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



VOL. 54 - NO. 8

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

February 2009

Attention!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

February Meeting Date Change

This month the program meeting date for our chapter has changed. We will meet on Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30pm in Sica Hall instead of our usual time. The city of Holly Hill has scheduled another activity in Sica Hall for that date and we've been bumped. All other meetings this year will take place on the third Monday of the month, March through June.

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

The Port Orange Community Redevelopment Agency meeting on January 13th was standing room only. Developers and their allies were crowded into one small section of the City Council chambers and a large group of folks wearing "Save Seabird Island" T-shirts took up much of the opposite side of the room. At issue that night were two developments: what's now called the Intracoastal Oasis Marina and 90 Dunlawton.

The Oasis Marina project is slated to be crammed into the tiny strip of land along the east bound entrance road between Seabird Island and the boat ramps at Port Orange Causeway Park. The park is on leased land that actually belongs to the Florida Department of Transportation. The tiny strip of land we're talking about is part of a parcel that is roughly 4.5 acres, 3.5 acres of which is submerged. There's a state law that gives title of all submerged lands to the state, with a few exceptions. This tract is one such exception. It was sold by the state over 50 years ago and has changed hands several times.

The only way for the developers to make this project work is to do a lot of dredging. That means getting permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and a state agency or two. It also means Port Orange has to grant all kinds of zoning changes and land use exemptions and even then it would be an environmental and traffic nightmare. The environmental assessment dances around many of the negative issues the project would create and there seems to be no solution to the parking problems the project

would cause. It's too early to say that this project is dead but its breathing is labored and its pulse is weak.

90 Dunlawton is the name of the latest project slated to be plopped down onto what is now Seabird Island Mobile Home Park. Originally to be a 17 story glass and steel condo with its own large marina, it's been pared down to a 14 story "luxury" hotel with a 70 slip marina. The developer brought on board by the property owners to shepherd the project is the same one who tossed all of the folks out of their homes in another park, got the zoning and land use changes, and then flipped the property for a cool 21 million. It now sits vacant waiting for the economy to turn around while some of its former tenants remain homeless. The folks on Seabird Island are trying desperately to keep from being another notch in the handle of this hired gun's reputation. That the economy has collapsed is the only thing saving them now. That and the developer's over-reaching plans.

The City has said they don't want anything higher than around eight stories, and they have to amend the land development code to allow that. Right now commercial height limits in that area are 45 feet. This plan too has been sent back for redesign. It remains to be seen whether or not the City Council will authorize the zoning and land use changes needed for this project. Several of the Council members seem to feel that property rights trump common sense and are inclined to grant the variances needed to go ahead. The general feeling is that something will be built there and whatever it is will be a boost to the City's tax base. Too bad the deal fell through some years back when the City tried to purchase the property for an extension of its park system. We're watching the situation and we'll keep you posted.

Welcome to new members Alfred Adams, Rose Baker, Doris Deiter, Maryanna Deptula, Dian Disantis, Spencer Douglass, Mary Durst, Robert Falk, Dianne Gracie, Joe Hamilton, Peggy Holleran, Agnes Jarrett, Marj Jones, Donna Jordan McLachlin, Caroline Keggi, Donna LaFrance, Patricia V. Leer, Rosemary E. McNeil, J. A. Mitchell, H. Phillips, Sharon Polk, John S. Root, Judith M. Shinn, James Silver, Jean T. Silvey, Ann H. Spaeth, Dan Spangler, Alyce M. Switzer, and Peter Vanderkas.

We look forward to meeting you and joining with you on our programs and field trips.

Program Meeting - February 10, 2009

HORSESHOE CRABS: THEIR BIOLOGY & THEIR ROLE IN THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF LIFE

Everyone who has walked the beach on the East Coast of the U.S. has come across the hardened shell that looks like a WWI helmet or a Hollywood version of some creature from outer space (depending somewhat on the walker's imagination and/or age.) The *Limulus polyphemus*, also known as the horseshoe crab, is an ancient creature which has relationships with the medical community as well as the avian world. Dr. Barbara Battelle will tell us about some of these relationships at our February meeting – held on the second Tuesday of the month, a different date than usual.

Dr. Battelle did her graduate work in Biology at Syracuse University in upstate New York. She received postdoctoral training in Neuropathology and Neurobiology at Harvard Medical School in Boston and then joined the National Eye Institute at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland, as a Senior Staff Fellow. Dr. Battelle joined the Whitney Laboratory of the University of Florida in 1985 where she is now Professor of Neuroscience. Dr. Battelle's research interests center on the biochemistry and function of visual systems. She became interested in the visual system of the horseshoe crab because the eyes of this animal become dramatically more sensitive to light at night in response to signals from an internal 24-hr (circadian) clock. Her research is aimed at understanding how visual sensitivity is regulated in horseshoe crabs. Her talk will focus on the natural history of horseshoe crabs and their role in the interdependent web of life.

Join us for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. and Dr. Battelle's presentation at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendar that the meeting will be on **February 10**, the second **Tuesday** in February – this month only.

January Program Meeting

BIRDING IN PANAMA

Folks at our program meeting were enthralled by the descriptions and pictures of the incredible birds of Panama that Carlos Bethancourt showed us and described.

Panama, located 8° north of the equator, is a crossroad or bridge between North and South America. Some migratory birds fly south from North America and stop in Panama. Others fly north from South America, stopping in Panama. These birds are considered shared species. Other birds are residents and are found only in Panama.

With the Caribbean Sea to the north and the Pacific Ocean to the south, it is only a 45 minute drive to either coast. Dramatic and varied habitats existing within this small country—lowland rainforest, Pacific dry forest, savanna, cloud forest, succession areas and more—support

appropriate habitats for the 596 species of birds which can be found in Panama.

Carlos Bethancourt, an experienced nature guide from Canopy Tower and Canopy Lodge, showed beautiful photos of tanagers, puffbirds, mot-mots, toucans and other visiting and resident birds. He spoke of Pipeline Road in Soberania National Park, where over 400 species of birds were found during the Christmas Bird Count.

One of his favorite birds, the Red-capped Manakin, is believed to be the inventor of "moonwalking." Researcher Kim Bostwick, using a high-speed video camera recording at 5,000 frames per second, allowed her to replay movements in slow motion. That was when she found the brightly colored Red-capped Manakins were using their wings to make clicking sounds with 80 hits per second, too fast for the human eye to see. You can watch this remarkable video of the little bird moonwalking at http://centripetalnotion.com/2006/09/24/18:31:00/.

Carlos said the local birds can be found year round. The high season for tourists is April through September because of the cold temperatures in much of North America. May through December is the rainy season in Panama, but it is much like Florida with brief rain showers. He said it is a rare to have a full day of rain which would cancel a bird outing.

More information about the area and the birds can be found at www.canopytower.com and www.canopylodge.com. Carlos is hoping to see you there.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel reported an operating balance of \$8,422.56.

Membership Chair John Carr reported 492 current members, as reported by National Audubon and including our Chapter-Only members.

Board voted to buy four additional walkie-talkies for use on field trips. These are used so that cars can keep in touch while caravanning.

Conservation Co-Chair David Hartgrove said he would speak at the Port Orange City Planning Board meeting about a proposed marina under the Dunlawton Bridge. He also reported on the Restoration project in Edgewater, and a request by Embry-Riddle University to build parking spaces on part of a buffer zone behind their ball fields.

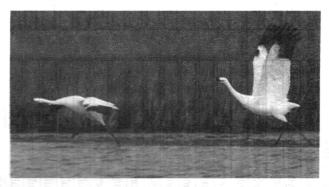
Conservation Co-Chair Holly Zwart-Duryea reported that St. Johns River Water Management District will publish new irrigation rules effective March 8, 2009. She also reported on her research that found parcels of land in Volusia County that are owned by Audubon of Florida. The Board plans further investigation on a few of them.

Education Co-Chair Becky Tate reported that some Audubon Adventures kits are available. She will look for schools that would like to have them.

WHOOPING CRANES ARRIVE IN FLORIDA

All 14 young Whooping Cranes led by ultralights on a southward migration from Wisconsin arrived Friday, January 23 at wintering sites in Florida. This year's 1,285-mile migration from the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in central Wisconsin took 88 days beginning October 17. It is anticipated that the cranes will return to Wisconsin sometime around the end of March.

Operation Migration reports that seven of the birds arrived at the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge at Crystal River. The other seven cranes were left at a new wintering site at the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge south of Tallahassee. The eastern flock now has 73 cranes in the wild.



Picture taken at Aransas by Rebecca Carr

To prepare for the cranes, 68,000-acre St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge constructed a three-acre pen with two ponds to provide protective habitat. The project also included placing oyster shell in the two ponds to provide a roosting area. Within the ponds, reefs were built with sandbags and oyster shells, which will be used to teach the cranes to sleep in the water to avoid predators. To fully protect the birds, portions of Mensler Creek, Cow Creek and the surrounding marshes will be closed to the public.

It's all part of an effort to establish a second migratory flock of the endangered birds in the eastern U.S. The only other wild migratory flock winters along the Gulf Coast in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, and summers in Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada.

In 1950 there were estimated to be only 16 birds remaining in the wild. Presently there are approximately 525 birds in existence, 375 in the wild. Efforts to establish a non-migratory whooping crane flock began in Florida in 1993, using cranes hatched in captivity. In 1999, the flock was taught a migratory route with central Wisconsin as the summer location, the west coast of Florida as the wintering location, using the ultralight-led migration technique reintroduction method.

For more information go to www.bringbackthecranes.org.

START PLANNING - Make Reservations Now

FIELD TRIP TO CEDAR KEY

What: Overnight field trip to Cedar Key on the Gulf coast. This is a great migratory bird viewing site. 32-passenger boat trip around islands on Saturday (see website tidewatertours.com). Optional Sunday field trip to Lower Suwannee NRW

When: Friday and Saturday, April 24-25. Optional Sunday 26.

