub-Jay Watch site. Site coordinators would contact us with dates and times.

Becky and I had signed up for the North Peninsula State Park and on June 25th-27th we set out bright and early. We were pleasantly surprised to see Peggy Yokubonus and immediately requested she be part of our team. Lead by ranger Sylvia Bollinger we were eager and ready to proceed. As team #3 (4 teams total) we were assigned our zone and stations (4 zones with a total of 33 stations) and off we went, clipboard, tape player with Scrub-Jay call tape, and binoculars in hand. Documentation began immediately by identifying the team members, the location, overall start time, date, ambient temperature, and weather. We arrived at our first station and sprang into action:

- Survey point location - #17.
- Start Time - 07:45.
- Predators present - No (the playing of the Scrub-Jay call tape is suspended when predators are present to protect the Scrub-Jays.)
- Begin tape for one minute. Wait 2 minutes for Scrub-Jays to appear. Continue up to 2 more times.
- Count # of adults and juveniles (juveniles have brown heads).
- Identify if banded and specific color of bands if possible (color chart provided).
- Provide comments including direction Scrub-Jays traveled from and towards.

- 10 minutes minimum at each location.

Dutifully we proceeded to each station waiting to see our first Scrub-Jay. Finally we were rewarded for our diligence and patience with two Scrub-Jays at the last site: adults/no bands.

We happily continued on for the next two days under overcast and not too hot days. The fourth and final day occurred two weeks later on a very hot Friday morning. We momentarily questioned our sanity as we dragged our wilted bodies to the last 3 stations. Overhead a turkey vulture circled - Hmm did he really think we were that far gone?

After completing my first participation in the Scrub-Jay Watch Program I must say it will be remembered as a very positive experience. The program statewide includes 55 sites; 6 within Volusia county (Blue Spring State Park, Buck Lake, Gemini Springs, Lake Monroe, Leonia Preserve, and North Peninsula State Park).

I thank my fellow teammates for enhancing this experience for me. Park ranger Sylvia Bollinger treated us to her endless knowledge of the local native plants and wildlife we encountered. The approximately 12 hours Becky, Peggy and I spent together allowed for a lot of lively conversation and good laughs. We did have fun!

## AUGUST 2008 CALENDAR

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

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

### Monday, August 4

**Halifax River Audubon** Board meeting.

### Wednesday, August 13

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. Program for children ages 2-5 accompanied by adult. Live birds of prey encounters, crafts, stories, songs. Nifty Nests. Climb into an eagle's nest and learn about the vast variety of homes birds create to raise a family. Make your own edible nest to gobble up! 10:00am. \$10 for child and parent. 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland 32751. Adults \$5, children \$4, under 3 are free. Contact Lynne to register 407-644-0190 or [lflannery@audubon.org](mailto:lflannery@audubon.org).

### Tuesday, August 19

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society program meeting. "Adventure and Ecology in Latin America", Elston Raimundo Chavarria. Conservation efforts in Panama, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

### Saturday, August 23

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society field trip. DuBary Hall Tour, Bike Trail Ride or Walk. Lunch at Swamp House Grill on St. Johns River. Meet 7:30am at Home Depot hwy 92 (ISB) and Williamson Blvd, Daytona Beach. Contact Sonya Guidry 670-1797, [sguidry4@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sguidry4@cfl.rr.com).

# THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
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## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds			
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.of			
The Marine Science Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-554-5	chriswise@co.volusia.fl
	Phyllis Lamborn	386-421-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	386-293-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.co
Bird Identification	David Hartgrove	788-2610	
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland, FL	407-644-0190	
Halifax River Audubon	www.halifaxriveras.c.g		
Florida Rare Bird Alert	http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html		

AUGUST 2008

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON  
appreciates the support of the newsletter  
*The Pelican* by  
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In Recognition of David Hartgrove

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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.

# THE PELICAN

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



VOL. 54 - NO. 3

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

September 2008

## CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Each year the Audubon national office requires local chapters to file a report outlining their activities, goals, accomplishments, financial statements, etc. This gives the national office an idea where the local chapters are headed and whether or not they're in need of assistance. In order to help you, our members, understand what you're helping to support, what follows is a condensed version of that report.

Our goals for the coming year include working with local government on growth management issues; improving habitat for nesting birds, especially in the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary; maintaining our commitment to parks and refuges in our area, continuing our efforts in citizen science through participation in bird counts, working with local schools through the Environmental Learning Program to teach birding skills to classes from all over Volusia County, in addition to our participation in Audubon Adventures; and to continue our support for the Florida Hometown Democracy Amendment.

We hope to accomplish these goals by encouraging you, our members, to become more involved and by maintaining our connection with other local environmental groups. Our county is the only one in the state with three separate Audubon chapters. By working in concert we hope to do more than we could individually. We are currently working with our sister chapters on the issue of access for dog owners at two local parks in the area of Ponce Inlet. We hope you will consider being one of the volunteers helping in the environmental learning projects in the Volusia County schools. The current schedule often includes some weeks with three or even four days of classes. There are currently just three of us trying to cover these obligations.

Our chapter was recently recognized by "Environment For The Americas" for having participated in migratory bird counts over the past decade and our members continue participating in Christmas Bird Counts, of which there are three here in Volusia County. Volunteers from our chapter monitored the Black Skimmers that nested in Daytona Beach Shores this summer. Again, this single pair defied the odds and the history and raised two chicks. For the second year now we have also been involved in the Southeastern Nightjar Survey. This very important project hopes to begin understanding the population dynamics of birds like

Chuck-will's-widows, Common Nighthawks and others in the genus, *Caprimulgus*.

We donated \$1000 to Friends of Lake Woodruff for infrastructure improvements, \$1500 to Ormond Scenic Loop and Trail to fund signs at two trailheads in Tomoka State Park. This donation will also help to blaze a walking trail to a new, ADA accessible observation platform designed by our Field Trip Chair, Bob North. In addition to our local parks and refuges, our chapter has recently pledged \$1000 to Friends of Chassahowitzka towards an additional land purchase near Three Sisters Springs. This National Wildlife Refuge is located on Florida's west coast, north of Tarpon Springs and is the winter home of the new migratory flock of Whooping Cranes.

As you can see, we're heavily involved in a variety of endeavors that serve to improve the quality of life for us all. Please, consider volunteering in one or more of these activities. Your life will be richer for it.

## AUGUST BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey presented a detailed report of 2007-2008 fiscal activity report to Audubon of Florida. The audit was performed gratis by non-member Edie Fiske; the Board approved thanking her with a restaurant gift card. A mature CD was cashed to pay for auto insurance and meeting room rent.

Willie Burns has ordered 2009 Audubon calendars and will bring them to the September meeting with other Golden Dog items for sale.

Membership Chair John Carr reported 431 members.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove reported problems at Smyrna Dunes and Lighthouse Point Parks caused by off-leash dogs chasing wild birds. Although Volusia County regulations require dogs to be leashed when off their own property, enforcement is slack. David sent a letter to New Smyrna Beach Commission urging leash enforcement.

Conservation Committee Member Holly Zwart-Duryea reported on workshop "Conservation Design for Hamlets and Villages".

Education Co-Chairs Marion Monaghan and Becky Tate will work with teachers at the same eight schools as last year.

Paula Wehr reported good progress on the partnership project with Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail CME, Inc. and showed sketches of the Boardman Trail sign layout.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ed Dettman, New Smyrna Beach, Florida

*Note: We published an article in the August Pelican titled "Question. How do the same fish end up in different lakes?" Mr. Dettman sent us an email in response to that article, we have his permission to publish it and I think you will enjoy his charming correction. Fran Carr, Editor.*

As a transplant to Florida from the West, I have often wondered if the spokespeople for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission spent more time at Bed Bath and Beyond, or the WingHouse, than they did out-of-doors. The article in your Pelican publication regarding "How do the same fish end up in different lakes" only serves to heighten my suspicion.

The answers they offered were "vicariance" (a theoretical in which a catastrophic event like an ice age or an asteroid collision with the earth destroys massive habitats and populations, but leaves scattered remnant populations. We have no records of such events since the beginning of the Christian Era) and "dispersal" (defined as when the fish are found away from the population, "into which they were BORN"). It may come as a surprise to the "geniuses" at the FFWC, but fish are HATCHED from EGGS, NOT BORN!!!

With that "clue", I will offer the most appropriate and frequently accurate answer to the article's lead-in question. It is due to "inadvertent dispersal of fish eggs" (IDOFE) by man, (barefoot kids with egg-laden mud between their toes running from one water source to another, old men with waffle-soled wading boots, etc.) animals, (wild hogs, raccoons, gators, ducks, geese, and wading birds, all moving or flying with egg-laden mud from one water source to another) or machines (from johnboats to draglines and dredges bearing egg-laden mud from one water source to another).

If any of your readers find themselves walking near a newly-formed retention or water area and see signs of fish activity (swirls, hatchlings swimming in small schools, etc.) they can be assured that it is not the result of some cataclysmic event, or the result of the FFWC bringing an adult male and female fish of the same species to the area and having the Church endorse their union, but plain old IDOFE, which is going on 24/7 around the world (with exception of the Public Information Offices of the FFWC, of course).

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

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

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

### Wednesday, September 3

Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club program. "The Riverkeeper" Neil Armingeon. Organization to protect the St Johns River. 7:00pm, Holly Hill Club House, 1064 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

### Tuesday, September 2

**Halifax River Audubon** Board meeting.

### Wednesday, September 10

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. "Feather Frenzy" Program for children ages 2-5 accompanied by adult. Live birds of prey encounters, crafts, stories, songs. Discover how special feathers are and the many important ways they help birds survive. 10:00am. \$10 for child and parent. 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland 32751. Adults \$5, children \$4, under 3 are free. Contact Lynne to register 407-644-0190 or [lflannery@audubon.org](mailto:lflannery@audubon.org).

### Monday, September 15

**Halifax River Audubon** program meeting. "Parrots as Companion Pets" J.G. Pasternak. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

### Tuesday, September 16

Pawpaw Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society program meeting. "East Central Florida Aquatic Preserves" Jeanene Bengoa. Natural resources of 3-mile stretch of Mosquito Lagoon south of New Smyrna bridge to Canaveral National seashore boundary. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

### Saturday, September 20

**Halifax River Audubon** Fall Bird Count. Meet 7:00am at east end of Courthouse Annex Parking lot, City Island, Orange Ave., Daytona Beach. Led by David Hartgrove 788-2630. Bring lunch. (2)

### Saturday, September 20

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. Junior Rehabber program for ages 8-12 from 9:00am to noon. Visit raptor care behind the scenes areas, create enrichment toys for the birds, learn about feeding, cleaning and more. Reservations required. 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland 32751. Adults \$5, children \$4, under 3 are free. \$25/child. Call 407-644-0190 or [lflannery@audubon.org](mailto:lflannery@audubon.org).

### Saturday, September 27

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Buschman Park and Spruce Creek. Meet 8:00am at Buschman Park, 4575 Spruce Creek Rd., Port Orange. Led by Ray Scory 763-4260. Bring lunch. (1)

### Sunday, September 28

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet 5:00pm under Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. Led by John Roessler 255-9826. (1)

### Saturday, October 4

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Palm Bay, Brevard Co. Meet 6:30am at Lowe's parking lot, Dunlawton Ave. east of I-95. Led by Bob North. 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (1)



Audubon  
**ADVENTURES**

Would you like to share your appreciation of nature with youngsters by stimulating their curiosity? **Audubon ADVENTURES** is a nationally-acclaimed environmental education program of brochures, posters, activities and action tips geared for grades 3 - 6.

You can help Halifax River Audubon provide kits to fourth-grade teachers in local elementary schools. Your tax-deductible donation of \$45 will purchase one kit, which includes a guide, resource manual and a one-year subscription to Audubon Magazine.

Each classroom kit contains materials for 32 students. Subject matter and activities in the kits meet the requirements set by FCAT for language arts, science, mathematics and social studies.

Send your donation - whatever amount fits your budget - to Halifax River Audubon, P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166. Please specify on your check that the donation is for Audubon Adventures.

## TIME FOR THE FALL MIGRATION COUNT

David Hartgrove

Saturday, September 20th, is the date for our Fall Migration Count. There have been many internet reports of migrants already. Once again we will fan out to cover as much 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 join us, the more successful

the count is. 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 or send me an e-mail so I can begin putting together teams: 386-788-2630, [birdman9@earthlink.net](mailto:birdman9@earthlink.net)

### September 15 Program Meeting

## PARROTS AS COMPANION PETS

Like many people who bring a parrot into their house as a companion, Palm Coast residents J.G. Pasterjak and his wife, Dana, quickly reached a point where they thought they were in over their heads. These beautiful, intelligent and mischievous creatures are demanding companions, and many people bring them into their homes not realizing the time, money and emotional commitments that these birds demand. For those reasons, over half of all large parrots end up looking for a new home at some point in their life.



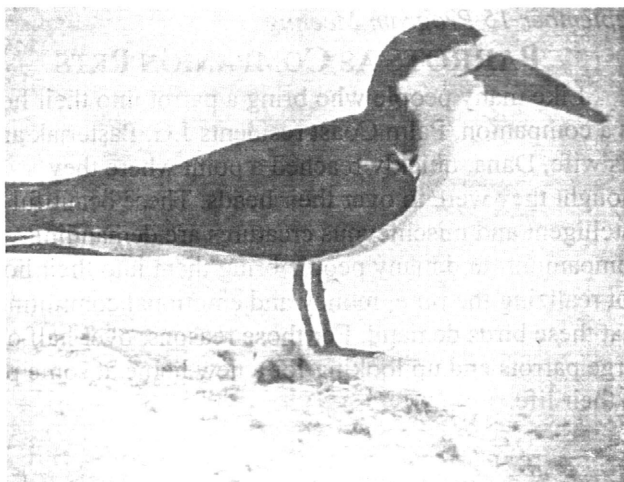
Instead of abandoning their birds, J.G. and Dana went in another direction, learning as much as they could about how to give them fulfilling lives out of their natural habitats. This research led to networking with other parrot keepers, and eventually to the establishment of a Volusia/Flagler chapter of Parrots in the Park, a Central Florida-based group of parrot enthusiasts who share knowledge and experience, and come together to socialize their birds and try to make the lives of companion parrots more fulfilling.

Be sure to attend the September 15 meeting at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue to meet J.G and his parrots. Refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m.; the program begins at 7:00 p.m. You'll learn that parrots can make excellent companions, and how humans can make excellent companions for parrots.

## SKIMMER SITTING

David Hartgrove

Today, while giving myself red calves and white ankles, I spent an enjoyable afternoon watching over the Black Skimmer family on the beach in Daytona Beach Shores. For those of you not in the Central Florida area, you may not know that a pair of Black Skimmers has nested directly behind one of the largest condo developments on the Volusia County's Atlantic coast.



David's photo of the male skimmer and (take his word for it) one of the almost invisible chicks

The probability seems high that this is the same pair of birds that last year nested successfully about 2 miles north of the current location. Those birds came to be known as Homer & Marge and their surviving offspring, Bart. Back in June the pair was seen checking out the beach behind the Oceans IV Condo, in the 2900 block of South Atlantic Avenue. They soon had 3 eggs and incubation had begun in earnest. The high tides took one of the eggs but last Friday evening the first of the 2 surviving eggs hatched. Then Sunday morning, the second hatched. The county, with the assistance of volunteers from Audubon, county environmental programs and the general public, has set up a schedule for people to monitor the adults and their youngsters and to make sure the adoring public doesn't encroach on the makeshift corral they've set up.

This afternoon I watched as the female flew off and returned within minutes with a large (relative to the little ones) fish. She proceeded to masticate it with her slim, strong bill. She handed it off to the larger of the two chicks. After several tries and more chewing by Mom, he finally gulped it down. She flew off and returned soon with a somewhat smaller fish for the more diminutive sibling. At 6 and 4 1/2 days old, they spent most of the afternoon under one or the other parent avoiding the baking sun. At one point, the male flew off to challenge a circling Osprey. He frequently scolded the few Laughing Gulls nearby and once flew 100 yards down the beach to harass a solitary, bedraggled looking, Ring-billed Gull.

On another occasion she returned with a fish and proceeded to chew it to break it down. She waited for the smaller of the two chicks to emerge from under the male. Then the male held the larger chick in place so its smaller sibling could eat undisturbed.

The chicks are eating well. They're being well cared for and protected by their attentive parents. At one point, the larger chick appeared to beg from the female while the male was gone. She lowered her bill and produced 7 or 8 drops of a clear liquid by regurgitation. I think it had to be water and I'd have never seen it without the binoculars. The story has appeared on local TV and in newspapers. I spoke to many people here on vacation who now have a deeper appreciation of the natural world thanks to this very unusual event.

Of course, other birds were about too. One group of 74 Eastern Willets along with 17 Semi-palmated Sandpipers appeared and fed briefly. There was just about any kind of plumage variation one could imagine in the group. It was a great afternoon.

### MERET'S BIRD BANDING SCHEDULE

Meret Wilson has scheduled her fall bird banding in Tomoka State Park. She can use help in setting up and taking down mist nets, and writing notes when her hands are full of a bird. If interested, email [mileybug@aol.com](mailto:mileybug@aol.com).

September 2-5 (Tuesday – Friday)

September 9-12 (Tuesday – Friday)

September 19-20 (No banding) Meret will be bird banding at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

September 23-26 (Tuesday – Friday)

### FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE

Sunday, October 5 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Atlantic High School

1250 Reed Canal Road, Port Orange

(386)673-9543

#### NATIVE PLANTS FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA:

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Presented by the Pawpaw and Lyonia chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society, serving Volusia and Flagler Counties. Visit [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org).

# HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

Presents

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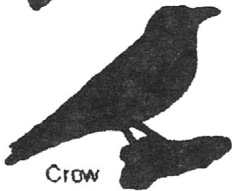


Cardinal

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 10, 2008**. 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 October 17 (1:30 to 4:30 p.m.)**, **October 24** and **October 31 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. **NOTE: October 17 only is an afternoon class due to unavailability of the classroom in the morning.**



Dove

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



Finch

**Wed., October 22** – 8:00 a.m. at Port Orange Bridge  
**Wed., October 29** – 8:00 a.m. at Volusia Landfill  
**Wed., November 5** – 7:00 a.m. at Merritt Island NWR

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.

✂Cut here and mail with your check-----

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ADDRESS  
PHONE  
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# THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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Paula Wehr	Acting Corresponding Secretary		
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Marion Monaghan	At-Large Class of 2011	760-2747	nautilus411@aol.com
Becky Tate	At-Large Class of 2011	677-5255	tatebm@aol.com
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Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franni@juno.com
Joan Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds			
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.of			
The Marine Science Ctr.			
	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	386-299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
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		

SEPTEMBER 2008

**HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**  
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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.

# THE PELICAN

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



VOL. 54 - NO. 4

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

October 2008

## CONSERVATION NOTES

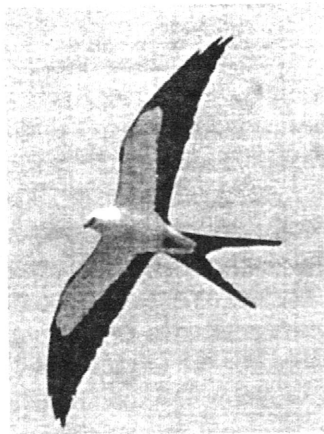
David Hartgrove

By the time you read this our Volusia County Council will have made a decision on whether or not the mega development "Restoration" should be submitted to public review by the Volusia Growth Management Commission. The VGMC is a public body created by the voters of the county to review development projects that have the potential to impact more than one municipality. They have a somewhat checkered past when it comes to challenging developments that clearly shouldn't be built. But sometimes they get it right. Maybe that's why the lawyers are worried.

"Restoration" (can't you just imagine the conversation when the market research company came up with that name) has been in the works for several years now. At 90+ million dollars, it was the most expensive land purchase ever recorded in the county's history. So the investors have a sizable stake in seeing a return on their investment. The original drawings called for a golf course (of course) and far more homes and commercial space than is in the current plan.

After consultation with design engineers and people from Audubon of Florida, the plans were scaled back. This was primarily due to the fact that 2/3 of the property lies within the county's 100 year flood plain. Still, the new, "green" plan calls for 8,500 new homes and 3.2 million square feet of commercial space. The golf course has been deleted but this may have more economics of golf course management today than a new found environmental consciousness on the part of the developers.

Sixty percent of the land will be placed in permanent conservation easements and the developers have said they'll perform restoration work on the conservation lands since that property has been part of a



American Swallow-Tail Kite

© Ray Scory

large pine plantation for several generations. American Swallow-tailed Kites, among many other species, nest on the property and the developer was instrumental in facilitating surveys for their nest sites earlier this year.

We've been told by our Audubon of Florida leaders that this is a project we should support. Our sister chapter, Southeast Volusia Audubon Society, has lobbied against it at every opportunity because they'll be the most impacted and are highly skeptical.

Earlier, I mentioned that the lawyers are worried. They will be there to argue that this gigantic development is not a local issue, that there no reason to submit this "wonderful" plan to the VGMC for public review. If it's so wonderful, and so "green", and so visionary in its concept, why would they be so fearful of the public exercising its right to know? Why would they be so reluctant to give the public peek behind the curtain? Stay tuned. There's more than meets the eye here.

## Audubon ADVENTURES

The start of the school year means we are now soliciting sponsors for the classroom sets of Audubon Adventures. If you have been a sponsor in the past you know how important this program is to Volusia County students. For some children it's the first exposure to leaning about the environment, wild birds, and other animals. Who knows? In one of the classrooms you sponsor there may be a future ornithologist who one day may say, "I became interested in birds back in elementary school from a publication called *Audubon Adventures*."

The Audubon Adventures program is aimed at third, fourth and fifth grade classrooms. Each sponsored class receives four sets of newsletter with materials for 32 students in each set. They are filled with information and learning activities. There is also a teacher's manual with support ideas, activities, and evaluations.

Send your donation to Halifax River Audubon, P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166. Any donation is welcome; \$45 will supply a classroom. Please specify on your check that your donation is for Audubon Adventures.

## AMAZING EAGLES IN HOLLY HILL

Willie Burns

At our September meeting a new eagle's nest by Bradford Lake in the Centennial Park in Holly Hill was announced. There is a lot more to this story!

A civilian (a non-Audubon birder) reported to the state Fish & Wildlife cops that there was an eagle's nest in the Park that had fledged two puppies last season. He had reports that the city was planning a new Frisbee golf course that would damage or remove the nest tree.

Fish & Wildlife notified Linda White at the Birds of Prey Center in Maitland. Linda called Gina Holt, our member who works part time there to check the nest, and see if it was a much more common Osprey nest. Gina called me, Willie, as I live close to the Park. So I drove there, and *Voila!* there was a typical Eagle's nest in a tall pine. With a couple of planks poking out of it!



Photo by Jim Townsend

As many of us know, Osprey usually make a flat nest on top of a dead snag, or a pole. They like those little "snow dishes" that the power companies install to keep the Osprey from nesting in a dangerous place. Bald Eagles usually nest in the middle of a big pine tree, a mass of branches, sticks, and stuff that can be as big as a Volkswagen.

Then members Kitty Albee and Steve Petruniac ran across a pair of Eagles roosting in Sunrise Park on the Halifax River in Holly Hill. Eagles roost away from their nest when the season is over, sort of a vacation home. A few days later Steve managed to follow them to the nest, not an easy task! They were fussing with the nest, rearranging it and beginning to add new stuff, as Eagles will early in the nesting season.

A new nest! We all were excited.

Then came the Rest of the Story, from Priscilla of Holly Hill City Hall, not Paul Harvey.

Two years ago the Eagle pair had chased a pair of Osprey from THEIR nest on top of a light pole in

Hollyland Park, just east of Centennial and across the railroad. They raised and fledged a pair of puppies there. But Holly Hill needed to do some major maintenance to the poles in that Park. They called Tallahassee, and in due course some eagle experts showed up, and they moved the nest. Yes, moved the nest. Our President David Hartgrove (who works for FP&L) has moved and replaced many nests, but I do not think he has done an Eagle's nest yet!

They used wire to hold it together, and put some small planks in the crotch of the "new" pine tree where a couple of large branches diverge from the trunk to support the nest in its new home. Last year the birds tried to return to their nest, and found it was gone.

So they flew around, maybe wondering if their memories were failing, and *Voila!* they found their nest. Same as last year (except for the planks), but there it was, in the big tall pine. They worked on it and got it to their satisfaction, laid eggs and raised and fledged last year's pair of puppies.

And that brings us back to the beginning of this story. The city says they will never again bother the nest; in fact they are quite proud of it! And the birds are getting ready to nest this season, already.

Centennial Park is between 10th Street and LPGA Blvd, west of the FEC Railway.

October 8

## THE NATURAL HISTORY OF VOLUSIA COUNTY

This past year Michael Brothers gave a program at one of our Chapter meetings that was enthusiastically received by everybody present. He described the land/ocean interactions that have occurred over millennia that have left their marks on our topography – marks that we can see today.

Michael will present his program at the City Island Library on October 8 (see calendar). You have a chance to hear this fine speaker again. And if you missed him the first time, don't pass up this opportunity to hear him.

Michael has over 30 years of experience in museum administration in city, county, state, and private non-profit museums. He is the former Executive Director of the Museum of Arts and Sciences in Daytona Beach as well as other museums. He has organized major exhibitions including the Great Asian Dinosaur Exhibition for the museum in Daytona Beach and Mysteries of Egypt while in Macon, Georgia.

Michael has extensive natural resource and natural science interpretive experience including specializations in the bird life and flora of Central Florida. He has led natural history tours throughout Florida and in the Galapagos Islands, Kenya, and the Amazon, and is currently working on a summary of the avifauna of our area entitled *The Birds of Volusia County*.

Monday, October 20 Program Meeting

### LAKE WOODRUFF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Paula Wehr

Lake Woodruff is a 2,200-acre lake located 25 miles west of Daytona Beach and surrounded by freshwater marshes, hardwood swamps, uplands, streams, and canals. The refuge is included in a wildlife corridor of ecologically sensitive lands along the St. Johns River extending from the Wekiva River to Lake George. Several archaeological sites are present within the refuge.

The Refuge is home to several endangered species, wading and field birds, birds of prey and wintering waterfowl as well as reptiles and large and small mammals.

Dorn Whitmore is Chief Ranger at Merritt Island NWR Complex which includes six refuges – Pelican Island, Archie Carr, Lake Woodruff, St. Johns, and Lake Wales Ridge. Most recently he is serving as interim Refuge Manager at National Key Deer NWR and Lake Woodruff NWR.