Where: Places to stay in Cedar Key. All are on water. You must make your own reservations.

Beach Front Motel - \$80 - 866-543-5113

beachfrontmotelcedarkey.com

Gulf Side Motel - \$80-109 - 352-543-5308
thegulfsidemotel.net. This motel is discounted
10%; mention the Halifax River Audubon group.

The Island Place at Cedar Key (condo) \$120 for 1BR, \$160 2 BR/2Bath - 800-780-6522

islandplace-ck.com

Park Place in Cedar Key (condo) \$100-110 800-868-7963. info@parkplaceincedarkey.com

How: Caravan in private cars 2½ hours or more.

Expenses: Hotel; \$18 + tax for the boat trip, gas split for drivers, and food.

Contact: Board member Peggy Yokubonus will accept payment and reservation for the boat. Contact her at 673-7619 or yokubonus@bellsouth.net.

VIERA PONDS FIELD TRIP

Fourteen birders visited the Ponds on January 3 and our count this day was 58 bird species and one river otter.

We had a magnificent view of a Merlin sitting atop a small tree only 50+ feet from where we stood. The Merlin stayed put long enough to put a scope on him, although he was close enough for naked-eye views.



A Marsh Wren was spotted in a small arch-like opening near the water's edge. Most often birders only get a brief glimpse of a portion of this very secretive bird. This particular Marsh Wren, apparently believing he was well camouflaged, went about his routine while we all reveled in unobstructed views.

Inside the compound, an Eastern Meadowlark sang sweetly to alert us to his presence and then obliged the group by perching out in the open sunlight affording everyone a good unobstructed view.

A few yards further down the road we watched a Savannah Sparrow bathing in a small pool at the water's edge.

2004-2008 Count Area: 7 ½ -mile radius of Tomoka River Bridge on 1-95 Daytona Beach Christmas Bird Count

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BIRD	Loon, Common	Grebe, Pied-billed	Grebe, Horned	Gannet, Northern	Pelican, American White	Pelican, Brown	Cormorant, Double-crested	Anhinga	Bittern, American	Heron, Great Blue	Egret, Great	Egret, Snowy	Heron, Little Blue	74 Heron, Tricolored	54 Egret, Cattle	Heron, Green	Night Heron, Black-	Night-Heron, Yellow-	Ibis, White	Ibis, Glossy	Stork, Wood	Goose, Canada	Duck, Muscovy	Duck, Wood	Wigeon, American	Mallard	Teal, Green-winged	Scaup, Lesser	Eider, Common	Scoter, Surf	Scoter, White-winged	Scoter, Black	Bufflehead	Merganser, Hooded	Merganser, Red-breasted
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Duck, Ruddy	Vulture, Black	Vulture, Turkey	Osprey	Eagle, Bald	Harrier, Northern	Hawk, Sharp-shinned	Hawk, Cooper's	Hawk, Red-shouldered	Hawk, Broad-winged	Hawk, Red-tailed	Kestrel, American	Merlin	Peregrine		Rail, Clapper	Rail, Virginia	Sora	Moorhen, Common	Coot, American	Crane, Sandhill	Plover, Black-bellied	Killdeer	Oystercatcher, American	-	Yellowlegs, Lesser	Willet	Turnstone, Ruddy	Knot, Red	Sanderling	Sandpiper, Least	Sandpiper species	Dunlin	Snipe, Wilson's	Jaeger, Pomarine	Gull, Laughing	Gull, Bonaparte's	Gull, Ring-billed	Gull,	Gull, Great Black-backed
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le, Bald		100	620	356	325	240	Pigeon, Rock
rier, Northern		9/	59	35	55	389	Collared-Dove, Eurasian
vk, Sharp-shinned		213	352	166	285	171	Dove, Mourning
vk, Cooper's				2	3	3	Ground-Dove, Common
vk, Red-shouldered		2	2	7	8	35	Screech-Owl, Eastern
vk, Broad-winged					2	3	Owl, Great Horned
vk, Red-tailed		-		2	2	9	Owl, Barred
trel, American					-		Whip-poor-will
lin					-		Hummingbird, Ruby-throated
grine		13	∞	15	6	15	Kingfisher, Belted
cey, Wild		-					Woodpecker, Red-headed
, Clapper		36	8	39	¥	36	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
, Virginia		10	3	∞	=	5	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
		7	7	28	16	25	Woodpecker, Downy
orhen, Common		-		7		3	Flicker, Northern
ıt, American		27	4	21	19	21	Woodpecker, Piliated
ne, Sandhill		14	16	40	31	23	23 Phoebe, Eastern
ver, Black-bellied		52	5260	65	159	290	Swallow, Tree
ldeer		47	21	33	15	89	Jay, Blue
tercatcher, American	1	27	99	4	71	48	48 Crow, American
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lowlegs, Lesser		18	3	8		5	Crow species
let		2	S	4	3	4	
nstone, Ruddy		21	13	31	32	64	Titmouse, Tuffed
ot, Red			1				Nuthatch, Red-breasted
derling		9		9	15	8	Nuthatch, Brown-headed
dpiper, Least		17	7	45	11	38	
andpiper species		4	5	13	2	27	
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pe, Wilson's					3		Wren, Marsh
ger, Pomarine	,	27	18	73	40	46	
l, Laughing		14	19	13	49	45	
l, Bonaparte's		5	8	7	12	17	Bluebird, Eastern
I, Ring-billed				3		2	Thrush, Hermit
I, Herring		834	1325	6500	6350		1070 Robin, American
I, Great Black-backed		20	16	71	28	2	64 Cathird, Gray

Mockingbird, Northern	Thrasher, Brown	Waxwing, Cedar	19 Shrike, Loggerhead	87 Starling, European	Vireo, White-eyed	12 Vireo, Blue-headed	4 Warbler, Orange-crowned	Parula, Northern	1230 Warbler, Yellow-rumped	Warbler, Yellow-throated	Warbler, Pine	Warbler, Prairie	31 Warbler, Palm (western)
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63		135	23	340		3	3		822	4	12		36

Warbler, Yellow Palm	Warbler, Blackpoll	Warbler, Black-and-white	Ovenbird	14 Yellowthroat, Common	Warbler species	69 Cardinal, Northern	Towhee, Eastern	42 Sparrow, Chipping	Sparrow, Field	Sparrow, Vesper	34 Sparrow, Savannah	Sparrow, Grasshopper	Sparrow, Henslow's
-		4		14		69	8	42			34	-	
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Sparrow, Salmarsh Shurp-	Sparrow, Song	Sparrow, Swamp	Sparrow, White-throated	110 Blackbird, Red-winged	5 Meadowlark, Eastern	1140 Grackle, Boat-tailed	220 Grackle, Common	Cowbird, Brown-headed	2 Finch, House	8 Goldfinch, American	3 Sparrow, House
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2008 Data:

Total Species: 111 Date: 12-27-08

Owl Hours: 8

Total Indiv: 13,319 Observers: 21

% Cloud: 80-30-50 Temp: 59-79 Foot Hours: 19 Wind: SSE 10-15 Foot Miles: 11 Owl Miles: 85

Car Miles: 205

Car Hours: 28.5 Precip: 0

Fime: 0300-1830

Parties: 5

North, Paul Rebmann, John Roessler, Ray Scory, George Sibley, Celine Sullivan, Hartgrove, Ken Hunter, Patsy Hunter, Barbara Kieran, Michael Meisenburg, Bob Chuck Tague, Joan Tague, Becky Tate, Larry Wallberg, Meret Wilson, Peggy 2008 Observers: Linda Bouffard, Rob Bowden, John Carr, Jack Fuller, David Yokubonus.

JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT Count for Fun, Count for the Future February 13-16, 2009

Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 13-16, 2009. A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National New York, NY and Ithaca, NY-Bird and nature fans throughout North schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

"The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It's a

Education VP, Judy Braus. "Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future. conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon

of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, finding in their backyards - whether in their own neighborhood or thousands counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or www.birdcount.org. Participants can also explore what birds others are Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a The data these "citizen scientists" collect helps researchers understand comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

Fitzpatrick. "With more than a decade of data now in hand, the GBBC has than any project in history, including some truly striking changes just over documented the fine-grained details of late-winter bird distributions better bird-monitoring projects," said Cornell Lab of Ornithology director, John "The GBBC has become a vital link in the arsenal of continent-wide the past decade."

FEBRUARY 2009 CALENDAR

Monday, February 1

Halifax River Audubon Board meeting.

Saturday, February 7

Orlando Wetlands Park Festival. Nature and photography hikes, bus tours and more.

Tuesday, February 10

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "Horseshoe Crabs" by Barbara Battelle, PhD, Whitney Lab, University of Florida. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm

Saturday, February 21

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Emeralda Marsh, Lake Co. Meet 7:00am at Circuit City parking lot on International Speedway Square, Daytona Beach. East of I-95. Led by Bob North. 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. Easy or no walking

Saturday, February 21

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society. Lyonia Preserve walk & Lunch at Cassadaga Hotel (reservations required). Ingrid Swenson. Contact Sonya Guidry at sguidry4@cfl.rr.com. (Ed. Note: Hot spot for Florida Scrub Jay).

Tuesday, February 24

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society program meeting. "Green Halloween" by Ciana Magilo and "DUG, Daytona Urban Garden" by Kelly White. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Saturday, February 28

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Peacock Pocket, Merritt Island National Wildlife Reserve and Blue Heron Wastewater Treatment Plant, Titusville, Brevard Co. Meet 7:00am at Lowe's parking lot, Dunlawton Ave., Daytona Beach east of I-95. Led by David Hartgrove 788-2630. Bring lunch. Easy or no walking.

GREEN RESOLUTIONS FOR 2009

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is encouraging Floridians to consider resolutions that have a positive impact not only on themselves but also on the state's environment. If every Floridian adopts a few of these ideas throughout the year, they can make a huge difference in our efforts to protect the environment.

We missed being able to list the January suggestion, so are now listing it along with the February suggestion. Keep your eye out for this column; we've got a 10 whole more month's suggestions for you!

JANUARY: *Ecycle* – With the holidays came many new electronics under the tree but it is important not to dispose of the old gadgets in your garbage. Instead consider ecycling - recycling unwanted electronics to

recover and reuse the product itself or materials like copper, steel, glass that the product contains. Some other tips include: keeping old televisions for games, videos or DVDs; donating working televisions to a charitable organization or giving them to a friend; or offering televisions through a local "freecycle" group at http://www.freecycle.org. Nearly two million tons of used electronics, including phones are retired from use annually. For more tips on recycling electronics visit http://dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/electronics/ default.htm.

FEBRUARY: Spend More Family Time Outdoors -February is hiking and trails month. So why not plan an environmentally friendly outing, like a family bike ride on one of Florida's award winning trails? DEP's Office of Greenways & Trails (OGT) manages eight state trails. which were recently named Best State Trails by American Trails. OGT also maintains five rail-trails, which are railroad tracks restored and converted to recreational trails for hiking, biking and skating. To find a trail near you visit www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/.

RIGHT WHALE WATCH

As you may know, right whales migrate from the Arctic to southern waters close to shore along our coast. Females go first, and then the males follow. The whales bear their calves, mate, and return to the arctic in the fall with calves. Whale watchers spot the animals from Flagler and Volusia beaches where individual whales can be identified from the white pattern of their callosities.

The survey season got off to a great start with the first sighting coming on the first day, January 5th with a new whale for this area. Right now just females, some with last-year's calves, are being sighted. Whale watches around here report the whales they see to Frank Gromling at 1-888-97-WHALE. If you see one, please call him.

As of January 12th, the aerial survey teams from North Carolina to Florida have documented 21 mother/calf pairs. For comparison, the 2000-2001 season which yielded the highest number of calves born to date. saw 18 calves identified by the end of January. There are three first-time mothers and eight mothers with their or greater calf, including RW#1334 with her eighth known calf. There are a number of whales documented in the Southeast that are of calving age and have not had a call a three years, making them potential mothers.

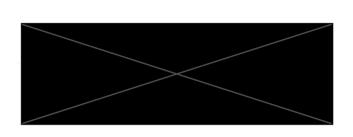
Looking over our last six years of data, the occurrence of sightings in our area this year is tracking typical pattern, with few or no sightings until the end of December and beginning of January, followed by a ramping up in the number of sightings as January progresses. The aerial survey teams to the north have identified nine mothers with calves that we have seen in our area in previous seasons.



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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Paula Wehr	Vice President	673-5332	paulawehr@cfl.rr.com
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer,	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
The second second	Ways and Means		Third Television
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary	673-7619	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
Karen Mosher	Corresponding Secretary	322-3790	frederickmosher@att.net
John Carr	Membership Secretary,	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
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Holly Zwart-Durye		672 8788	hollis1000@aol.com
Marion Monaghan	Co-Education	760-2747	nautilus411@aol.com
Becky Tate	Co-Education	677-5255	tatebm@aol.com
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Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds

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Bird Identification Birds of Prey Center 407-644-0190 Maitland, FL www.halifaxriveras.org Halifax River Audubon

Florida Rare Bird Alert http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html FEBRUARY 2009

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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THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS JOURNAL

COLONIAL COLONY

ORMOND BEACH GARDEN CLUB

HALIFAX COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

For support of our 2008-2009 activities

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

Chapter Meetings -This month our meeting is on Tuesday February 10 th. At 6:30 p.m. At Sica Hall, Holly Hill, 1065 Daytona Ave., All other meetings are held on 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.

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



VOL. 54 - NO. 9

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

March 2009

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Sometime around the end of the last legislative session in Tallahassee, a group of men got together around a table in one of the city's finer dining establishments. The group was made up of lobbyists for development interests, an attorney or two and several staffers for members of the Legislature. Over steaks and a nice bottle or two of wine (paid for by the lobbyists) these men discussed ways to do an end run around the growth management rules that made life difficult for their clients. Busybody environmentalists and average citizens who were tired of seeing their quality of life sacrificed on the altar of "progress", were using these rules to protect habitat and the kinds of things people move to the state for in the first place. To make matters worse, something on the horizon called Hometown Democracy would be on the ballot in 2010. Every land preservation initiative introduced in this state that has made it to the ballot has passed by roughly seventy percent. The development guys had to get out in front on this issue before things got out of hand and the people voted in even bigger headaches for them. The staff people advised them that their bosses would be loath to go against the will of the people directly. So a bill had to be drafted in such a way as to appear to be protection friendly, or at least innocuous. In reality, it should get rid of the very tools used by those pesky environmentalists to challenge runaway growth and have the added benefit of making Hometown Democracy a moot point.

The paragraph above is a product of my imagination. However, in December of last year a bill was filed that ostensibly reorganizes the way the Department of Community Affairs oversees development. The vague summary of the bill would lead you to believe that this is just some much needed house cleaning to streamline government function. As usual, the devil is in the details. And there are some monstrous details. In any county or city with a population of one million, or more than 1,000 people per square mile, DRI (Development of Regional Impact) reviews would be eliminated; transportation concurrency requirements would be eliminated; local comprehensive plan amendment reviews would be eliminated. Any development in these areas would be subject to only one public hearing. So Broward, Duval, Hillsborough, Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach and Seminole counties would essentially be declared wide open territory for developers to complete the paving of

those areas. Volusia County isn't listed here because we don't have the one million population benchmark. That's where the other qualifier comes in. The six largest cities in our area: Daytona Beach, DeLand, Deltona, Holly Hill, Port Orange, and South Daytona all meet the 1,000 per square mile mark. So any property they annex would be subject to this free for all development scheme. The rush will be on to gobble up as much unincorporated land as possible before a neighboring municipality gathers it in. In the current economic market, I doubt there would be a lot of interest in designing new projects. Once the rules are in place though there will be nothing we can do to protect what little habitat we have left. The few tools available to us will have been removed by this innocent sounding bill. The bill is S360 and I urge all of our members to call our state senators and ask that they reject this bill before it goes any further. The future of our state hangs in the balance.

Program Meeting - February 10, 2009

CHUCK TAGUE - LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE & BIRDS IN ACTION

Halifax River Audubon is fortunate to have many talented members, some of whom are ready to make a presentation with only ten minutes' notice. When we learned that our scheduled speaker would not be able to attend, Chuck Tague, a part-time resident in Holly Hill who summers in Pittsburgh, drove home and came back with his laptop and presentation ready to go.

His photograph of the Loggerhead Shrike showed the bird's namesake attribute – his block head. He is a song bird with a beak with a tomial tooth to rip prey, similar to a raptor. Because he has no talons, however, he impales his prey which consists of 72% insects and 28% vertebrates.

Chuck showed fantastic close-up photos of the shrike holding a Sabal Palm berry in his foot to peel it before eating it. Because Loggerheads aren't fruit eaters, this was unusual behavior. As Chuck watched and continued to photograph, the bird carefully wiped his beak on a tree after eating. Very neat and tidy!

His second presentation was comprised of photographs of birds in action – flying, diving, preening, eating, courting and more.

We all thank Chuck for being well prepared to save our evening. He is scheduled for a return visit in October.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2009-2010

The Nominating Committee of Halifax River Audubon has prepared this slate of names for Directors and Officers for the 2009-2010 Board. Members present at the June 15 annual meeting will vote. Note that the bylaws allow nominations from the floor. Paula Wehr is Nominating Committee Chair

President David Hartgrove Paula Wehr Vice President Vice President Liz Abrams Treasurer Rachel Ramsev Corresponding Secretary Karen Mosher Recording Secretary Peggy Yokubonus Membership Secretary John Carr Historian John Carr At-Large Class of 2010 Karen Mosher Holly Zwart-Durea At-Large Class of 2010

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

VOLUSIA AUDUBONS JOIN FOR AWARDS

Marion Monaghan

On January 31, 2009, the three Volusia County Audubons, Halifax River Audubon, West Volusia Audubon Society, and Southeast Volusia Audubon Society, combined to recognize excellence at the Tomoka Region 2008-2009 Science and Engineering Fair.

Each organization donated one-hundred dollars to the prize money, and each organization supplied a judge for the fair: Marion Monaghan, HRA; Ken Gunn, SEVAS; and John Eggert, WVAS. The awards were given as follows:

<u>\$100 Award Senior Division</u>: Halei Benefield, Spruce Creek High School - The Future of Feces: A Second Year Study of Microbial fuel cells

\$50 Award Senior Division: Alexander Agard, Flagler/Palm Coast- The Battle Between Archeta Domesticus and Insecticides

\$100 Award Junior Division: Edward O'Neill, Galaxy Middle School - An Alternative Friend is Blowing in the Wind

\$50 Award Junior Division: Patrick Windham, Ormond Beach Middle School- Do Buildings and Walls have an Effect on Beaches from Inland Wind Sand Erosion

2009 GREEN RESOLUTIONS

MARCH: Save on Water Usage — With Spring approaching, March is a great time to make changes at home that conserve water. By replacing a typical 3.5-gallon toilet with a 1.6 gallon model, a family of four will save more than 11,000 gallons of water per year. Also, take shorter showers and replace showerheads with an ultra-low-flow version. Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers — one drop per second wastes 2,700 gallons of water per year. For more water conservation tips visit www.dep.state.fl.us./drought/tips.htm

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a checking balance of \$7,488.47.

Membership Chair John Carr reported 512 current members.

Field Trip Chair Bob North reported that field trip listings of birds sighted are now on the Chapter website. Bob announced his resignation as Board member for the end of June 2009.

Conservation Co-Chair Holly Zwart-Duryea attended the quarterly meeting of the Audubon Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee of which our chapters a member. The Committee plans to break into 3 groups chapters: Eastern, Central, and Western. These groups would meet quarterly and the full Regional committee would meet twice a year.