Dorn will provide an overview of the resources and management of the Refuge and all the wildlife residing there.

Mark your calendar to join us on October 20 at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill. Dorn will begin his presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Belted Kingfisher

### BEGINNER BIRD WATCHING CLASS 2008

Ray Scory

Three classroom meetings and three field trips. Not a bad way to discover the exciting world of bird watching here in east-central Florida.

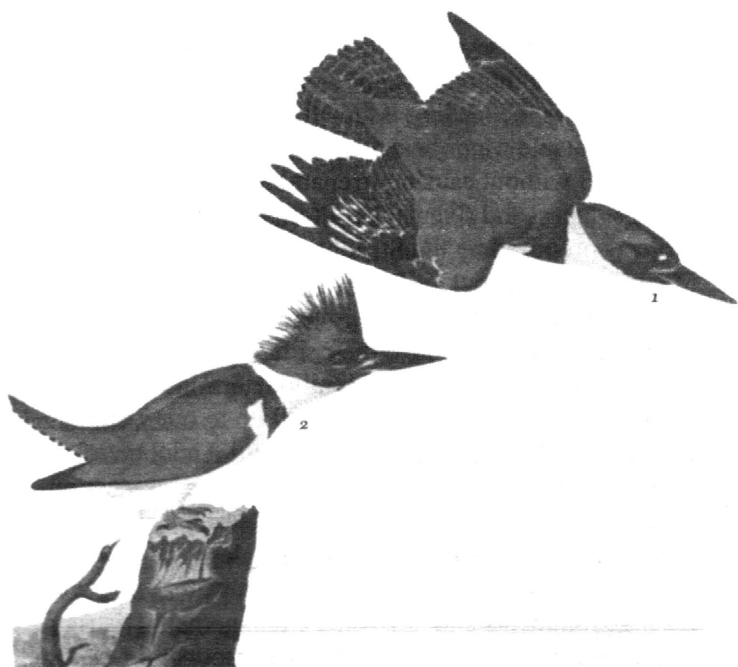
The Beginner Bird Watching Class sponsored by Halifax River Audubon is not only for beginners and Chapter members, but for more advanced birders and non-members as well. The course offers a comprehensive program touching on many aspects and interests in the birding world from basic identification techniques, bird behavior, how to find birds, and bird migration. It is a course that will awaken past memories in birding and refresh your skills to continue your journey. The class is a beginning, a refresher and a new adventure all in one dynamic package.

Our field trips take us to three interesting and bird dominant bird hot-spots. Our first trip is to the Port Orange Bridge where I have observed from 25 to 35 different species of birds any time of day, any time of year in any kind of weather, all in an hour. Naturally there are occasional surprises, but that is what makes birding such a rich experience.

The second trip is to Buschman Park and Spruce Creek Park. On September seventeenth I scouted the two

parks. At Spruce Creek Park I observed and heard a Northern Waterthrush up close as a Belted Kingfisher flew by. High in the tree tops I watched the fidgety foraging of a Baltimore Oriole, many Red-eyed Vireos and Blue-winged Warblers, some still in breeding plumage. Beautiful!

The last trip is to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, considered by many the Mecca of birding on the east coast.



Belted Kingfisher. From Audubon print

If you always wanted to know more about birds, but never had time, come to this class. If you want to refresh your previous birding skills, this class will help. John Roessler, Past President of Halifax River Audubon, will again offer his birding expertise to this year's program.

We offer two birding instructors for this program and can only accept 25 class participants. Please sign in early, take your seat and enjoy your adventure into the wonderful world of Birdwatching.

- Donation: \$25 check due October 10, payable to Halifax River Audubon, P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166.
- Classroom instruction at 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange Public Library Auditorium.
- Dates: October, 17 (1:30 to 4:30), October 24 and 31 (9:30 to 12:00 noon).
- Field trips dates: October 22 (8:00 at Port Orange Bridge); October 29 (8:00 at Buschman Park); November 5 (7:00 at Merritt Island NWR).
- More Information: Call Ray Scory 386-763-4260 or Paula Wehr, 386-0673-5332.



## CONSERVATION UPDATE

Peggy Cox

Water, Water, everywhere! I write this at the end of Central Florida's visit by Tropical Storm Fay that we were beginning to think would never go away! All of Florida needed rain and some of us got a beneficial amount and others got harmful floods. Some of the flooded areas are the result of building in low lying lands or filled in wetlands. As we review the experience of this storm, the lessons of irresponsible wetlands and dredge and fill policies must be seriously reviewed as Central Florida grows into the future.

Water is the leading issue with the probability of not enough potable water being available from the aquifer after 2013 without causing irreparable harm to wetlands, springs, lakes, and rivers. The alternative water supply projects proposed by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) for Central Florida water utilities and municipal governments are meeting with serious opposition for their short-sighted plans and lack of underlying science to really determine what surface and aquifer withdrawals will do to our wetlands, rivers, and lakes. Audubon chapters and Audubon of Florida are proposing serious, enforceable conservation measures with limiting irrigation, landscape ordinances that require drought tolerant plantings, less use of nitrogen fertilizers, reclaiming and reusing wastewater, etc., to local governments and the Water Management Districts. We have a way to go in getting more responsible regulations and conservation measures especially from SJRWMD.

The first Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) for an alternative water project is on the St. Johns River at Yankee Lake in Sanford. The CUP permit has been legally challenged by several including the City of Jacksonville and the Riverkeeper, and is currently waiting for a hearing on the challenge. Ocklawaha River proposed withdrawals are meeting serious opposition from Marion County and the Putnam County Environmental Council.

Orange County settled its legal challenge to the South Florida Water Management District denial of the County's CUP request to withdraw surface waters from the Lake Hart basin for supplementing reclaimed systems and for the new OUC power plant's cooling water needs. Unfortunately, Orange County still doesn't seem to see the need for serious enforceable water conservation measures. In May they approved a Water Conservation Ordinance that implemented the SJRWMD's irrigation rules limiting irrigation to 2X a week, but not limiting irrigation using reclaimed water. Because of no limit on reclaimed water use, Orange County changed the definition of reclaimed water in this new ordinance to include that "primary reclaimed water systems may be supplemented or augmented by water from another source". This appears to be a tactic to get around the regulation requiring Water

Management District approval to withdraw surface water in the amounts needed for large systems.

Lake County's Board of County Commissioners legally challenged SJRWMD's decision to approve a CUP for a commercial water bottling plant that would withdraw over 174 million gallons a year from the aquifer through 3 new wells at the plant site near Groverland. They have been joined by Groverland in the challenge. The bottling company, Niagara Bottling LLC, has apparently found another source of water and is trucking it in to begin the operation of their plant despite widespread opposition throughout Lake County.

Future water use and water conservation is a serious consideration for all of us. Some suggested books I've found to be very informative are: "Mirage" by Cynthia Barnett: "Bottlemania - How Water Went on Sale and Why We Bought It", by Elizabeth Royte: and "When the Rivers Run Dry - Water - The Defining Crisis of the Twenty-First Century" by Fred Pearce.

*Peggy Cox is past Member, Board, Audubon of Florida; Co-Chair, Audubon Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee; and Member, Orange Audubon Society Board*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO PAUL REBMANN

Orange Audubon Society's annual photo contest has awarded First Place to our Chapter member Paul for his entry Heading Out to the Sea - Loggerhead Hatchling in the contest category "Florida - Beyond Birds".

Paul also won honorable mention in "Florida's Avian Wonders" category for Homer & Bart - Black Skimmers.

October 24-25

## AUDUBON ASSEMBLY - CRYSTAL RIVER

The program for the assemblage of Florida's Audubon chapters takes place at the Plantation Golf Resort & Spa on the banks of the Crystal River on the Gulf Coast.

There are 11 Great Florida Birding Trail areas within a 10-mile radius of the resort. Nearby are the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge (think Whooping Crane ultralight-aircraft migration) and the Withlacoochee State Forest.

The Assembly schedule includes three Learning Sessions, two Field Trips, banquet with speaker Governor Crist, and meetings about conservation priorities and climate change.

Other special events and field trips are scheduled before and after the Assembly including boat and kayak trips, a digi-scoping workshop, and a pool pizza party.

To register online, visit [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org) or contact Lisa Reichert for a registration form at 305-371-6399. For Resort reservations call 800-632-6262 or email [www.plantationinn.com](http://www.plantationinn.com).

## UPDATE ON EVERGLADES RESTORATION

As you know, Florida plans to buy the property of the state's largest sugarcane producer and the deal is set to close this November. Florida will pay United States Sugar Corp. \$1.75 billion for 187,000 acres north of the Everglades National Park, and for two sugar refineries and 200 miles of railroad. U.S. Sugar would continue farming for six years under the deal. The purchase will be paid for with bonds and fees already added to water bills.

This purchase will allow water in a restored Everglades to flow from Lake Okeechobee to Florida Bay. There are many difficulties to overcome because U.S. Sugar's fields are not contiguous (See BELOW). Some land swaps are already in the works.

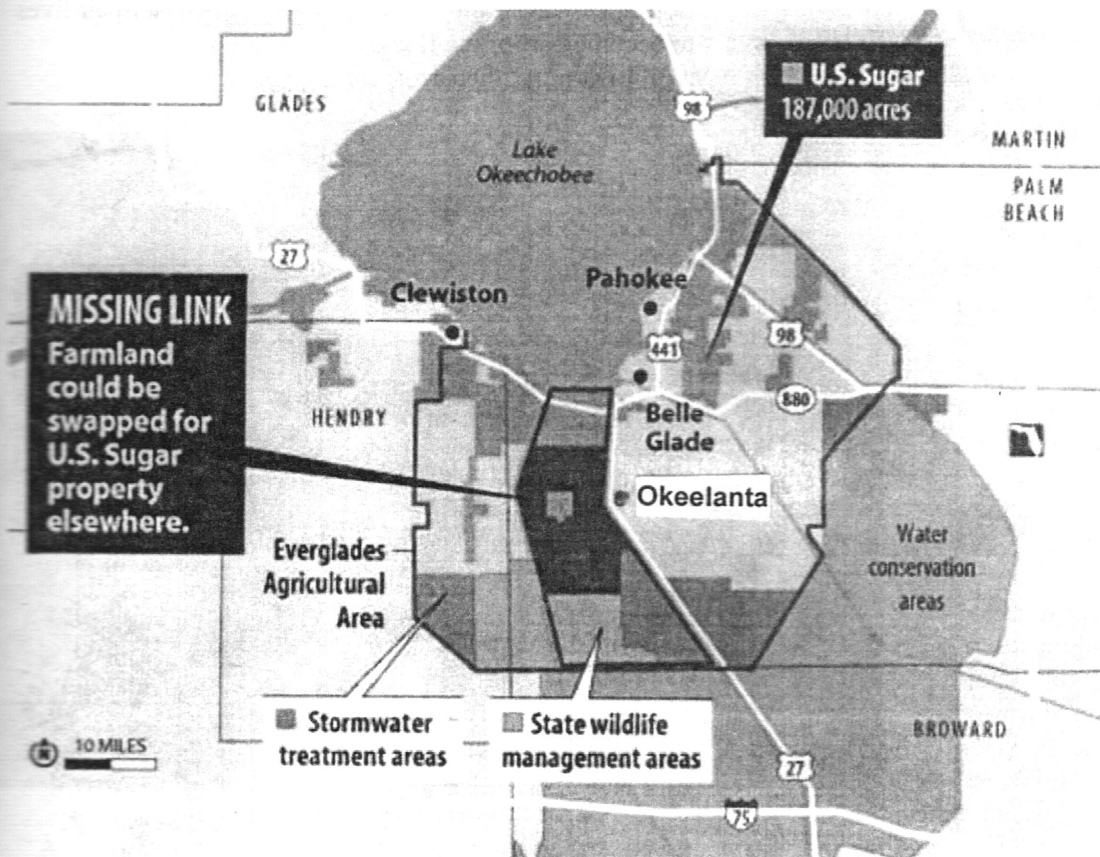
The state hopes to acquire 35,000 acres owned by Florida Crystals, a family-owned sugar-producing company based in Okeelanta. The thought is to trade some of U.S. Sugar's land with some Florida Crystals property. Some of Florida Crystals property is in the path of the flow-way from Lake Okeechobee south to the Everglades. This company's refinery is now North America's largest biomass power plant, and produces up to 140 megawatts of electricity. The director of the Sugar Institute at Louisiana State University, Ben Legendre, said, "Florida Crystals is a leader in the industry with new technology." The state and Florida Crystals Fanjul-family owners are having discussions about a purchase, and the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board met

in September and confirmed the restoration plans can move forward on U.S. Sugar lands.

At this time, the state is constructing a 25-square-mile reservoir that has cost some \$200 million, and will cost \$300 million more to complete. However, continuing to construct this reservoir might make it difficult to pay for the U.S. Sugar land. The Miccosukee Indian Tribe living in the Everglades, wants the state to continue building the reservoir to assure clean water in the future. Run-off from sugar farms and other agricultural interest have caused damage from fertilizer and other contaminants. The state has suggested that if the reservoir would be constructed in the new land-purchase area nearer Lake Okeechobee, clean water flows into the Everglades could be better managed.

Tropical Storm Fay ended the area's drought. Fay's water could be moving south if there were sufficient capacity to clean it up. However, the Everglades cleanup plan is failing even with normal rainfall. The deal with U.S. Sugar would provide the land needed to clean water from storms such as Fay so that that it can be released into the Everglades.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discharged fresh water from Fay into the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries even though fresh water may damage the fragile estuaries. This was necessary so that the Herbert Hoover Dike, which encircles Lake Okeechobee would not be compromised. Audubon of Florida advocates prioritizing dike improvements for the safety of those living just outside the lake.