Holly also reported that Audubon of Florida is asking for input from chapters regarding a position on nuclear energy.

Conservation Co-Chair David Hartgrove reported that the Miami Corporation is interested in developing their property under the Rural Land Stewardship rules.

Education Co-Chair Marion Monaghan reported that the last two Audubon Adventures kits have been taken to Pine Trails Elementary School.

Marion also reported on the Science and Education Fair. (See article.)

Board members Paula Wehr and Peggy Yokubonus have undertaken the task of researching and visiting properties in Volusia County owned by Audubon of Florida, most of which have been gifted to AofF. They reported their findings and Peggy will present them to AofF.

Paula Wehr reported the sign to be erected at Boardman Pond in Ormond Beach is finished. Board approved an additional \$185 added to the original \$1500 to purchase wood for a platform for the sign. Our chapter has been working with Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail group to upgrade resources along the corridor.

President David Hartgrove appointed a nominating committee of Paula Wehr, Rachel Ramsey, and John Cameron Paula Wehr, Rachel Ramsey, and Albert Paula Wehr, Rachel Rach

GREAT FLORIDA BIRDING TRAIL

The Florida Wildlife Commission has added 46 new birding sites to the East Section of the Great Florida Birding Trail and plan to publish a new version of the GFBT this spring (floridabirdingtrail.com/howsite.htm).

In 2000, the East Section was the first section completed. Being the oldest, it was the first section reopened for the addition of new sites. The next section reopened will be the West Section.

Sites marked as "WAV" are not primary Trail sites, but are designated as "Worth A Visit" sites if you are already in the area.

SITE NAME	NEAREST CITY	COUNTY
Egans's Creek Greenway	Fernandina Beach	Nassau
Machaba Balu Preserve	Jacksonville	Duval
Camp Milton Historic Preserve (WAV)	Jacksonville	Duval
Castaway Island Preserve (WAV)	Jacksonville	Duval
Camp Chowenwaw Park (WAV)	Green Cove Springs	Clay
Alpine Groves Park	Switzerland	St. Johns
Fort Mose Historic State Park (WAV)	St. Augustine	St. Johns
Matanzas State Forest (WAV)	St. Augustine	St. Johns
Southeast Intracoastal Waterway Park (WAV)	St. Augustine	St. Johns
Vaill Point Park	St. Augustine	St. Johns
Vilano Boat Ramp (WAV)	St. Augustine	St. Johns
St. Joe Walkway/Palm Coast Linear Park	Palm Coast	Flagler
Rainbow River	Dunnellon	Marion
Rainbow Springs State Park	Dunnellon	Marion
Lake Monroe Conservation Area - Brickyard Slough and Kratzert Tracts	Osteen	Volusia
Lighthouse Point Park/Marine Science Center	Ponce Inlet	Volusia
Port Orange Causeway Park	Port Orange	Volusia
Ponce Preserve	Ponce Inlet	Volusia
Bourlay Historic Nature Park (WAV)	Leesburg	Lake
Lake Apopka Restoration Area - Clay Island and North Shore Tracts	Astatula	Lake
Sawgrass Island Preserve	Umatilla	Lake
Lake Jesup Conservation Area - Marl Bed Flats and East Lake Jesup Tracts	Oveido	Seminole
Wekiva River Buffer Conservation Area	Wekiva Springs	Seminole
Barrier Island Sanctuary	Melbourne Beach	Brevard
Chain of Lakes Recreation Complex	Titusville	Brevard
Coconut Point Sanctuary (WAV)	Melbourne Beach	Brevard
Enchanted Forest Sanctuary (WAV)	Titusville	Brevard
Maritime Hammock Sanctuary	Melbourne Beach	Brevard
Micco Scrub Sanctuary	Micco	Brevard
Salt Lake Wildlife Management Area	Mims	Brevard
Ritch Grissom Memorial Wetlands at Viera - (aka Viera Wetlands)	Viera	Brevard
Parcel 105 - (aka Christmas Creek Preserve)	Christmas	Orange
Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park	Bithlo	Orange
Harry P. Leu Gardens	Orlando	Orange
Oakland Nature Preserve	Oakland	Orange
Shadow Bay Park (WAV)	Orlando	Orange
Circle B Bar Preserve	Lakeland	Polk
Colt Creek State Park	Zephyhills	Polk
Kissimmee Lakefront Park	Kissimmee	Osceola
Makinson Island Nature Preserve	Kissimmee	Osceola
Captain Forster Hammock Preserve (WAV)	Indian River Shores	Indian River
North Sebastian Conservation Area	Sebastian	Indian River
Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge	Indian River Shores	Indian River
Wabasso Scrub Conservation Area (WAV)	Sebastian	Indian River
Round Island South Conservation Area/Round Island Riverside Park (WAV)	Vero Beach	Indian River
Platt Branch Mitigation Park Wildlife Environmental Area	Venus	Highlands

Welcome to Charley Darmstadt, Mary Hohenfeldt, Carroll D. Jaycox, Cena Pelter, Janet Proffitt, Charlotte Stewart, and Beatrix Thomas. We hope to meet you when you join us for our program meetings and field trips.

MARCH CALENDAR

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

Halifax River Audubon Board meeting.

Monday, March 16

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "Whooping Crane Migration" by Pat Casselberry, Operation Migration. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Monday-Friday, March 16-20

Educational Program. "Exploring our Environment – from the Ocean to the River." Field studies, lectures, and crafts. Topics include beaches, sea turtles, estuaries, water quality monitoring, invasive species, coastal uplands and marine mammals. 5 days (40 hours) at Marineland. \$100. Call 386-437-7464 or email mpmcg@ufl.edu.

Tuesday, March 17

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society general meeting. "Eradication of Invasives in Mosquito Lagoon" by Stephanie Wolphe of New Smyrna Beach Marine Discovery Center. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Saturday, March 21

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Orlando Wetlands Park, 25155 Wheeler Rd., Christmas, Orange Co. Meet 7:00am at Lowe's parking lot, Dunlawton Ave. Daytona Beach, east of I-95. Led by Bob North. 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (3)

Sunday, March 22

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet 4:00pm under Dunlawton Bridge. Led by John Roessler. 255-9826. (1)

Saturday, March 28

"Plant Communities - Neighborhoods of Plants" field trip to Hickory Bluff Preserve. Led by Randall Sleister, Volusia County Land Management Manager; David Griffis, University of Florida IFAS Extension Agent; and Dr. Cindy Bennington, Stetson University Plant Ecology Professor. Meet at end of Guise Rd, off Maytown Rd., Osteen. 2:00-4:00pm. Contact: Bonnie Cary, Volusia County Land Acquisition and Management, 386-736-5276 or www.volusia.org/growth/outreach.htm.

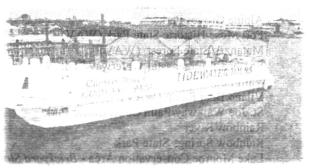
April 24-25 Overnight Trip

SIGN UP FOR CEDAR KEY TRIP

Don't forget to sign up for our Halifax River Audubon field trip to Cedar Key. Check your February Pelican newsletter for details.

We'll spend Friday and Saturday, April 24-25 at Cedar Key. We'll take a boat trip around the islands Saturday to see migrating birds, and make a shorter boat trip Sunday for those who stay over a second night.

We will caravan in private cars leaving from Publix parking lot, Granada and Williamson Blvd, Ormond Beach at 7am. Pack a lunch.



Be sure to call Peggy Yokubonus at 673-7619 for information and reservations for the boat trip (\$18+tax) and to let her know if you plan to caravan. You will pay for motels and meals.

Peggy says she is planning for us to go as a group on Friday evening to the Island Room, a great restaurant. They specialize in seafood and freshly-made-pasta dishes. Entrees start at \$10 for pasta and go up from there. Saturday breakfast and lunch will be on your own at one of the places in town.

Mention the Halifax River Audubon group when you make motel or condo reservations.

Beach Front Motel - \$80 - 866-543-5113,

beachfrontmotelcedarkey.com Gulf Side Motel - \$80-109 - 352-543-5308,

thegulfsidemotel.net.

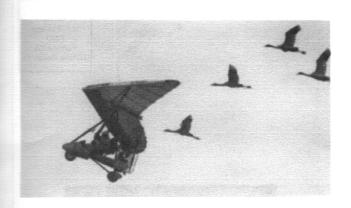
The Island Place at Cedar Key (condo) \$120 1BR, \$160 2 BR/2Bath - 800-780-6522, islandplace-ck.com

Park Place in Cedar Key (condo) \$100-110, 800-868-7963. info@parkplaceincedarkey.com

MINWA BIRD COUNT HIGHEST IN SYSTEM

The newsletter of Merritt Island Wildlife Association *Habi-Chat* reported that their Christmas Bird Count at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge listed 175 total species observed – 13 more than last year. This is the highest count for any Wildlife Refuge in the USA.

Some of the unusual species seen: <u>Two</u> Jaeger species (usually none), Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Wilson's Warbler, Broad-winged Hawk, Short-tailed Hawk, Ash-throated Flycatcher, House Finch, White-winged Dove, Ross's and Snow Geese and more!



Program Meeting - March 16, 2009

OPERATION MIGRATION – WHERE IMAGINATION AND INNOVATION MEET EXTREME SCIENCE

The Whooping Crane was one of the first birds listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Recovery programs run by a variety of organizations from Federal agencies to all-volunteer non-profits have contributed to the Whooping Crane's survival. The February 2009 census flight at Aransas NWR in Texas estimated a total of 270 whoopers, including 38 juveniles.

Operation Migration is a founding partner of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP), a coalition of non-profit organizations and government agencies behind the project to safeguard the endangered Whooping Crane from extinction and has played a leading role in the reintroduction of these endangered birds into eastern North America since 2001.

Our speaker is Pat Casselberry who has been involved in WCEP's "Bringing Back the Cranes" project since 2000. That year the migration team taught an experimental flock of sand hill cranes to follow ultralight aircraft. She will share details of training, preparation and success of Operation Migration.