*Note: Information for this article was provided by The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and Audubon of Florida*

## SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported operating funds of \$6,208.77.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove described the Bush administration's strategy for changing the rules regarding the Endangered Species Act that would allow agencies to decide within themselves what constituted an endangerment. He also reported that the "Restoration" land development project west of Edgewater has been accepted by Volusia County.

David Hartgrove said the new Tee-shirt designs just need a good copy of our logo to be ready for production.

Paula Wehr displayed a copy of the design for one sign to be erected on the Ormond Scenic Loop Trail. Another sign is close to completion and the platform design is under review. These improvements are funded by our Chapter.

## THE BIG SIT! OCTOBER 12, 2008

Ray Scory

Come do The Big Sit! You can do it alone or with a group. It's fun. It's not strenuous, unless you call sitting strenuous. You can take part by sitting at your window listing birds or from your porch or balcony or how about observing birds in a special hotspot near your home. No place is exempt from the persistent scrutiny of a birdwatcher's gaze. You can even sit at any one of Florida's magnificent State Parks or National Wildlife Refuges. Me - I sit at the Dunlawton Bridge in Port Orange from 5:30AM until I wear out about 7:30PM.

To take part, sign in with *Bird Watchers Digest*. Do this by going to the website [www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com) and clicking on "Birding Fun" and then click on The Big Sit! This page will offer you all the information you will need to enjoy this special birding day.

I have enjoyed The Big Sit! here in Florida since the year 2000, where one day every year I'm located under the bridge. Just before daybreak on my first year here, I was treated to an amazing display by two Great Horned Owls. Their hooting and chatter was something to witness as I watched them fly silently back and forth between the bridge abutments. At the first hint of daybreak they just disappeared. I then settled into the silence of an awakening day, awed by a private spectacle of two mysterious owls.

The simplicity of the concept makes The Big Sit! so appealing. Find a good spot for bird watching - preferably one of a variety of habitats and lots of birds. Next you create a real or imaginary circle 17 feet in diameter and sit inside for 24 hours, counting all the bird species you see or hear while staying

in the circle. That's it. Find a spot, sit in it, have fun

Last year forty-nine states and nine other countries participated. A record total of 199 circles listed a worldwide species count of 876. Why not add to that count add to that bird count and, at the same time, have some fun. Maybe a special event is awaiting you, or a breath taking moment.

Welcome to new member Barbara M. Crittenden. Please join us on our field trip activities and our interesting programs.

September Program Meeting

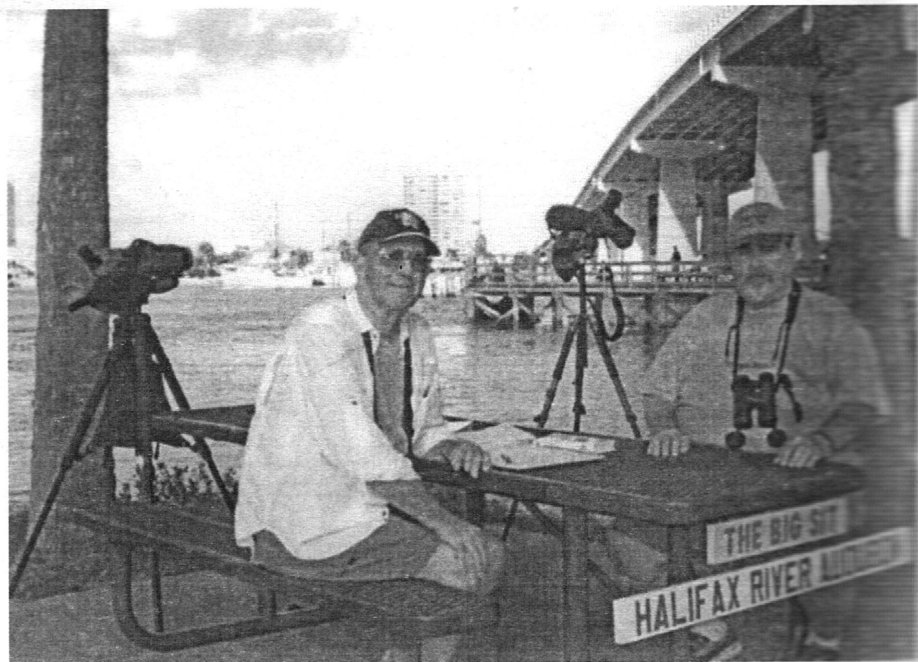
## PARROTS AS COMPANION PETS

Paula Wehr

Our presenter, J.G. Pasterjak, and his wife Dana introduced us to a pair of Eclectus parrots, Goshia and Pris, and two Goffin Cockatoo sisters, Max and Maisie, as well as their newest addition, a third "foster" Goffin cockatoo who had been for sale at a local garage sale just a day or two before our meeting. As J.G. spoke about his feathered family and provided information about pet birds, one of his Goffin Cockatoos sat on his shoulder. The parrots calmly sat on their perches and enjoyed watching the audience watch them.

In the wild, birds spend the greatest part of their day foraging for food which provides exercise and mental stimulation. The birds are very intelligent, use their beak and tongue as a third "hand" and often use tools to complete their tasks. These social animals prefer to live in flocks. However, they will allow the humans in their lives to become part of the flock.

Visit <http://theparrotperch.blogspot.com/>



Ray Scory and John Carr at 2007 The Big Sit! © Ray Scory



## OCTOBER 2008 CALENDAR

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

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

### Wednesday, October 1

Southeast Volusia Audubon meeting. Edgewater Library, 103 Indian River Blvd. 7:00pm  
Refreshments served.

### Saturday, October 4

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Turkey Creek Sanctuary, Palm Bay, Brevard Co. Meet 6:30am at Lowe's parking lot, Dunlawton Ave. east of I-95. Led by Bob North. 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (1)

### Saturday, October 4

Southeast Volusia Audubon field trip. Smyrna Dunes. Park along boardwalk and beaches. Shore birds and Barn Swallows. Meet 8:00am at Market Square parking lot, US 1 & 442, New Smyrna Beach. Call Gail Dumroski at 386-428-0447.

### Sunday, October 5

Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. "Fall Native Plant Sale" at Atlantic High School, 1250 Reed Canal Rd., Port Orange. 10am to 4pm. See article.

### Monday, October 6

**Halifax River Audubon** Board meeting.

### Wednesday, October 8

Friends of the Library Center presents "The Natural History of Volusia County" by Michael Brothers, Chief of Interpretation for the Marine Science Center/Coastal Division in Ponce Inlet. 3:00pm in Children's Auditorium, City Island Library, 105 E. Magnolia Ave., Daytona Beach. Free.

### Wednesday, October 8

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. **PrOWLing Around**. Program for children ages 2-5 accompanied by adult. Live birds of prey encounters, crafts, stories, songs. Peek into the nighttime world of owls. 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland 32751. Adults \$5, children \$4, under 3 are free. 10:00am. \$10 for child and parent. Contact Lynne to register 407-644-0190 or [lflannery@audubon.org](mailto:lflannery@audubon.org).

### Friday, October 10

**Halifax River Audubon** Beginner Bird Watching Class payment due date. Send check for \$25.00, name, address, phone, and e-mail to Halifax River Audubon, PO Box 166, Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166. For more information, call Ray Scory at 386-763-4260 or Paula Wehr at 386-673-5332.

### Sunday, October 12

THE BIG SIT! See article.

### Wednesday, October 15

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Tomoka State Park. Visit Meret Wilson at bird banding station. Meet 7:00am at Park entrance. Led by Bob North, 352-302-3510. (1)

### Friday, October 17.

**Halifax River Audubon** Beginner Bird Watching Class 1. 1:30 to 4:30 pm, Port Orange Public Library Auditorium, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. Bring binoculars. Reservation required. Ray Scory, 386-763-4260.

### Monday, October 20

**Halifax River Audubon** program meeting. "Overview of Refuge Management Techniques and Their Benefits" Dorn Whitmore. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

### Tuesday, October 21

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society program meeting. "Volusia County School Environmental Service Learning Legacy Project", Louise Chapman. Review of project sites: Rosebay Park, Lyonia Preserve, and Bicentennial Park. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

### Wednesday, October 22

**Halifax River Audubon** Beginner Bird Watching Class field trip 1. Meet 8:00am underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. Ray Scory, 386-763-4260.

### Friday, October 24

**Halifax River Audubon** Beginner Birding Class 2. 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, Port Orange Public Library Auditorium, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. Bring binoculars. Reservation required. Ray Scory, 386-763-4260.

### Saturday, October 25

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Lyonia Preserve, behind Deltona Regional Library, 2150 Eustace Ave., Deltona. Meet 8:00am at Circuit City parking lot on International Speedway Square. East of I-95. Led by John Roessler. 255-9826. Bring lunch. (3)

### Friday, Saturday, October 24-25

2008 Audubon Assembly. See article.

### Wednesday, October 29

**Halifax River Audubon** Beginner Bird Watching Class field trip 2. Meet 8:00 am at Buschman Park, 4575 Spruce Creek Rd., Port Orange. Ray Scory, 386-763-4260.

### Friday, October 31

**Halifax River Audubon** Beginner Birding Class 3. 9:00 am to 12:00 noon, Port Orange Public Library Auditorium, 1005 City Center Circle, Port Orange. Bring binoculars. Reservation required. Ray Scory, 386-763-4260.

### Wednesday, November 4

**Halifax River Audubon** Beginner Bird Watching Class field trip 3. Meet 7:00am, at location to be announced for trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Ray Scory, 386-763-4260.



# THE PELICAN



**HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**  
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OCTOBER 2008

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<b>Becky Tate</b>	At-Large Class of 2011	677-5255	tatebm@aol.com
	.....		
<b>Marion Monaghan</b>	Education	760-2747	nautilus411@aol.com
<b>Becky Tate</b>	Education	677-5255	tatebm@aol.com
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<b>Joan Anderson</b>	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jinjanderson3@juno.com

## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds			
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.of			
The Marine Science Ctr. Chris Wise			
	Phyllis Lamborn	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
	Gina Holt	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
		386-299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
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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**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. 54 - NO. 5

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

November 2008

## CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

In a stunning defeat for the forces of common sense, the Volusia County Council voted 4 to 3 against requiring a public hearing before the Volusia Growth Management Commission for the proposed development of nearly 5,200 acres west of I-95 in Edgewater and New Smyrna Beach. As has been mentioned in this column before, "Restoration" is designed to cram 8,500 homes and millions of square feet of retail space into the county's flood plain. Though there have been numerous improvements to the plan, it's still a bad plan. Our sister chapter, the Southeast Volusia Audubon Society, has spoken out against this lunacy at every opportunity. One of the main points they bring up is road concurrency. Even now, on a holiday weekend, beach-bound traffic backs up on SR 44 from S. Peninsula Drive to a point nearly 2 miles west past Old Mission Road. Imagine the traffic with another 8,500 homes. And that's just from this one development. There are others planned or already started out west too.

The VGMC is mandated to review proposed regional sized developments for compliance with local growth management plans. If building all those homes and all that commercial space in the middle of the flood plain isn't a development of regional impact, I can't imagine what would qualify. The fact is that the VGMC will still have to approve the plan. They just won't have to do so before a crowd of angry citizens. Once again our elected officials have voted to silence debate before it even began, to strangle our voices before we could raise objections to their plans. These are the kinds of decisions voters should keep in mind come election time.

And speaking of elections, is anyone tired of political commercials yet? Well let me tell you about an election that hasn't had commercials. The state of Florida is in the process of possibly selecting a new state bird. The idea was born of an attempt to make the Florida Scrub-Jay the state bird several years ago. Of course that selection might impinge on developer's plans, so the big guns were brought out to shoot down the idea. Even the NRA's chief lobbyist, Marion Hammer, was trotted out to testify. How and why her mindless comments were thought to be germane to the issue is anyone's guess. Now, 5 new candidate birds have been selected and the state's school children have been asked to cast ballots for their favorite choice. The candidates are: Osprey, Great Egret, Black

Skimmer, Snowy Egret, and Brown Pelican. Eligible voters are limited to 4th through 8th graders among Florida's school children. Voting will be done online on Nov. 4th between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. So, if your kids or grand kids fall into the eligible age group, help them (or have them help you) navigate to the following web site address: <http://www.vote4bird.org>. On Nov. 4th the "click for your official ballot" link will be activated and the young voter can cast his or her ballot. There's a lot more information available on this web site. Let's get these kids involved in the democratic process now and they'll be better citizens when their votes are even more important later.

## A GREAT LOSS - DOT CARLSON

David Hartgrove

It is with very deep regret and sorrow that Edgewater Citizen Alliance for Responsible Development (ECARD) informs you of the passing of its founder, Dot Carlson. A native Floridian, Dot's great passion was Florida's unique nature heritage and its "critters." She reveled in watching God's creatures roam free. Dot spent a goodly part of each day feeding squirrels and other wildlife.

A lifetime of watching her beloved state paved over led Dot to found ECARD in 2005. ECARD's mission is to preserve Edgewater as a small town. After watching the City Council of Edgewater approve the building of two sixteen story condos, Dot mobilized fellow citizens to collect petitions to amend the City Charter to prohibit high rises. Edgewater voters approved the measure in 2006. The City continues to refuse to honor the height cap and has a proposed repeal of the measure on the ballot this year.