See http://www.operationmigration.org/index.html
for more details on the program, or to make a donation,

Join us for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16 at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill. Mrs. Casselberry's presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m.

AUDUBON ISSUES REPORT ON GLOBAL WARMING AND BIRDS

On February 10 National Audubon issued a report drawing from 40 years of Christmas Bird Count data that documents a shift among bird populations coincident with warmer winters. Among the big movers are Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Boreal Chickadee that have shifted north into the Canadian Boreal, their ranges moving an estimated 433, 288, and 279 miles respectively since 1966.

The northward and inland movement of North American birds provides new and powerful evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems in the USA. Dramatic policy changes and incentives for alternative energy are needed to combat such ecological disruption. New research from Audubon California reinforces the national findings, predicting that about 80 of that state's native bird species will experience significant climate-driven reductions in their geographic range over coming decades.

Audubon is urging citizens to take action by signing a petition demanding aggressive federal policy action at www.birdsandclimate.org.

How You Can Help

CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES

- Learn to identify the invasives in your area. For help, visit www.epa.gov/greenacres.
- Plant only native species in your yard
- Avoid releasing exotic animals into the wild.
- If you fish or wade, clean your shoes, waders, boat, and trailer after each outing, to avoid spreading invasive species from one ecosystem to the next.
- John a volunteer invasive patrol control is often labor intensive, but very rewarding.

From *Misty's Legacy* by Susan J. Tweit. National Parks Magazine Vol. 82, No. 4



2-DAY ST. JOHNS RIVER TRIP

The St. Johns Riverkeeper is now taking reservations for Two-day Eco-Heritage Boat Trips in April.

April 2-3 the trip begins in Palatka and ends in Sanford. April 4-5 trip begins in Sanford and ends in Palatka. These two-day cruises along the river feature spectacular scenery, delicious lunches, fascinating speakers and historical re-enactors.

Stops along the way to visit interesting and beautiful places, such as Hontoon Island, Mount Royal, and Silver Glen Springs give passengers an opportunity to stretch their legs and shed light on the wondrous nature of the St. Johns.

The cost per person is \$325 and includes boat travel, ground transportation, catered lunches, parking speakers and overnight accommodations.

For information, visit www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org and click on "CALENDAR" or call Jimmy Orth at 904-256-7591.



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

POST OFFICE BOX 166 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166



MARCH 2009



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President and Board

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Membership Recruitment 761-2888

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Joan Anderson

Fran Carr

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Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.of

The Marine Science Ctr. Chris Wise

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

www.halifaxriveras.org

407-644-0190 http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html

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



VOL. 54 - NO. 10

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

April 2009

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Some birds just seem to lend themselves to controversy. European Starlings and House Sparrows were introduced here and have been a problem ever since. Others that are native here have earned their own place on the list of species we think of as "nuisance birds." Cormorants have been taking a beating in realm of public opinion for a long time. There are at least 27 species of cormorants around the world. In China, they were used by fishermen in place of nets. Now that fish farming has become a viable enterprise there, they probably have the same problems fish farmers here have. Cormorants are very efficient predators and fish farmers, along with commercial fishermen and some conservation advocates, have been blaming the birds for damage to fish stocks and to the areas where the birds nest and roost. The complaint is that the nation is being over run by the birds. Doublecrested Cormorants, the species we see here, nest in 43 states and are by far the ones drawing the most complaints. Looking a bit further into the controversy we find that all is not as it seems.

In 1820, when John James Audubon was in Natchez, Mississippi, he reported seeing millions of cormorants flying in single lines high above for hours. The largest nesting colony today is near the mouth of the Columbia River, in Washington, and hosts around 14,000 pairs. As with most other species, the bird's population has fluctuated wildly due to its interaction with humans. In the same way that Bald Eagles, Brown Pelicans, and Ospreys suffered nest failure due to pesticide contamination with DDT, so did Double-crested Cormorants. Once DDT was banned in 1972, all of these birds began the long road back from the edge of extinction. Thanks to the short span of our collective memory, it only seems as if we're being over run with cormorants because there are more now than there used to be two generations ago. They're blamed for the collapse of fish stocks in areas where their numbers have increased but research shows they average eating a pound of fish a day. Pollution and commercial fishing techniques that have become so efficient that the seas and rivers are being swept clean seem more likely suspects. Still, in response to the complaints and the illegal slaughter of thousands of the birds in the last decade, the birds are now classified as a nuisance species (like Canada Geese) and they can be routinely shot under permits

issued by state wildlife agencies. In addition, thousands of their eggs are suffocated with oil and their nests destroyed annually. In addition to being blamed for fishing problems, their highly acidic guano causes the death of trees and vegetation where they nest. So conservationists in charge of public and private lands where the birds nest often side with the commercial fishing interests to request controls on the birds' population.

In Paradise Lost, Milton refers to Satan sitting on the Tree of Life, "like a cormorant." With that kind of press in its past, it's no wonder the bird has an image problem. It seems that it's their habit of foraging near where people are that makes them such easy targets for the wrath of fishermen. We see them on the surface of ponds and lakes and the assumption is that they are feeding voraciously. The evidence doesn't support that though. In the case of the damage to vegetation where they nest, that's documented. But any species that stays in one place, in numbers, over an extended period is likely to cause much the same damage. We are not likely to change the hearts and minds of the anti cormorant crusaders. It's just that their efforts would be far more effective if they were directed towards stronger enforcement of the Clean Water Act and sustainable fishing practices.

2009 GREEN RESOLUTIONS

APRIL: Celebrate the Earth – April 22nd is the 39th anniversary of Earth Day. This year take a moment to look at how to reduce waste at home by recycling.

One recycled aluminum can saves enough energy to power a television or computer for three hours or a 100-watt light bulb for 20 hours.

Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.

Recycling a one-gallon plastic milk jug will save enough energy to keep a 100-watt bulb burning for 11 hours.

Recycling a one-foot high stack of newspapers saves enough electricity to heat a home for 17 hours.

In 2008, Governor Charlie Crist signed the Energy, Climate Change, and Economic Security Act of 2008 that establishes new statewide recycling goals of 75 percent to be achieved by the year 2020. To learn more visit www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/recyclinggoal75.

APRIL 2009 CALENDAR

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) > 1mile walk and/or uneven path. Friday, Saturday April 2-3

Sunday, Monday, April 4-5

2 Two-Day Eco-Heritage Boat Trips on St. Johns River. First 2-day trip is from Palatka to Sanford, second is from Sanford to Palatka. Cost \$325/person. Contact www.stjohsriverkeeper.org and click on CALENDAR or call Jimmy Orth at 904-258-7591.

Saturday, April 4

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Gamble Place Boat Trip, Taylor Road, Port Orange. Trip costs \$8 (\$6 for seniors), starts at 11:00 and lasts about an hour. Meet 8:00am at Lowe's parking lot, Dunlawton Ave. east of I-95. Led by Bob North. 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (1)

Monday, April 6

Halifax River Audubon Board meeting.

Friday, April 10

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Tiger Bay State Forest, Rt. 92, International Speedway Blvd, west of I-95. Meet 7:30am at Circuit City parking lot on International Speedway Square Daytona Beach. East of I-95. Led by Ray Scory 763-4260. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, Sunday, April 18-19

Earth Day Celebration at Washington Oaks Gardens, 10am-4pm 6400 N. Ocean Shore Blvd., Palm Coast, \$8/car. Also, volunteers needed to help on our Golden Dog sales booth. Call Willie at 253-2150.

Saturday, April 18

"Designing a Native Plant Wildflower Garden." Full Moon Natives at 1737 Fern Park Drive, Port Orange. 10:00-11:30. Call for reservation at 212-9923 or vette@fullmoonnatives.com. Free.

Monday, April 20

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "Global Warming" Fred Mosher, Instructor, Embry-Riddle University. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, April 21

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society. "Horticultural, Environmental and Marine Science (HEMS) Academy" by Michael W. McDowall, of Atlantic High School. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Friday, Saturday, April 24-25

Halifax River Audubon overnight field trip. Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge. Trip filled.

Saturday, April 25

"Insects – Good or Bad?" field trip by Volusia County Land Acquisition and Management (VCLAM). Meet at Longleaf Pine Preserve – East Entrance, Pioneer Trail, west of SR 415, 9:00- Hike led by Ray Jarrett, Florida Department of Agriculture DPI. Inspect insect traps and net specimens to learn about the diverse insects in habitats around us. Also learn about exotic insects invading Florida and problems they cause. 12:00m.Contact: Bonnie Cary, VCLAM, 736-5276 www.volusia.org/growth/outreach.htm

BAND CODES

From Wings & Things, Venice Area Audubon Society newsletter

More and more listers and birders are using band codes when referring to birds seen in the field. Some of the general basics are as follows:

- If the name of the bird consists of only one word, the code is taken from the first 4 letters, such as, DUNL for Dunlin or ANHI for Anhinga.
- If the name of the bird is two words the code is taken from the first 2 letters of the first word and the first two letters of the second word, as in AMBI for American Bittern and EAME for Eastern Meadowlark.
- If the name is 3 words the code is taken from the first letter of the first word and the first letter of the second word and the first 2 letters of the third word as LBHE for Little Blue Heron.
- For four word names, the code takes one letter from each word. BCNH is Black-crowned Night-Heron and LBBG is Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Check out the following website for more on Band codes. http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/MANUAL/aspeclst.htm





ANHI

BCNH

Program Meeting - April 20

BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change. Is it real? Is it happening now? The answer is yes, yes. Some recent examples from the news: the plant zone map for the U.S. has recently been revised, and the zones have shifted north almost a whole zone width. The Audubon Society released its study based on the Christmas Counts that show birds wintering 300-400 miles further north than previously. The Arctic ice cap has been melting more during the recent summers. Locally the black mangrove trees are spreading north from the historic northern limit of Cape Canaveral to St. Augustine. The northern range of the mangrove tree is limited by winter temperatures below 28 degrees for more than 6 hours. Winters are not as cold and the growing season is getting longer. Why?