Dot also spearheaded another citizen petition to preserve the swamp west of I-95. The City has annexed this swamp and is now in the midst of approving a development in it that will double Edgewater's population. The City sued ECARD to keep the measure off the ballot. Circuit Court Judge Rouse ordered the measure on the November ballot.

Dot's legacy is her children and her love of Florida. Lesley Blackner, ECARD's attorney and a friend of Dot's said, "Dot was a unique person. She had the guts to stand up to a powerful development machine that is determined to impose south Florida style sprawl on Edgewater. Voters can honor Dot's legacy by voting on November 4th. Vote NO on the height cap repeal and YES on the density restriction. The future of Edgewater depends on it and I'm sure Dot will be watching."

### GOLDEN DOG BOOKS (AND STUFF)

Willie Burns

As always, we have a selection of Audubon calendars for the coming year. Their assortment of nature and bird pictures is as wonderful as ever. And if you hurry, we can order any type of calendar you might imagine from their catalog!

We have some new magnets, with Puffins, Eagles, Cardinals, and Killer Whales. These and many other styles all can be provided as key chains also. Ask to see our catalog and we will happily order whatever you like.

Delicious shade grown coffee is still available, and all the nature books we have had right along. A few new additions have come along, too, along with some interesting plush stuffed animals. The Florida Atlases and the Florida Field Guides are joined by an excellent book on Florida's parrots. We were amazed to see how many there are in our state!

Several packets of all occasion and Holiday cards are available this year too. Come early for the best selections! We reorder books and magnets and coffee, but some items are one time only offerings.

Last year our members helped us provide a nice amount for the Halifax River Audubon treasury. Stop by to help again, or just to say "Hey!" to our cheerful staff.

### EVERGLADES UPDATE

Audubon

The legal action is over. The way is clear for the Army Corps of Engineers to break ground on the initial mile of the Tamiami Trail Project before the end of the year.

The Tamiami Trail Project, when completed, will include extensive bridging, which will allow freshwater to flow under Hwy 41 (Tamiami Trail), recreating a portion of the historic flow of water into the Everglades. The current location of the Tamiami Trail impedes the ecologically important sheet flow of water from water conservation areas north of the Trail south into Everglades National Park. With today's conclusion of legal proceedings, the Corps has been given the green-light to begin construction.

This project remains the only opportunity in the foreseeable future to produce the freshwater flows needed to begin to restore Florida Bay.

Currently, freshwater flows to Florida Bay have been diverted from historical paths, primarily due to the construction of the C-111 canal in southern Miami-Dade County. Once the proper freshwater flows are reinstated, Audubon scientists expect to see an increase in the establishment of submerged freshwater grasses, an increase in the prey fish community, and ultimately an increase in foraging and nesting opportunities for wading birds.

### September 27, 2008 Field Trip

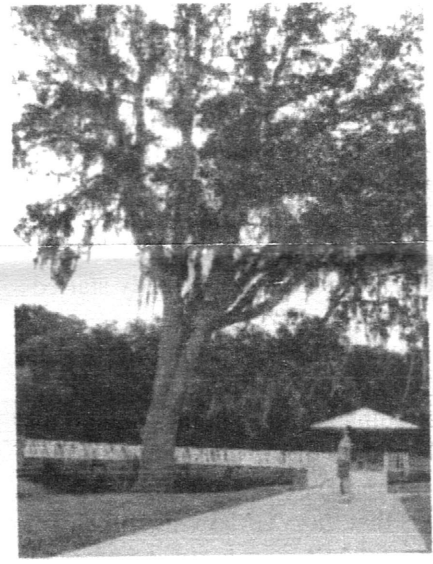
### BUSCHMAN AND SPRUCE CREEK PARKS

Ray Scory

We walked across a narrow wooden bridge just a short distance from our parked cars and looked up at a singular Live Oak tree just brimming with birds. Movement was everywhere. In and out of this tree birds flew, some probably just migrating through, excited by the prospects of available food. Tufted Titmice, a Summer Tanager, a few resident Northern Cardinals and a clash of Yellow-throated Warblers dominated the excitement in this tree. Yellow-throated Warblers were just everywhere.

We stood transfixed before a burst of avian energy focusing their actions into an explosive display for survival. Birds zoomed in from outer locations creating a channel for hungry birds and observing birdwatchers. All the birds swooped in and out of this lone tree as if directed by a helping hand. Into a vortex of a nurturing funnel, the

birds kept moving. While the species count of thirty-one may not seem high for a morning field trip, a quick trip to Buschman and Spruce Creek Parks will always yield a neat observation or two. This trip offered more and made an exciting day for the fourteen members and guests of the Halifax River Audubon, who birded with a cool early autumn



Jane Scory and the Live Oak Tree

morning under a crystal clear Florida sky.

At Spruce Creek Park we were met by Jim Averill, staff videographer for Port Orange Government TV. He was there to document our activities for an upcoming TV show. Jim followed us out to the bird tower bordering the estuary at Rose Bay. There he captured the magnificent wetland beauty of this park and photographed us in the excitement of spotting a female Merlin in a distance tree.

The trip ended in a quiet picnic area surrounded by prickly-edged saw palmetto and native plants under the cooling canopy of Slash Pine trees. While enjoying our lunch, a Hermit Thrush awakened us from our dream like trance into another fit of excitement. Our short walk back to our cars yielded a Scarlet Tanager in its autumn colors of yellow and black fired by a brilliant sun. A fitting conclusion to a very nice trip.



## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

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

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

### Monday, November 3

**Halifax River Audubon** Board meeting.

### Wednesday, November 5

Halifax River Audubon Beginner Bird Watching Class field trip. Meet 7:00am, at location to be announced for trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Ray Scory, 386-763-4260.

### Wednesday, November 5

Sierra Club program meeting. "Cool Cities: Solving Global Warming One City at a Time" Tom Larson, Coordinator for Sierra Club Florida's Smart Energy Solutions/Cool Cities Campaign, and Chair, Sierra Club Northeast Florida. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. 7:00pm.

### Wednesday, November 12

City Island Library presentation. "The Sunshine State Beat – How to Write About Florida Weirdness without Scaring the Tourists" Mark Lane, News-Journal columnist. 2:00pm. Adult Auditorium. 105 E. Magnolia Ave., City Island, Daytona Beach.

### Thursday, November 13

Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience. "Florida's Water Resources; Past, Present and Future" Henry Dean, Attorney, retired Executive Director of St. Johns River Water Management District. 7:00pm. at Center for Marine Studies, Hwy A1A North. Contact [www.whitney.ufl.edu](http://www.whitney.ufl.edu) or call 904-461-4000.

### Saturday, November 15

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Reserve, 4490 Grand Ave., DeLeon Springs. Meet 7:00am at Circuit City parking lot on International Speedway Square. Daytona Beach. East of I-95. Led by David Hartgrove 788-2630. Bring lunch. (3)

### Monday, November 17

**Halifax River Audubon** program meeting. "Back Yard Birds: Identification, Feeding, Attracting" John Roessler, Past president, Halifax River Audubon. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

### Tuesday, November 18

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society program meeting. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

### Sunday, November 23

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet 3:00pm underneath Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. Led by Bob North. 352-302-3510. (1)

## October Program

### LAKE WOODRUFF: REFUGE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES AND THEIR BENEFITS

Paula Wehr

Stanley Howarter, US Fish and Wildlife Service, began his presentation with facts about Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge consists of 22,000 in DeLeon Springs and is home to 6 threatened species. The property was purchased specifically as habitat for wintering waterfowl and was purchased with funds received from sales of the Duck Stamp.

The property consists of freshwater marsh, hardwood swamp, uplands and pine flatwoods. A total of 357 species have been recorded on the refuge, including the snake lizard and the Florida Scrub-Jay which are both found only in Florida. Marsh grasses create habitat for secretive birds such as bitterns and rails; hardwood forests are visited by neotropical migrants. Sandhill Cranes and Wild Turkeys are resident species. The most iconic species is the Swallowtail Kite which uses Lake Woodruff NWR as a staging area to gather in huge numbers in late July through mid-August prior to their southern migration. Mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds can all be seen at various times of the year.

The impoundment system – building a levy around the marsh – allows refuge managers to create and manipulate the marshes to provide enhanced food and habitat for waterfowl and other wetland birds. The water level is gradually lowered over the winter. The dry-out in the summer allows the nutrient-rich millet to germinate and grow, dropping seeds which will germinate the next season. Raising and lowering the water level throughout the year constantly creates new habitats and concentrates wetland animals into the wet areas.

Many Florida native plants are adapted to fire, and some habitats such as scrub areas require periodic fires to maintain their characteristics. If no fires are present, large hardwood trees will shade the understory and the scrub will die out, changing the entire face of the habitat. Florida Scrub Jays will leave the area if scrub dies out. Refuge land management includes prescribed burning to maintain the characteristic scrub areas. Plants adapted to fire have very strong underground systems and quickly regenerate after the fire, bringing new food sources and habitat to numerous species.

For more information about Lake Woodruff NWR, see <http://www.fws.gov/lakewoodruff/>. Or join HRA members and guests for a field trip to Lake Woodruff on Saturday, November 15 (see calendar).

ROE



2008 FALL MIGRATION BIRD COUNT  
**black** indicates a new species in the fall count

2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	Bird Name
9	18	2	7	1	Grebe, Pied-billed
7					Pelican, White
		1			Booby, Masked
		3	1		Gannet, Northern
1150	1203	2595	585	1302	Pelican, Brown
18	199	55	80	77	Cormorant, Dbl-crested
60	42	71	33	33	Anhinga
				1	<b>Frigatebird, Magnificent</b>
				1	Bittern, American
43	52	63	55	56	Heron, Great Blue
155	356	239	213	216	Egret, Great
170	146	629	238	562	Egret, Snowy
83	43	174	75	229	Heron, Little Blue
21	27	187	33	28	Heron, Tricolored
7	12	8	5	9	Egret, Reddish
			2		white morph
1901	1019	840	916	1458	Egret, Cattle
4	8	17	11	10	Heron, Green
2		7	5	10	Night-heron, Black-crowned
8	3	2	7		Night-heron, Yellow-crown
886	364	1663	748	1266	Ibis, White
62	63	13			Ibis, Glossy
1	6	14			Roseate Spoonbill
56	33	110	31	51	Stork, Wood
	1				Goose, Canada
108	66	75	209	113	Duck, Muscovy
10	42	14	49	19	Duck, Wood
	12	1	8	10	Duck, Mottled
45	26	39	35	13	Mallard
	1	4	24	4	Teal, Blue-winged
				2	<b>Merganser, Red-breasted</b>
432	495	294	351	782	Vulture, Black
215	396	138	360	883	Vulture, Turkey
69	51	59	50	79	Osprey
1					Kite, Swallow-tailed
27	15	20	11	30	Eagle, Bald
2					Harrier, Northern
5	2	1	4	1	Hawk, Sharp-shinned
	2	5			Hawk, Cooper's
63	52	61	79	78	Hawk, Red-shouldered
					Hawk, Broad-winged
5	8	10	3	6	Hawk, Red-tailed
5	3	3		3	Kestrel, American
			1		Merlin
			1	1	Falcon, Peregrine
26	72	75	85	119	Turkey, Wild
1		10	1	2	Bobwhite, Northern
4	3	5	19	6	Rail, Clapper
		1			Sora
77	126	43	36	15	Moorhen, Common
2		7	1		Coot, American
	1	2			Limpkin
121	60	114	112	90	Crane, Sandhill
36	36	16	43	24	Plover, Black-bellied
	27		24	2	Plover, Wilson's
101	265	57	212	59	Plover, Semipalmated
2	12	4	9	1	Plover, Piping
60	44	27	111	39	Killdeer
	1	13	6	4	Oystercatcher, American
	1				Avocet, American
			1	1	Yellowlegs, Greater

2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	Bird Name
	1	2	6	4	Yellowlegs, Lesser
1		2	1		Sandpiper, Solitary
68	221	216	103	190	Willet, Eastern
3	4	8	2	6	Sandpiper, Spotted
	2				Whimbrel
123	323	254	215	167	Turnstone, Ruddy
3	151	7	8	2	Knot, Red
163	802	698	625	409	Sanderling
184	85	56	111	30	Sandpiper, Semipalmated
5	37	13	126	1	Sandpiper, Western
65	49		162	15	Sandpiper, Least
				5	<b>Sandpiper, White-rumped</b>
				4	<b>Sandpiper, Pectoral</b>
	68				Dunlin
	2				Dowitcher, Short-billed
		1		1	dowitcher sp.
		1		1	Snipe, Wilson's
3864	3534	2275	3150	2097	Gull, Laughing
			1		Gull, Bonaparte's
8	95	90	45	77	Gull, Ring-billed
8	12	8	3	4	Gull, Herring
1	2				Gull, Lesser Black-backed
1	3	3	2	1	Gull, Great Black-backed
4	22	10	13	3	Tern, Caspian
536	762	445	212	382	Tern, Royal
103	107	62	14	73	Tern, Sandwich
	191		149	1	Tern, Common
1	19	24	5	32	Tern, Forster's
28	1		3	2	Tern, Least
203	65		16	28	Skimmer, Black
649	498	477	439	492	Dove, Rock
190	154	88	209	56	Collared-dove, Eurasian
927	490	524	495	483	Dove, Mourning
18	9	14	18	13	Dove, Common Ground
				5	<b>Parakeet, Mitred</b>
2			1	1	Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
6	11	3	12	5	Owl, Eastern Screech
1	5		5	3	Owl, Great Horned
10	8	5	11	7	Owl, Barred
			3		Nighthawk, Common
163	245	101	82	46	Swift, Chimney
2	3	2	9	6	Hummingbird, Ruby-throat
28	23	31	32	40	Kingfisher, Belted
13	21	12	23	57	Woodpecker, Red-headed
113	90	90	165	180	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
50	57	57	107	80	Woodpecker, Downy
3	4	3	11	6	Flicker, Yellow-shafted
54	33	38	66	70	Woodpecker, Pileated
	1		1		Wood-Pee-wee, Eastern
1			1		Flycatcher, Acadian
	1	1	1	1	Phoebe, Eastern
	5	2	4	2	Flycatcher, Great Crested
30	5	3	7	3	Kingbird, Eastern
2	9	2			Martin, Purple
60	90	28	1	2	Swallow, Tree
1	3			10	Swallow, N. Rough-winged
48					Swallow, Bank
	6				Swallow, Cliff
86	55	19	38	22	Swallow, Barn
191	152	152	180	173	Jay, Blue
22	9	10		4	Scrub-Jay, Florida

2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	Bird Name
95	124	46	124	148	Crow, American
379	467	119	200	139	Crow, Fish
5	4	2	20	11	Chickadee, Carolina
125	118	95	210	169	Titmouse, Tufted
			18	4	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
135	100	126	152	159	Wren, Carolina
	1				Wren, House
2	1	1	2		Kinglet, Ruby-crowned
41	60	40	63	126	Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray
23	1	4	42	8	Bluebird, Eastern
3	2				Veery
	2		2		Thrush, Swainson's
		1		1	Thrush, Hermit
			4		Robin, American
4	1	3	8	1	Catbird, Gray
310	174	188	179	235	Mockingbird, Northern
15	6	4	10	16	Thrasher, Brown
				7	Waxwing, Cedar
45	4	14	21	16	Shrike, Loggerhead
2439	1487	1752	256	486	Starling, European
	3				Pipit, American
17	28	19	32	49	Vireo, White-eyed
				1	Vireo, Philadelphia
3	1				Vireo, Blue-headed
	1				Vireo, Yellow-throated
8	18	6	61	13	Vireo, Red-eyed
1					Warbler, Tennessee
		1		4	Warbler, Orange-crowned
3	8	4	18	3	Parula, Northern
7	13	6	2	2	Warbler, Yellow
			2		Warbler, Chestnut-sided
			2		Warbler, Magnolia
			2		Warbler, Cape May
	1	3	1	2	Warbler, Black-thrtd Blue
	9	2	2		Warbler, Yellow-rumped
			1		Warbler, Black-thrtd Grn
1			1		Warbler, Blackburnian
5	4	5	13	10	Warbler, Yellow-throated
7	12	20	30	20	Warbler, Pine
1	14	2	16	14	Warbler, Prairie
3	8	1	2		Warbler, Palm
4	1	4	2	2	Warbler, Black-and-white
2		10	16	11	Redstart, American
1		1	1		Warbler, Prothonotary
3		1	3	4	Ovenbird
2	1	1	1		Waterthrush, Northern
2	1	1		2	Waterthrush, Louisiana
14	7	19	6	18	Yellowthroat, Common
		1	8		Tanager, Summer
213	202	226	310	251	Cardinal, Northern
	3		2	1	Grosbeak, Blue
			1		Bunting, Indigo
4	19	3	15	20	Towhee, Eastern
	3				Sparrow, Chipping
			3		Sparrow, Savannah
	1				Sparrow, Seaside
			1	8	Bobolink
89	26	158	63	56	Blackbird, Red-winged
1		5	2		Meadowlark, Eastern
507	296	510	144	375	Grackle, Boat-tailed
393	93	140	131	588	Grackle, Common
20		51		5	Cowbird, Brown-headed
			1		blackbird sp.

2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	Bird Name
	2				Oriole, Orchard
	2	1	10	4	Oriole, Baltimore
			13	16	Finch, House
				8	Goldfinch, American
46	59	13	15	97	Sparrow, House

## 2008 Observation Data

Date	9-20-08
Species	134
Individuals	16,257
Observers	51
Parties	20
Time	3:30am – 7:00pm
Temperature	69-86
Wind	NE10-15
% Cloudiness	70-80
Precipitation	10-40
Hours foot	43.25
" car	74
" boat	4.5
Miles foot	32
" car	319
" boat	6.5
Owling hours	4.5
" miles	41.5
" parties	3
" observers	6
Feeder hours	0
" observers	0
" stations	0

## 2008 Observers

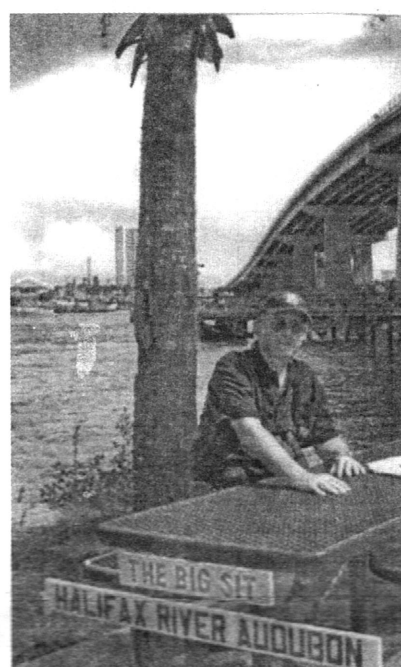
Elizabeth Abrams	Jayne Morgan
Cyndy Barrow	Jan Nelson
Linda Bouffard	Bob North
Matt Bruce	Sylvia Parillo
Charlie Buchy	Ken Park
Marita Buchy	Lois Pauchey
Renata Calero	Andrea Peterson
Helga Carlson	Roger Peterson
John Carr	Steve Petruniac
Beth Cushing	Don Picard
Gail Domroski	Sam Rabin
Matt Domroski	Rachel Ramsey
Richard Domroski	Paul Rebmann
Ron Druggers	Ralph Risch
Novetta Duffer	Nancy Roberts
John Eggert	Harry Robinson
Emma Feger	John Roessler
David Hartgrove	Ray Scory
Jane Himel	Arnette Sherman
Jacqui Hayes	David Stock
J.V. Hayes	Steve Strawn
Faith Jones	Becky Tate
Jim Jones	Larry Wallberg
Barbara Kieran	Mary Lou Weiner
Luddy Lambertson	Peggy Yokubonus
Karl Marvin	

October 15, 2008

# THE BIG SIT 2008

Ray Scory

We sat THE BIG SIT. Under the Dunlawton Bridge. Last Sunday. Along the Halifax River. John Carr and I. We roamed a 17-foot diameter circle and observed birds for thirteen hours. The sun wasn't up yet at 6:00AM, but a Great Horned Owl and a Black-crowned Night-heron were. Very uncommon birds here during daylight hours.



Ray Scory under Dunlawton Bridge

This day our species count (37) was modest, in part because high waters and easterly winds hid many of the oysterbars and sandbars that would normally show at low tide. However, the birds at the bridge were interesting to watch. Large numbers of Brown Pelicans, Rock Pigeons, Laughing Gulls and over 300 Willets contributed to the aerial antics that continued all day.

The causeway park is a beehive of boating and people activities. Yet the birds fit in nicely. The opportunity to watch birds and people both makes for interesting observations. Many Ospreys crashed from the blue skies above to the water below in pursuit of their fish dinners. Once in a while a Belted Kingfisher would add to the spectacle. A man stopped by, threw out some seed and said, "I come everyday to feed the birds, they saved my life in Vietnam. I was behind the lines and when the birds stopped singing I knew the enemy was near."

I'm sure many more stories could be told here on the day of THE BIG SIT. I know that because I have heard different ones the past eight years on the second Sunday of each past October.

So next year, place yourself and some friends in a 17 foot circle where the birds are. Discover if you, too, will experience the enrapturing mystique of THE BIG SIT.

## OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported operating funds of \$5,700.21.

Willie Burns present new items he has added to Golden Dog sales.

Membership Chair John Carr reported 432 members.

Conservation Co-Chair David Hartgrove reported sending a letter to Volusia County Commissioners to conduct a workshop to determine guidelines for dog owners at County parks. Co-Chair Holly Zwart-Duryea reported on issues discussed at the Audubon Central Florida Regional Conservation Council meeting.

Education Co-Chairs Marion Monaghan and Becky Tate reported that they are awaiting teacher's replies to their offer of Audubon Adventures kits.

David Hartgrove displayed Swallow-tailed Kite artwork for new T-Shirts. Board chose a new Chapter logo of a Brown Pelican. See the front of this newsletter.

Willie Burns confirmed restrictions imposed by our Sica Hall meeting place forbidding live animals in the building because food is prepared and served there.

## National Audubon Award

### LYNDA WHITE OF EAGLEWATCH

Lynda White, EagleWatch Coordinator at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, Florida, was named the recipient of the 2008 Tamar Chotzen Audubon Educator of the Year Award.

This honor recognizes exemplary work in education and is presented annually to an individual who has furthered Audubon's vision for environmental education, Audubon Centers, and conservation work.

A member of the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey staff since 1998, veteran educator White leads over 300 EagleWatch volunteers. These "citizen scientists" monitor nearly 300 active nest sites, evaluating threats and/or problems, and providing state and federal wildlife agencies with data that helps inform conservation planning and protect the Bald Eagles and their habitat.

Committed to bringing nature education to diverse groups and communities, White travels throughout the state with one of the rehabilitated Bald Eagles from the Center by her side.

## November 17 Program Meeting

### BACKYARD BIRDS: IDENTIFICATION FEEDING AND ATTRACTING

Almost everyone enjoys watching birds from the comfort of their own kitchen table or balcony or back porch. It's not necessary that you have a desire to identify each species or to keep a list to enjoy the color, the beauty, the songs or the constant activity of our "ordinary" backyard birds.

Please join us when John Roessler, HRA's past president, will present photos of birds from his back yard. He'll lead an interactive discussion including tips for attracting a variety of local birds, landscaping and water features you may want to incorporate into your backyard.

Refreshments and socializing begin at 6:30 p.m. John's presentation starts at 7:00 p.m. at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.





Thank You, Sponsors!

Halifax River Audubon Board would like to thank the members who generously donated money to provide Audubon Adventures kits to local classrooms.

Each Audubon Adventures sponsored class receives four sets of newsletters with materials for 32 students. They are filled with information and learning activities. There is also a teacher's manual with support ideas, activities, and evaluations.

If you are interested in sponsoring, send your tax-deductible donation to Halifax River Audubon, P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166 and specify Audubon Adventures. Remember, any donation is welcome; a complete kit costs \$45.

Becky Tate and Marion Monaghan, Co-Chairs, Education Committee.

### SOMETHING NEW: BIRD WATCH RADIO

David Hartgrove

Actually, it isn't on the radio. It's on the Internet but it sounds like a locally produced radio show about watching birds. Steve Moore got his start in radio in his hometown of Rochester, NY. He eventually became the Program Director at West Virginia Public Radio. In 1985 he relocated to Gainesville, GA to work in broadcasting there. Steve shares something with Alexander Wilson, the "father of American ornithology." Both men became enamored with birds after an experience with a Red-headed Woodpecker. Steve's grandmother showed him one when he was 10 years old and he's been hooked ever since.

Bird Watch Radio is a pod cast that can be downloaded from the web site or subscribed to through i-Tunes. Since Steve has a full time job too, the pod cast isn't necessarily on a regular weekly or monthly schedule. He began in January of this year and is up to program #11. This program will feature a conversation with film maker, Jason Kessler, whose film, "Opposable Chums", tells about the trials and manic activity that is the World Series of Birding. Steve also speaks with Father Tom Pincelli, the founder of the Rio Grande Birding Festival. The earlier shows are archived on the web site. One of my favorites is program #6, from July 8th. Steve talks with Mike O'Connor, author of the very informative, "Why Don't Woodpeckers Get Headaches?" Mike is also the owner of what is apparently the first bird watcher's supply store in the country, "The Bird Watcher's General Store",

on Route 6A, in Orleans, MA. The dialog in this show is bound to have you laughing too hard to listen at times.

So, how do you get to this little treasure? Here's the URL for the web site: <http://www.birdwatchradio.com>. Once there, click on the "Podcast" tab. If you click on the "Subscribe With i-Tunes" link on that page, you'll need to have i-Tunes loaded on your computer. This is a free bit of software that takes up a bit of space on your hard drive but opens a whole world of listening possibilities to you. It's available for Mac or Windows. If you don't wish to do this you can scroll down the page a little and click on the arrow next to the little white and blue speaker icon. Your computer almost certainly has either Windows Media Player or Quicktime loaded and suddenly you'll be listening to the show. To listen to the archived shows, just continue scrolling down the Podcast page and click on the link for any show to which you'd like to listen. You're in for a treat. Enjoy!

### TOMOKA STATE PARK BIRD BANDING STATION FIELD TRIP

Meret Wilson and Bob North

The peak day of fall migration for Tomoka State Park was October 15; this was the day seven Halifax River Audubon field trippers were in for a most interesting and educational experience. Not only did bird bander Meret have the highest banding count for the season - 22 birds of 8 species. One of them was a rare and beautiful Lincoln's Sparrow. This bird and the Tennessee Warbler were life birds for several people.