The temperature of a location is determined by the balance of energy gain and energy loss. Many factors contribute toward these energy gains and losses. The Sun is the original source of our energy, but how much we get is influenced by the orbit of the Earth (closer to the Sun gives more energy) and the tilt of the Earth (winter and summer). The Earth's orbit and tilt do vary somewhat, which has caused the Ice Ages and warming periods of the past. Looking at these orbit factors would indicate that climate change include greenhouse gas changes, aerosol changes, cloud changes, and land use changes.

Greenhouse gases include Carbon Dioxide, Methane, CFCs and Nitrogen Dioxide. Aerosols are small particles in the air which can reflect sunlight. Clouds both reflect sunlight back to space and trap infrared energy from the surface. Studies have shown that the greenhouse gases appear to be the primary cause of the recent climate warming, with Carbon Dioxide being the most significant gas followed by Methane.

Change is always stressful. As the climate changes, one would think that birds can just fly to the new climate they are use to. While that is the case for some birds (not the birds staying further north in the winter), the long distance migratory birds in particular have problems with timing their migration to the availability of food (bugs, etc.) sources which are climate dependent. Birds flying north from the tropics don't know that spring is coming early in the U.S., so they may arrive after the bugs have past their peak abundance.

Climate change is happening. The root causes of the climate change are the modern life style that is heavily energy dependant, and the food preferences of most people. The question is not "is climate change happening", but "do we want to do something about it". Since most people don't want to decrease their standard of living, the choices come down to technology innovation and adaptive strategies. Both require major funding and political will.

Our very own Halifax River Audubon member, Fred Mosher, will present our program. Dr. Frederick Mosher received his PhD in Meteorology and has worked since then researching techniques in better forecasting. He was Scientific Operations Officer of the Aviation Weather Center of the National Weather Service before taking his present job as Associate Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He's published over 50 scientific papers concerning weather systems.

Join us for refreshments at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20 at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill. Fred's Presentation will begin at 7:00 pm.

MARCH BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a checking balance of \$5,311.45.

Membership Chair John Carr reported 512 members. Paula Wehr reported a delay in building the platform for signage at the Ormond Scenic Loop Trail due to travel budget cuts from Tallahassee.

Nominating Committee reported the following slate of officers for the Board. Voting will take place at the June meeting.

President - David Hartgrove

Vice President - Paula Wehr

Vice President - Elizabeth Abrams

Treasurer - Rachel Ramsey

Corresponding Secretary - Karen Mosher

Recording Secretary - Peggy Yokubonus

Membership Secretary - John Carr

Historian - John Carr

At Large 2010 – John Roessler (replacing Bob North in the final year of his term)

At Large 2012 - Karen Mosher

At Large 2012 - Holly Zwart-Duryea

Board discussed providing signage at the Port Orange Causeway Park in Port Orange displaying its new inclusion in the Great Florida Birding Trail.

Board approved a letter sent to Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) from David Hartgrove (on behalf of Halifax River Audubon) regarding problems with the City of Edgewater/Restoration Development of Regional Impact (DRI).

[&]quot;Next to Shakespeare I love Thoreau best. Mrs. Henry made us read portions of *Walden Pond*, and afterward ... I started appreciating Mother Nature, what she'd done with the world. In my mind she looked like Eleanor Roosevelt."

Narrator 14-year old Lily Owens, in *The Secret Life of Bees*, by Sue Monk Kidd.

CHARLES DUTOIT HONORED

TALLAHASSEE - Governor

Charlie Crist and the Florida Cabinet, on Tuesday honored Park Biologist Charles DuToit of the Tomoka Basin State Parks as the 2008 Florida Department of Environmental Protection Jim Stevenson Resource Manager of the Year. The award, one of the



state's highest environmental honors, recognizes DuToit's hard work and commitment to conserving and protecting Florida's natural resources.

"Charley's expertise, knowledge and willingness to work with and teach others makes him a very valuable member of the Florida Park Service," said DEP Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation Bob Ballard. "The dedication and hard work demonstrated by Charlie in his 30 years with the Florida Park Service makes him a very deserving recipient of this honor."

DuToit has served the state of Florida for nearly 30 years, as both a district and park biologist. As Park Biologist at the Tomoka Basin State Parks, he is charged with protecting natural and cultural resources across five state parks in Flagler, Putnam and Volusia counties, an area of nearly 10,000 acres. He successfully coordinated a multi-agency and multi-partner marsh restoration project, securing more than \$372,000 in funding and restoring more than 770 acres and 16 miles of ditch over the last five years. He is also highly involved in the parks' exotic plant removal, prescribed burning, cultural resource management and research and monitoring programs.

"I am honored to have been selected as Resource Manager of the Year. This award is especially meaningful to me, because I was fortunate to work under Jim Stevenson for eight years after I was hired by the Florida State Parks in 1979," said DuToit. "When Jim introduced the term 'The Real Florida' - now a familiar logo to millions of state park visitors- it was a visionary idea unifying the values of Florida's unique natural resources and rich cultural heritage. This inspiration has stayed with me throughout my career as a biologist. "

The Jim Stevenson Resource Manager of the Year is selected by a committee of environmental professionals representing the Sierra Club, Audubon of Florida, and The Nature Conservancy. DEP administers the award to recognize an employee who has made significant advancement in the protection of state lands actively managed by the Department.

The first two-time Gold Medal winner honoring the nation's best state park service, Florida's state park system is one of the largest in the country with 160 parks spanning more than 725,000 acres and 100 miles of sand white beach. From swimming and diving in Florida's rivers and springs to birding and fishing or hiking and riding on natural scenic trails, Florida's state parks offer year-around outdoor activities for all ages. Battle reenactments and Native American festivals celebrate Florida's unique history, while art shows, museums and lighthouses offer a window into Florida's cultural heritage. For more information, visit www.dep.state.

SOME GREAT EMAIL ADDRESSES

Halifax River Audubon Members David Baker and Chuck Tague have posted photos they've taken on our field trips along with other photos and text. You will enjoy them.

- David Baker website Naturally Digital photos of Emeralda Marsh field trip. http://natdigital.blogspot.com/
- Chuck Teague website The Nature Observer's Journal. http://web.me.com/kingrail/Natureobserver Blog/Blog.html

You may enjoy these too.

- Florida Sea Grant http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/sea/seagrant.htm
- Scenic A1A website www.scenica1a.org
- Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection monthly magazine The Post http://www.dep.state.fl.us
 You can subscribe by entering your email address in the upper left corner. This is where the great article about Charley DuToit came from.

Welcome to new members Irene D. Conroy, Dorothy Dowe, Nancy Flaherty, Pat Garlock, Marcia Johnston, Ronald Monez, Suzanne Place, John & Phijitra Schorn, and Rosella L. Stern. We hope to meet you when you join us for our program meetings and field trips.

THE GRACKLE by Ogden Nash

The grackle's voice is less than mellow, His heart is black, his eye is yellow, He bullies more attractive birds
With hoodlum deeds and vulgar words, And should a human interfere,
Attacks that human in the rear.
I cannot help but deem the grackle
An ornithological debacle.

LEAST BITTERN

David Hartgrove, FCD

While teaching groups of 4th and 5th graders about birds this morning, I came across an unexpected sight. We were at Bicentennial Youth Park, in central Volusia County. It's off the south side of SR44, 1 mile east of I-4. This is essentially a remnant pine plantation with mixed hardwoods and some wet areas. There is a small, ephemeral stream that parallels the main road running south from the main gate. There's only a 100 foot long section that still holds a foot or so of water right now due to our extended drought. The pines, sweet bay and cypress crowd right up to the edge of this wet area.

The aquatic invertebrates class was using small dip nets in one portion of this little wet spot to pull out minnows, crawfish, etc. and identify them before releasing them back into the water. One of the teachers came back and told me there was a small bird under the edge of the little dock. She said that at first she thought it was dead since it didn't appear to be moving. Upon closer inspection, she thought it must be sick but that it had a fish in its bill. I asked her what kind of bird she thought it was. She had no idea but asked that I come look at it.

I gathered my group up and we headed down the trail past the dip net class to the dock. The teacher and I carefully walked out onto the dock and peered over the edge. I almost fell over backwards. There, staring back up at me from the least likely of places, was a Least Bittern. It had a minnow in its beak and after I watched it for a while, I realized that its crop was bulging and its overall appearance seemed swollen. Aside from the fact that it was moving very slowly, it appeared healthy. I had all of the kids come over to the edge quietly (or as quietly as a group of 10 year olds can be) and tried to make them understand just what an unexpected scene this was. We watched as the bird looked back up at us, then we walked back down the trail. I picked up the next group and after looking at some bird pictures and listening to their calls, we walked down the trail to see if the bird was still there. Not only was he there, he now had a second fish in his bill.

Of course, the kids had all kinds of suggestions about what was going on with this bird. After watching him for a while longer and wondering why he was holding these fish in his bill instead of swallowing them, I think I determined why. Last night here at this spot, the temperature got down to the low 30's. The minnows were possibly stunned by the cold and along came this enterprising Least Bittern. He had more fish than he knew what to do with and they weren't able to elude his rapid bill. He continued to stuff himself until he was almost unable to move. He certainly couldn't fly. Still, once in a while, another minnow would wander too close and he couldn't help reacting by snatching that one up too, even though his crop was so full he couldn't swallow it at the time.

One of the girls bent over to see better and her paper name tag came off and fell into the water. When one of the boys asked to lean over the edge and retrieve it, the bird slowly edged back out of sight under the dock, still holding onto his two fish.

I thought of the poem by Dixon Merrith (though it's often misattributed to Ogden Nash):

"A wonderful bird is the pelican, His bill will hold more than his belican..."

My guess is that the Least Bittern is still holed up under that little dock digesting his largesse and will be gone tomorrow morning. You just never know what you're going to see out there.