Meret was very well prepared for our visit and had even asked two fellow banders from the Orlando Lake Lota Banding Station to help her. They brought birds non-stop to the banding table. Meret carefully explained the various procedures that she was going through, and why. Banding Assistant Denise Huckaby had her hands full keeping up with all the scribing required. Richard Poole and Maria Paasch kept a vigilant check on 10 nets spread over a quarter mile. Along with banding the birds, specimens were collected to check for Avian Flu and Stable Isotopes for breeding ground locations. Meret says "Thank you" to all her helpers. It was a great, busy, enjoyable day.

#### BIRDS BANDED

- 1 American Redstart
- 1 Tennessee Warbler
- 11 Common Yellowthroats
- 1 Lincoln's Sparrow
- 1 Western Palm Warbler
- 3 Gray Catbirds
- 1 Common Ground Dove
- 1 Recaptured Gray Catbird
- 1 Recaptured Northern Cardinal
- 1 Recaptured Common Ground Dove



# THE PELICAN



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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NOVEMBER 2008

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Paula Wehr	Vice President	673-5332	paulawehr@cfl.rr.com
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer,	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways and Means		
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary	673-7679	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
Paula Wehr	Acting Corresponding Secretary		
John Carr	Membership Secretary,	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication		
John Roessler	Past President	255-9826	birdman3651@bellsouth.net
.....			
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Marion Monaghan	At-Large Class of 2011	760-2747	nautilus411@aol.com
Becky Tate	At-Large Class of 2011	677-5255	tatebm@aol.com
.....			
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Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds			
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.of			
The Marine Science Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	386-299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
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  
**FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.**  
In Recognition of David Hartgrove

Thank you

**THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL**

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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.

# THE PELICAN

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



**VOL. 54 - NO. 6**

**NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON**

**December 2008**

*AUDUBON OF FLORIDA Assembly October 24-25*

## **2009 CONSERVATION PRIORITIES**

Audubon of Florida has issued a call to members of state Audubon chapters to work with community leaders and public officials to:

- Conserve sites and landscapes essential for birds
- Conserve at-risk and declining-common species of birds.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

### **CENTRAL FLORIDA REGION**

The Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee, of which Halifax River Audubon is a member, encompasses the Central Florida ecosystems of the Green Swamp/Withlacoochee; the Upper Kissimmee River; the St. Johns/Econlockhatchee River; the Indian River; the Lake Wales Ridge; and the Wekiva Corridor. It has set specific conservation goals.

### **SCIENCE BENCHMARKS**

Audubon uses specific scientifically derived benchmarks to guide its actions and gauge its success in conservation efforts. In Central Florida, the following are considered key benchmarks for Audubon's Programs:

- Increasing population of Bald Eagle
- Increasing wading bird populations
- Increased water storage & recharge on natural & agricultural lands
- Decreased per-capita water use
- Increased acreage of wetlands, scrub, sandhill, and other vital habitats under public protection
- Increased use of public transit

### **POLICY OUTCOMES**

Audubon of Florida's Central Florida Ecosystems program will seek the following policy outcomes:

#### **Conserving Sites –**

1. Adoption of a regional consensus "greenprint" or similar mapped data base of vital habitats and natural lands that must be conserved.
2. Increased effectiveness and funding of existing land acquisition programs & creation of new programs to acquire sites.
3. Deployment of new tools to protect land through government entities, such as transferrable development rights, density/conservation land

tradeoffs, "rural land stewardship" and other mechanisms that can permanently protect natural lands without public purchase.

4. Individual decisions on land development projects by state, regional, and local government agencies which result in substantial permanent commitments to preserve natural areas.
5. Adoption of Local Government Comprehensive Plans which provide strong conservation requirements for remaining natural areas in identified ecosystems.

#### **Conserving Birds –**

1. Enactment of meaningful water conservation requirements that avoid excessive use draining rivers, lakes and wetlands.
2. Restoration of natural water storage in previously over drained watersheds.
3. Regulatory decisions that protect existing Bald Eagle nest sites, and reserve future nest sites for a growing eagle population.
4. Land management and regulatory actions protecting shorebird nesting sites on coastal bars, islands and beaches.
5. Water Management District program changes and projects that reestablish water levels and natural water storage in the Upper Kissimmee basin.

#### **Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions –**

1. Decisions and Funding to implement urban mass transit, commuter rail, light rail, and other public transportation modes in Central Florida which lessen dependence on automobile travel.
2. Changes in Comprehensive Plans which favor compact urban development forms associated with public transportation systems and which minimize the need for automobile based travel.
3. State and local government actions to abandon or scale back plans for roadbuilding projects that promote or facilitate "sprawl" development patterns.
4. Changes in development proposals by private land developers that minimize the need for automobile use and maximize "internal capture" of traffic patterns.
5. Implementation of "Green Design" in new development projects; incorporation of "U.S. Green Building Council LEED Certification" and "Florida Green Building Coalition standards" in future land development, housing, commercial and public projects.

Program Meeting December 15

## BIRD CONSERVATION IN FLORIDA

The mission of Audubon of Florida and National Audubon is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Recently, Audubon of Florida appointed a new Director of Bird Conservation, John Ogden. Halifax River Audubon is pleased to announce that Mr. Ogden will present details of bird conservation in Florida at our December 15 meeting. Surrounding Audubon chapters – West Volusia, Southeast Volusia and Flagler – have been invited to join us to hear Mr. Ogden's message.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear first hand what is planned by Audubon of Florida to preserve and protect our bird population.

## HOLIDAY POT LUCK DINNER

Before our speaker John Ogden 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 are asked to bring side dishes, appetizers or salads. We will start serving at 6:00 and the hall will be open for setup at 5:30; 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 at 673-6541.

## BEGINNERS BIRDWATCHING CLASS

Ray Scory

The three indoors classes, the three memorable field trips have passed. We learned to appreciate the finer points of birdwatching, the class camaraderie, and the sightings of beautiful birds and the unique experience of watching bird behavior. We learned an understanding of birdwatching etiquette. The lessons learned will establish a foundation for the many activities in birdwatching to come.

A total of 80 species of birds were recorded for the three field trip events. Only eight species were recorded in all three locations, attesting to the variety of habitats we visited: the ocean, wetlands, estuaries, forests, pine palmetto flatwoods, open fields, a river and even a concreted parking lot. All displayed their unique families of avian life.

Seeing a Yellow-crowned Warbler at Spruce Creek Park and witnessing the class's sincere enthusiasm for birdwatching ranks very high for my most memorable moments. I believe standing on the walkway over looking the ocean and being excited about seeing eight new birds after a long day of birding was especially exhilarating for the class.

Included in the eighty species of birds we

observed were: a raft of American Widgeon, House Finch, Bald Eagles, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gadwall, Florida Scrub-Jay, Painted Bunting, Pied-billed Grebe, Dunlin, Herring Gull, Greater Yellowlegs and a Northern Harrier. However, all the birds we saw are special. As a class, our time together was short but our experiences are everlasting

## AUDUBON ADVENTURES KITS ON ORDER

Thanks to the many donors to Audubon Adventures we have been able to order our initial supply of kits for 25 classrooms in our area. We would like to be able to put AA kits into even more classes.

This year's Audubon Adventures kit is titled *Feats of Nature*. Classes will explore amazing topics on the natural abilities of our world's plants and animals. Children will learn how animals defend themselves, migrate, and build and how plants rule the earth. Fun activities and high interest articles are an FCAT science component in the public schools. Besides introducing environmental science to students, the program also meets national language arts standards.

Please consider sponsoring a class or share the cost of a class. To sponsor an AA class, your check for \$45 pays for 4 issues of the newspaper, with each student receiving his or her own copy, 4 posters and a teacher's manual packed with information, research materials and fun ideas. Send your donation to Halifax River Audubon, P.O. Box 166, Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166. A donation of any amount is welcome. Please specify on your check that your donation is for Audubon Adventures.

It is more important than ever to sponsor a class. Teachers have very limited money to spend on their classes this year. With the current economic situation, teachers have less personal money and less county money for their rooms.

## MY ST. JOHNS RIVER WEBSITE

St. Johns Riverkeeper proudly announces its new *My St. Johns River* education and awareness campaign to facilitate personal connections with the St. Johns and to provide you with tools to "get to know" your river. The goal of the *My St. Johns River* campaign is to foster a greater sense of awareness, appreciation and understanding of the river and ultimately to provide inspiration and opportunities for you to get out and experience your St. Johns firsthand.

Don't forget to share your observations, memories, stories, and photos on the My River Stories section of the website <http://www.mystjohnsriver.com>

Start your journey of the St. Johns River, today!

## DECEMBER 2008 CALENDAR

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

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

### Monday, December 1

**Halifax River Audubon** Board meeting.

### Wednesday, December 3

Southeast Volusia Audubon program. "Manatees" Drs. Roger Reep and Philip McGuire from the University of Florida. 7:00 pm at the Edgewater Library on SR-442 just west of Hwy 1.

### Friday, December 5

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Merritt Island National Wildlife Reserve. Meet 7:00am at Lowe's parking lot, Dunlawton Ave., Port Orange, east of I-95. Led by John Roessler, 255-9826. Bring lunch. (1)

### Saturday, December 6

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Merritt Island National Wildlife Reserve. Same place and time as above. Led by Bob North, 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (1)

### Thursday, December 11

Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience. "The Octopus: Nature's Most Spectacular Color Change Artist" Dr. Roger Hanlon, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. 7:00pm at Center for Marine Studies, Hwy A1A North. Contact [www.whitney.ufl.edu](http://www.whitney.ufl.edu) or call 904-461-4000.

### Monday, December 15

**Halifax River Audubon** program meeting. "Bird Conservation in Florida" John Ogden, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon of Florida. Holiday Pot Luck Dinner at 6:00pm; program at 7:00pm. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

### Tuesday, December 16

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society program meeting. Annual Holiday Plant Auction & Pot-Luck Dinner. 6:30pm-9:00pm. Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

### Saturday, December 20

West Volusia Audubon Christmas Bird Count. See article this page.

### Saturday, December 27

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

### Saturday, January 3

**Halifax River Audubon** field trip. Viera Ponds, Brevard Co. Meet 7:00am at Lowe's parking lot, Dunlawton Ave., Port Orange, east of I-95. Led by Bob North, 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (1)

## ULTRA-LIGHT WHOOPING CRANE MIGRATION

Fourteen young Whooping Cranes are on their way to Florida. They will probably get here quite late in December because there have been weather problems delaying their flights. To follow their progress enter the Operation Migration website at [www.operationmigration.org](http://www.operationmigration.org). Click on "In the Field".



Photo by Rebecca Carr

December 27

## 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, 12/27. 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 if you're going to attend. It makes planning so much easier. As always, we can make arrangements to get you back to your car 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 on Saturday, 12/20. Contact David Stock, 386-736-1893 or [dstock@stetson.edu](mailto:dstock@stetson.edu). The Ponce Inlet CBC will be held on Saturday, 1/3/09. Contact Don Picard, 386-957-1886 or [dpicard@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dpicard@cfl.rr.com). Please come out and join us on one or all, but especially ours. And have a great holiday!



## LAKE WOODRUFF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FIELD TRIP

David Hartgrove

November 15, fifteen people from Halifax River Audubon gathered in Daytona Beach for a ride over to Lake Woodruff NWR and a walk around the ponds.

We had a good, if slightly damp day, being greeted by the ever present Black Vultures that hang out near the parking area and seem to dare visitors to enter their refuge. They hopped along ahead, eyeing us warily as we walked out onto the dike around Cell 1. The water is still a bit too deep for shore birds but we did see all of the usual suspects among the herons and egrets, Anhingas and Pied-billed Grebes. A couple of far off ducks viewed through the grass and overcast lighting conditions brought out the field guides until one of them raised up and spread her wings to reveal that she and her neighbor were female Green-winged Teal.

There was another duck that had me stumped though, no matter that a number of marks said, "Ring-necked Duck." Later, we got much better looks and were able to confirm that it was an immature, female Ring-necked Duck. There were a few Glossy and White Ibis feeding in the slough along the east side of the trail and a Red-shouldered Hawk perched about 50 yards north of us. He then flew in about half the distance to us and began peering down into the slough intently and cocking his head. One of the couples had brought along their 8 year old grand daughter, Hannah, and I lowered the scope down so she could get a good view of the hawk.

The hawk suddenly dropped off the willow branch it had been perched on and disappeared into the hyacinths and arrowhead growing above the water. We could see the vegetation moving and slowly advanced closer trying to avoid disturbing the hawk as it went after its breakfast. With a few powerful wing beats it emerged from the vegetation clinging to a wriggling, eel-like critter that many thought was a snake. I got a good look as it gained altitude and arced away to the east. The prey was a siren, probably a lesser siren based on its size, about 12 to 14 inches. My announcement of this fact was met with blank stares from the group. Most people know nothing of these ancient, mostly nocturnal creatures. They're members of the salamander family that aren't as evolved as their tiny cousins. These animals retain their gills, lack back legs and eat just about anything they can swallow.

I was at Lake Woodruff about 10 years ago one morning and watched as a Great Blue Heron spent over half an hour trying to swallow the larger member of this clan of aquatic throwbacks, a greater siren. The greater siren can be over 3 feet long and this one was about that size and must have weighed nearly 2 pounds! The Great Blue struggled for a long time before finally gulping down his prize. He then attempted to fly off but settled back down and was still in that spot some time later when I left.

That was the first time I'd ever seen one of these obscure animals.