BEACH WRACK

From Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) - February 2009

When walking the beach this spring break, pause and ponder the virtues of stranded seaweed. Those scattered clumps along the high-tide line actually have a name - beach wrack - and are a pivotal part of the beach ecosystem.

Beaches can be barren places without their wrack because the nutrients, moisture and protection provided by a good wrack line bring unique life to this "desert." Beach wrack is both living room and buffet table for a host of fascinating animals. Look carefully to find swift-footed ghost crabs, pearl-colored beach tiger beetles, or birds, such as ruddy turnstones and the rare piping plover.

Beach wrack consists of sea grass, reeds and marine algae that have drifted at sea before washing ashore, especially after storms. After landing on dry land, beach wrack becomes host to a diverse cast of insects and other tiny invertebrate animals, such as jumping beach hoppers, which are harmless rice-sized crustaceans. The tiny animals, in turn, serve as food for many other creatures. Migrating shorebirds fly thousands of miles each year to munch on the nutritious meals found in that clump of seaweed. Wrack also provides a safe haven for many animals that escape predators by hiding under it or by blending in with it. A shorebird can "disappear" while napping among the similarly colored shades of seaweed browns and grays.

Beach wrack also is critical to the health of the dunes by providing plant nutrients and stabilizing windblown sand. The wrack carries seeds from many dune plants, such as beach morning glory and sea rocket. As sand builds up and the seeds within the beach wrack take root, new dunes grow.

On some beaches, the sand is machine-raked, new dunes are manicured away and the wrack is removed. These efforts cost taxpayers, but there is a price paid by the beach system as well. A natural wrack line is a key component of a healthy beach ecosystem.

NAVY'S PLAN FOR TRAINING RANGE THREAT TO RIGHT WHALES

Catherine Wannamaker

Southern Environmental Law Center, Atlanta. On the eve of the Northern right whale's annual migration to Florida, the Navy has proposed to locate its highly controversial Undersea Warfare Training Range just offshore of the only known calving ground for the highly endangered right whale. In September, the Navy announced plans to locate the range in the waters of Georgia and Florida after originally proposing that the range be located off North Carolina in 2005.

The proposed training range is a 500-square nautical mile area of the ocean that will be instrumented with cables and transducer nodes and connected to shore by a long trunk cable that the Navy will use for anti-submarine warfare training. The Navy plans about 470 exercises annually on the range, with each exercise involving up to three vessels and two aircraft engaged in simulated warfare. Training exercises will involve the use of midfrequency sonar, including more than 6,000 sonobuoys that will be expended on the range, and submarine-based sonar.

The Navy already plans to conduct anti-submarine warfare training up and down the East Coast from January 2009 to January 2014 as part of its Atlantic Fleet Active Sonar Training program. The Undersea-Warfare Training Range is a separate and distinct anti-submarine warfare training proposal, which, because of the Navy's failure to propose reasonable restrictions on its activities, poses a serious risk to the survival of the North Atlantic right whale, a species that cannot sustain additional threats.

After a nearly one-year gestation period and a more than 1,400-mile journey south, female right whales return to the waters in our backyards, Georgia and Florida, to give birth to their calves from November to April. The very existence of the North Atlantic right whale is imperiled by a variety of threats from human activity, and protection of the calving grounds is of paramount importance. Scientists estimate that only 300 to 400 whales remain.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has warned that the loss of even one whale from the small existing population from non-natural causes could push the species over the brink of extinction. In proposing to locate the training range just outside of this federally designated right whale critical habitat, the Navy ignores or turns a willful blind eye to the various risks posed by its activities, including the very real threats posed by ship strikes, entanglements and sonar.

The marine fisheries service has concluded that the greatest known cause of right whale mortality in the western region of the North Atlantic is collision with ships. The risk of ship strikes should be of particular concern in the calving grounds off Georgia and Florida, as

the data on ship strikes reveal that female right whales are struck more often than males, possibly because they must spend more time at the surface with their calves who have undeveloped lung capacities.

Given concern over the impacts of ship strikes, the marine fisheries service has proposed new vessel speed restrictions requiring commercial vessels to slow down around East Coast ports. Unfortunately, federal vessels are exempt from the rule and only requested to follow speed restrictions, if possible.

Naval vessels and submarines will be traveling to the training range from bases in Georgia and Florida and will pass squarely through the middle of right whale critical habitat. Despite the dangers this poses, however, the Navy has refused to follow the ship speed rule, instead insisting that speed restrictions are "arbitrary" and decrease training effectiveness. Rather than reducing speeds, the Navy simply plans to have Naval observers serve as "lookouts" for right whales, a measure that the marine fisheries service, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission have all found to be ineffective.

Entanglement in debris left on the training range is also a concern, as the Navy plans to leave sonobuoys, torpedo control wires and various air launch accessories on the sea floor to degrade over time (a concern not only for whales but sea turtles and productive fisheries in the area). If right whales are in the vicinity and dive to the bottom in search of food, there is a very real possibility that they could become entangled in parachute assemblages and air launch accessories, which resemble the fishing gear that presents the second-largest source of mortality to the species.

As if these risks alone are not significant enough, the Navy plans to use various forms of midfrequency sonar during its training exercises on the range. According to the Navy's own assessment, sonar has been linked to the death of various whale species on at least five occasions. Here, the Navy admits that activities on the range may disrupt the behavior of more than 40 right whales in such a significant way that they may refrain from normal activities such as migrating, surfacing, nursing, breeding and feeding. Yet the Navy irresponsibly concludes that this will not impact the long-term survival of the species when coupled with the other impacts posed by such a heightened amount of activity in such a sensitive area.

The list of measures that could reduce impacts to right whales rejected by the Navy is long and allencompassing. In their plans for the training range, the Navy has rejected seasonal restrictions on training during the right whale calving period, rejected the use of third-party observers to help spot right whales, rejected the surveying of the training area before exercises to ensure that no marine mammals are present and rejected the use of ramp-up sonar activities that could clear the area of marine mammals before training exercises begin. The

Navy has even refused to report marine mammals sighted during training exercises to further scientific understanding of the species, because, in the Navy's opinion, having to report such sightings would burden Navy personnel during training exercises (an ironic explanation given the Navy's plan to rely on those same Navy personnel to spot and avoid collision with right whales).

State and federal regulatory agencies have sounded alarm bells over the Navy's proposal. Georgia's Department of Natural Resources has requested that the Navy refrain from conducting training exercises from November to April, when right whales are in the area giving birth to their calves, and has questioned the accuracy of the Navy's conclusions on the potential impacts from sonar.

Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission has recommended that the Navy not install
the training range anywhere on the East Coast, and that if
the Navy must do so, it wholly avoid the sensitive

Georgia/Florida critical habitat area.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has expressed significant concerns about the impacts the debris associated with the training range will have on reef complexes and hard bottom habitat, as well as concerns regarding the impact of the range on endangered species such as the right whale.

The Navy plans to reach a final decision on the proposed training range in the spring of 2009.

Although we all understand the importance of national security, responsible government officials can surely devise creative ways to allow the Navy to conduct its training in a manner that does not result in the extinction of a highly imperiled species and wreak havoc on the marine environment that so many of us use and enjoy.

SOLAR INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Lee Bidgood Jr., The Gainesville Sun, March 9, 2009
The Sunshine State ought to lead in using free
sunshine to generate electricity. Our state Legislature can
learn from Gainesville's rapid success with a proven solar
incentive program.

Gainesville began a Feed-in-Tariff (FIT) program on March 1. Earlier the City Commission had approved paying 32 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh) for electricity generated by solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. That payment more than doubles the price we pay for electricity.

FIT was immediately successful. As reported by The Sun, the 2009 program sold out in February when contracts totaled the four megawatt (MW) annual limit. Next year's four MW cap was 60 percent sold out. In 2009-10, FIT participants are guaranteed the full 32 cent payment for 20 years. In 2011, the commission and

Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) will reconsider costs and possible payment adjustments.

To fund FIT payments, GRU will raise electric rates some 3 to 5 percent. The average homeowner will pay about \$11 more per year for electricity.

That rate increase is justified even in the recession. An expected surge in solar installations will create many jobs and may attract solar equipment manufacturers to this area. Several firms have expressed interest after learning about the FIT program.

Local solar power production has several important advantages over large centralized power plants: With Florida population growth now zero, future electricity demand growth could be met by solar power expansion, lessening any need for Levy County's proposed \$17 billion monster nuclear plant.

Solar installation is speedy; requiring months vs. years for large centralized plants. Sunshine fuel is free. It will create far more skilled jobs.

Basic solar raw material is sand. Uranium mining is energy intensive and processing and shipping it is hazardous. Underground coal mines can be death traps and cause "black lung" disease. Mountaintop strip mining decapitates mountains, destroys valleys and pollutes streams and wells.

Solar PV uses no water. Fossil fuel plants, especially nuclear plants are water hogs.

Solar power means cleaner, healthier air. Nuclear plants constantly emit invisible radiation, usually "within limits," but all radiation exposure is cumulative.

Solar creates little or no toxic waste, as opposed to great heaps of poisonous coal ash or the unsolved problem of storing radioactive nuclear waste for a million years. Overriding all other important solar power advantages over fossil fuels is the critical reduction of climatewarming greenhouse gases. Florida's future hinges on curbing global warming and sea level rise. Gainesville's solar FIT success is a fine example of what local communities can accomplish. We hope it will spur our state Legislature into adopting a statewide FIT program.

FIT systems have been widely proven and perfected. Cloudy Germany invented the FIT concept which vaulted it into world solar leadership. At least 40 other nations have FIT systems and others are considering it. A FIT program in Canada's Ontario Province has been notably successful. A Washington State program is being expanded.

State Rep. Keith Fitzgerald, D-Sarasota, has drafted a bill that would take the Gainesville FIT program statewide. He is working closely with Rep. Paige Kreegel, R-Punta Gorda, Chair of the House Energy and Utilities Policy Committee.