We got great looks at both Savannah and Swamp Sparrows, several times side by side. It was good to be able to see the two species and compare their differences at close range. I think everyone came away with an increased appreciation for two of what are often referred to as, "lbj's" (little brown job's).

After a stop at a nearby county park for lunch some of the group took another route home and the rest of us stopped at the picnic area at Tiger Bay State Forest for a quick shot at seeing the resident Brown-headed Nuthatches. They proved to be a life bird for at least two in the group.

We ended the day with 48 species and only got sprinkled on twice. As I wrote this, I wondered if any ducks flew in on the cold front that blew in the day before.

### GOING, GOING, GUANO ... GONE?

Bob Stamps, President, Orange Audubon Society from OASis newsletter, October 2008

Bird poop, also known as guano, was so important as a fertilizer that in the 1850s the United States passed the Guano Islands Act, which authorized U.S. citizens to take peaceable possession – for the U.S. – of islands, rock or keys that had deposits of guano. Around 60 islands were acquired, mostly in the Caribbean and Pacific.

From 1840 to 1880, Peru exported about 40,000,000,000 pounds of guano valued at around \$2 billion. The guano was freely deposited on 20+ islands off the Peruvian coast by an estimated 60 million birds, primarily Peruvian Boobies, Guanay Cormorants and Peruvian Pelicans. Guano was so important to the economy of Peru, and the guano reserves that had been deposited over thousands of years were so depleted, that their government created the Guano Administration Company in 1908, nationalized the islands, and posted armed guards on each island to protect the birds.

However, a threat to the birds that armed guards could not control arose in the 1950s – industrial fishing. The fishing boats catch the Peruvian anchoveta (a member of the anchovy family) and process them into fish meal for use in animal feed to produce meat for human consumption. Unfortunately, anchoveta are the main food of the birds producing the guano. These competitions for food and El Niño events have drastically reduced bird populations down to around 4 million.

Unless measures are put into place to prevent overfishing, both the anchoveta and the birds could disappear – and along with them, the guano. (Perhaps the recent interest in organic food production and the resultant need for organic fertilizer will once again elevate the value of guano to a level where it will be worth more than harvesting fish to feed to cattle.)

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Finally, we are able to know who you are and send you your newsletter. For quite a while, National Audubon has been doing a retrofit to its mailing list and was unable to send us an updated membership list.

We hope you will join the field trips, and we most especially hope you will start off your welcome by coming to our Holiday Pot Luck dinner. We are eager to meet you!

Welcome to Claudia R. Archer, Victor & Kerry Babcock, Susan Bayley, Robert Belsky, E. Bible, Jacqueline Block, Linda Boccarossa, Robin Broadfield, Betty Buschman, Ralina Campbell, Samuel S. Campbell, S. Campbell, Elaine Carlini-Davis, Harriet C. Chreest, Jacqueline Coffee, Faye E. Council, Barbara Curtis, Jeanette L. Davis, Charles & Dendy Dawson, Lewis A. Deene, Eva & Ed Deighan, Kevin C. DeWall, Margie Dieck, B. Doer, Brian Duff, Mory Eck, C.W. Ebbert, Kenneth A. Everts, John C. Farley, Maureen Fitzpatrick, Donna W. Godwin, Harry Goldschein, Susan Goree, Jacqueline Gozzo, Barbara Harrison, Robert M. Hawes, Linda K. Hawkins, Rene Higelin, Karyn D. Hoffman, Cynthia L. Humphrey, Andrew Jadlock, Karen Jorgensen, Elvira Kellaher, Ruth Kent, Pamela Lampard, Elise Leroux, Patricia Lindemood, Richard Loh, Stephen Lowray, M & V, Phil Mastin, Tonya Mathenia, James & Mary McGrew, Jayne Molner, Robyn L. Morris, Amanda S. Neamand, Randy Neland, Robert T. Olive, Dorothy Orton, Margaret Palmieri, Annette Parker, Clinton Peddy, Donna Peterson, Robert Piejack, Evelyn Pinsof, Birute Preikstas, Cecile Quinn, Delores J. Rennix, C. Richardson, Margaret Schlageter, Lucille A. Schmeider, Lydia R. Schnee, Tracy Shaw, Joanne Shuttlesworth, Roxie Simmons, Ronald Smith, Dan Spangler, Lisa Starks, Faye Stephens, Kristi Stevenson, James Sutton, Kent Teslow, Teresa Tomlinson, A.W. Tozer, and W.C. Wilson.

## KAREN MOSHER - NEW OFFICER APPOINTEE

Halifax River Audubon President David Hartgrove proudly announces the appointment of Karen Mosher as our chapter's Corresponding Secretary.

Karen is your elected Board member and the Board appreciates Karen's gracious acceptance of her new appointment. We also thank Paula Wehr who has been temporarily filling the position.

## THANK-YOU NOTES

Both bird rescuers Deeann Snyder and Kathy Paynter sent our Board notes thanking our chapter for sending them each \$50 from the chapter's share of our 50/50 raffle at our program meetings.

Friends of Lake Woodruff thanked us in their newsletter for the \$1000 we sent them for construction of a trailer parking pad.

## December 3 Lecture

### RIGHT WHALES IN DANGER

Whitney Lab in Marineland will host speaker Catherine Wannamaker, an attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center, in the auditorium at 7:00pm.

Ms Wannamaker will speak about the United States Navy's recent proposal to locate its Undersea Warfare Training Range off of the coast of northern Florida and Georgia. The proposed training range would be a 500 square nautical mile area that is instrumented with undersea cables and sensor nodes, and used for antisubmarine warfare training.

The Navy proposes to conduct 470 training exercises annually involving multiple ships, airplanes and helicopters. As part of these exercises, the Navy proposed to use various forms of mid-frequency sonar training, raising a concern about the environmental effects of the range on marine mammals, turtles, and fisheries.

The proposed training range overlaps a newly designated protected area for snapper and grouper species and is in close proximity to the only known calving grounds for the North Atlantic right whale, one of the most endangered marine mammals in the world. Right whales spend up to five months in Georgia and Florida coastal waters during calving season, and state governments and environmentalists have expressed serious concern regarding possible ship strikes and impacts on calving behavior that may result from locating the training range in this area.

For questions regarding the program, please call Marcella Matthaei at 471-4588.

## Book Review

### *BIRDS IN FLIGHT*, by CARROLL HENDERSON

Willie Burns

We received a copy of this book from the publisher for review. It is an excellent collection of wonderful photographs of birds and how they are able to fly so well. While the physics are explained, they are explained in fairly simple and easy to understand terms.

I found it to be a good read, and not just a "picture book" of unusual photos. Reading about the hows and whys that give birds their ability to fly, soar, and dive in all sorts of environments was fascinating. I finished with a new and better understanding of the world of birds.

The book makes a welcome addition to any birder's library. While many publishers and authors want Golden Dog to sell their literature, few have been good enough for us to sell them. *Birds in Flight* is one of those few exceptions.

This month we are receiving a number of copies for sale. The list price is \$25.00, not cheap but well worth the expense. We will be able to sell them at a small discount, for \$24.00 each. Look for them at our Christmas meeting!

## NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported operating funds of \$5,404.45.

Willie Burns said that he and Novetta Duffer would sell Golden Dog books at the Wings on the Wind festival at the Marine Science Center on November 15. Sixteen more books for sale have been supplied to The Bookstore in Ormond Beach.

Membership Chair John Carr reported that National Audubon has not supplied chapters with membership lists since July while they are refurbishing their list-keeping process. They have promised an accurate membership list in November. The best tally he has is 436 NAS membership and 30 Chapter Only members.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove planned to attend a meeting with Volusia County Environmental Management about dog control at Lighthouse Point Park in New Smyrna Beach.

Holly Zwart-Duryea reported on new new DEP regulations regarding maximum loads for water quality in the lower St. Johns River basin. She also reported that the Water Authority of Volusia is offering rebates for rain barrels and new water saving washing machine purchase.

Education Co-Chair Becky Tate reported that the Audubon Adventures kits have been ordered from National Audubon.

The Board approved inviting members of West Volusia, Southeast Volusia and Flagler Audubon chapters to attend our Holiday Pot Luck dinner meeting so they can join us in hearing our speaker John Ogden, Director of Bird Conservation of Audubon of Florida.

Board approved purchase of a new banner and table top sign for our display table not to exceed \$150.

## GTM RESEARCH RESERVE NEWS

(Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve is on the north Atlantic coast of Florida)

### COASTAL CLEANUP

A recent beach cleanup recovered an amazing number of items: caps and lids (438) were the top item collected, with cigarettes and cigarette filters coming in second (281). A few other items on the top five list were food wrappers and containers, plastic beverage bottles, and bags. Below are just a few of the life expectancies of common debris items:

- Cigarette butt: 2-5 years
- Disposable diaper: 10-20 years
- Hard plastic container: 20-30 years
- Rubber boot sole: 50-80 years
- Aluminum can: 200-400 years
- Plastic 6-pack holder: 450 years

### NEW MEMBERS ONLY

#### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## HOW DID THE CROW DO? IS HE STILL AROUND?

Kathy Paynter – Wildlife rehabilitator.

(From West Volusia Audubon newsletter *The Hummer*.)

It's been almost three years in the making but one of my "babies" has finally flown the coop! It started with a phone call from a woman saying she had a baby pet crow that was sick and had some "tumors" and asking if I could make it better, then she would take it back. What she brought to me that day three years ago just about broke my heart. It turns out they had kidnapped this baby bird from its nest because they had heard that crows make good pets.

They'd kept it in the house in a parakeet cage and fed it potato chips, crackers, and other junk food. Before I got within 5 feet of the bird, I could smell the rotten stink coming from him. He was almost bald and what few feathers he did have were broken and greasy looking. He had huge, weeping sores on his wings and body. He was extremely thin and scared to death. Once I got my hands on that bird, I was determined to give him back not to this human who had caused so much suffering in his short life but to Mother Nature where he truly belonged.

I threw everything but the kitchen sink at him – antibiotics to clear up all the infections he had, new 10'x15'x4' flight cage (even though he had no wing or tail feathers and couldn't fly), and a new diet (protein tube feedings with vitamins, minerals, wheat-germ oil, cod liver oil and dehydrated insects; puppy chow; kitten chow; parrot food; fresh fruits and veggies; live mealworms; eggs; mice; lizards). It took him almost a year before he grew in new body feathers but as fast as new wing or tail feathers would grow in, they would break, bleed, and fall out. It took 2½ years before his body had recovered enough for him to grow and maintain a full set of wing and tail feathers.

But at the end of almost three years, he had blossomed into one of the most beautiful crows I'd ever seen, huge in size with gorgeous glossy black feathers that shown in the sun. The only scar he showed from the 3-year long struggle to regain his health was 3 primary feathers on his left wing that always came in white with each molt. By the end of October, I had a large population of crows living around my house including one particular family that had nested in one of my pine trees and had spent the spring and summer months becoming friends with my crow.

October 30 will forever be one of the happiest days in my life. It's the day I opened the crow's flight pen door and gave him back to Mother Nature. Having spent nearly his entire life in a flight pen, it took him a bit to find the courage to venture out into the open but within half an hour he was up in the trees cawing his joy for the whole world to hear. My husband Roger and I watched as he joined up with the family of crows he'd spent the spring

and summer talking to and before we knew it he was following them around the property and enjoying his new-found, hard-fought freedom.

Each morning I put food out for the neighborhood crows and perhaps 20 or 30 of them take advantage of the breakfast I provide. A couple of times I've seen a crow with 3 white primaries on its left wing and my heart swells with pure joy at knowing even though it was a slow and painful journey my crow is wild and free and where he deserves to be. That's what wildlife rehabbing is all about!



## GOLDEN DOG BOOKS

Captain Willie Burns

With the approaching Holiday Season, Golden Dog has retrieved an assortment of low cost gifts for sale. Being fairly clever, we not only find interesting things for sale, but also items that children enjoy. For example we have expanded our line of magnets with several birds. As always we have an assortment of wonderful Audubon calendars for the coming year, all of course sold at a discount from list price

The series of children's books by Frances Keiser of Crescent Beach in St. Augustine is a prime example. These books star Pelican Pete, an interesting Brown Pelican and his adventures and friends. The books are wonderfully illustrated by the author's husband Hugh. The focus group is children age's two to six and, to quote Capt. Willie's grandchildren, they are great bedtime reading. This of course promotes early reading by the children. In addition, there are plush toys of both Pelican Pete and his friend Annie the Otter.

These books have won an impressive number of awards for environmental children's literature. They are a great group of well written books about our environment that children can listen to, read, and enjoy for years.

Stop by our tables and see all the great items we have collected for you!



# THE PELICAN



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Paula Wehr	Vice President	673-5332	paulawehr@cfl.rr.com
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer,	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways and Means		
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John Carr	Membership Secretary,	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication		
John Roessler	Past President	255-9826	birdman3651@bellsouth.net
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Becky Tate	At-Large Class of 2011	677-5255	
.....			
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Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniép@juno.com
Joan Anderson	Membership Recruitment and Retention	761-2888	jnanderson3@juno.com

## Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds			
Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.of			
The Marine Science Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborn@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	386-299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail.com
	Dee Ann Snyder	386-761-3262	dedesnyder41@aol.com
Bird Identification	David Hartgrove	788-2630	
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland, FL	407-644-0190	
Halifax River Audubon		www.halifaxriveras.org	
Florida Rare Bird Alert		http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html	

DECEMBER 2008

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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.