FIT is a winner!

NOTE: Lee was a member of Southeast Volusia Audubon, and very active in Volusia County ecological concerns.



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Holly Zwart-Duryer	a Co-Conservation	672 8788	hollis1000@aol.com
Marion Monaghan	Co-Education	760-2747	nautilus411@aol.com
Becky Tate	Co-Education	677-5255	tatebm@aol.com
Bob North	Field Trips	352-302-3510	knorthpam@mindspring.com
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Paula Wehr	Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@bellsouth.net
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan Anderson	Membership Recruitment	761-2888	jnjanderson3@juno.com
	1.00		

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds

Bird Identification

Birds of Prey Center

Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.of

The Marine Science Ctr. Chris Wise 304-55

and Retention

Phyllis Lamborn Gina Holt 304-5545 chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us 386-423-1434 plamborn@cfl.rr.com 386-299-5890 hunt4gloria@hotmail.com

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Maitland, FL 407-644-0190 www.halifaxriveras.org

Halifax River Audubon www.halifaxriveras.org
Florida Rare Bird Alert http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html

APRIL 2009

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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The Pelican by

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In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

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For support of our 2008-2009 activities

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



VOL. 54 - NO. 11

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

May 2009

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Just when you think you've heard it all, along comes a story that makes you wonder if there are some parts of the human race that ... well maybe, aren't so human after all. There seems to be some madness that has long been affecting parts of southern Europe, especially island communities like Malta and Cyprus.

On Malta, sea gulls are shot from speed boats, exhausted migrant song birds are shot by the hundreds of thousands by "hunters" and all of it is done in flagrant violation of European Union environmental laws. Roughly 2,000,000 birds a year are slaughtered for "sport." This includes 100,000 European Robins, 300,000 Song Thrushes and 5,000 Marsh Harriers. Many thousands of finches are trapped for the caged bird trade. Again, this too is against the law. Enforcement is non existent since the feeling among the vast majority of locals is that nature and its denizens are for the use of the human population as it sees fit. While there is an organization called BirdLife Malta, it is very small and ignored at every turn.

In Cyprus the slaughter takes on a different tone. There it's done not only because the locals have little or no respect for the natural world and its inhabitants. There it's done for profit, a lot of profit. Tiny songbirds are trapped in huge mist nets or caught on "lime sticks." Now I doubt many people today know what a lime stick is. I know I didn't. It's a branch covered in glue that soon holds struggling song birds. Then they're killed, plucked, boiled, and preserved in jars. They're served in restaurants as a snack called "ambelopoulia." After reading of this dining delicacy, snails and eels seem positively haute cuisine.

Lest you think the barbarism is limited to the E.U., there was a report on NPR recently about immigrants from Guyana who use song birds in singing contests and often bet large sums of money on their birds. Dr. Pepper Trail is a forensic ornithologist with the USF&WS and he was asked to testify as to the taxonomy of a species of Guyanese finch called a Chestnut-bellied Seed Finch. A man had been arrested for smuggling 13 birds into New York in plastic hair curlers. Dr. Trail then mentioned a case in which the evidence was presented to him in a small styrofoam box bound in evidence tape. Inside he found a tiny bird breast on a small piece of toast with some parsley and dried mustard sauce. After studying the bone structure, he determined that this was a Woodcock

breast. Though Woodcock is a game bird, (yes, that's what I said) it's illegal to sell them in a restaurant. Based on his testimony the New England restaurateur was convicted and paid a hefty fine.

Bon Appétit!

MAY 2009 CALENDAR

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

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Princess Place Preserve, Flagler Co. Meet 7:00am at Publix parking lot, Granada and Williamson Blvds, Ormond Beach. Led by Bob North. 352-302-3510. Bring lunch. (3)

Monday, May 4

Halifax River Audubon Board meeting. 1:30 pm at Dickerson Heritage Library, 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach.

Wednesday, May 6

Volusia-Flagler Sierra Club meeting. "Preserving Old Growth Trees in Volusia County" by Don Spence, Certified Arborist. 7:00pm at University of Central Florida, University Center Building #150, Room 101. 1200 W. International Speedway Blvd. Contact: Alice Jaeger at 295-9734 or greenjaeger@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 9

Halifax River Audubon Spring 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).

Monday, May 18

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "History and Archaeology of Tomoka State Park" Charley DuToit, Biologist at Tomoka State Park. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, May 19

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society general meeting. "Rain Gardens" by Kevin Bagwell of Full Moon Natives Nursery **OR** "Poisonous Florida Plants" by Georgia Zern, of Environmental Services. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Monday, June 1

Halifax River Audubon Board meeting. 1:30 pm at Dickerson Heritage Library, 411 S. Keech St., Daytona Beach.

Program Meeting - May 18

HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY OF TOMOKA STATE PARK

Native Americans from the Timucuan tribe once dwelled here, living off fish-filled lagoons. British immigrants converted tidal marshes to agricultural land to grow rice. Citrus groves and a thriving packing house could once be found along Highbridge Road. Forests of today were once cleared for cultivation of indigo.

Charley DuToit, Park Biologist, at Tomoka State Park will provide details about the past at our May meeting. See the April 2009 *The Pelican* for details about Mr. DuToit and his work at Tomoka State Park.

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and 7:00 p.m. for his presentation. Sica Hall is located at 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill.

March Program Meeting

WHOOPING CRANES

Pat Casselberry

Whooping Cranes, named for the loud sound they create with their exceptionally long vocal chords, are one of only two crane species native to North America. They are the tallest birds in North America, standing 5 to 5.5 feet tall with a wingspan of 7-8 feet. Unlike herons and egrets, they fly with their necks and feet outstretched. In contrast to the nearly extinct status of the Whooping Crane in the mid-twentieth century, Sandhill Cranes, the other native species, are the most abundant species in the world.

In the 1940's only fifteen Whooping Cranes were known to exist in the wild. That migratory flock wintered in Aransas, Texas, which had been made a National Wildlife Refuge in 1937. Their breeding grounds in the far north, however, remained a mystery until they were accidentally discovered in 1954 by a fire crew flying over Wood Buffalo National Park in The Northwest Territories in Canada. This discovery opened up new options to save the Whooping Crane from extinction.

Because Whooping Cranes generally lay two eggs but usually only raise one chick, scientists believed that removing one egg from each nest would not decrease the productivity of the wild flock. Chicks hatched from these collected eggs were raised in captivity by adult Whooping Cranes or by costumed humans, but because the population was non-migratory, reproduction was slow and mortality rates were high, primarily from predation.

In the wild, young cranes learn migration routes by following their parents. The new plan substituted an ultralight aircraft for the parents. The chicks are conditioned to the noise of the ultralight while still in the egg and are exposed to the aircraft within days after hatching. The chicks are raised by costumed biologists and imprint on a crane puppet head, following the costumed biologist as they would their parents. The chicks

grow very quickly and fly short distances behind the ultralight.

In October 2001, the first group of reintroduced Whooping Cranes left Necedah NWR in Wisconsin and arrived in Florida 48 days later. Because the ultralights fly at low altitudes, the birds can't utilize air currents and must flap-fly the entire trip, so flight each day is short. After they make the trip once by following the ultralight they instinctively know how to return on their own.

Pat Casselberry and her husband, Jack, were some of the first non-scientist volunteers involved in the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership's project "Bringing Back the Cranes." Pat presented photos of the costumed scientists, explained the process of training and showed her enthusiasm for the birds and the unsung heroes (project volunteers) who donate countless hours to helping these magnificent birds come back from the brink of extinction.

See http://www.bringbackthecranes.org/ for more information about the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership and "Bringing Back the Cranes."

HURRAH FOR NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR YARD

Paul Rebmann, President of Pawpaw Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society

A study published in Conservation Biology by
Douglas Tallamy PhD, examined six suburban sites in
Pennsylvania. They were similar in size; total plant cover,
number of plant species; presence of bird boxes, feeders,
baths/water sources, and surrounding characteristics.

The only difference between paired sites was that one was landscaped entirely with native tree canopy and plants, while the other was a more typical suburban mix of native canopy and non-native shrubs and groundcovers.

The results were profound:

- The all-native plant sites had four times more caterpillars (an extremely important source of food for birds, and the main source of food for nestlings).
- Birds were 54% more abundant in native sites.
- There were 66% more bird species in native sites.
- There were 77% more pairs of breeding birds in native sites (and 117% more native bird species on native sites).

Here's the bottom line:

By not planting native plants in our urban and suburban communities, we are reducing insect food availability for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Non-native plants—whether they are invasive or not--are indirectly reducing bird abundance even in landscaped suburban areas.

April 10, 2009

TIGER BAY STATE FOREST FIELD TRIP

Ray Scory

A silvery road of sand seems a long way from a slab of gray concrete. A large parking lot for cars seems a long way from a forest green for birds. Yet for both they are but eight miles apart. That is what it takes to start at the Speedway Mall and drive out to Tiger Bay State Forest for a day of birding - eight miles. Now Tiger Bay is not a zoo. The birds are not waiting there for you in neat rows of cages, but they are there. Still waiting for you and that is the fun of the day - finding birds that lurk in the trees and grasses, in the dark recesses of the forest.



Bachman's Sparrow

photo by Ray Scory

The birds at Tiger Bay will help you find them. A streaking blur here, a chip or squeak there will alert you to their presence. An unusual shake of a leafy branch or a dash across a sandy road is what they will offer. In more ways than one, if you are good, you will see them. When you do, you will be with the birds of the forest and you will connect your modern world with the wild world of Nature.

Walking to the edge of Indian Lake or walking on oak leaves brown with age sprinkled under the canopy of moss draped Live Oak trees and not knowing what you will see, certainly is an elevated moment for any birder.

The smell of the land, the aroma of the pines, the flowers, Florida's harmonious landscape, the color of green, the shapes and sizes, contrasts and, yes, the birds. They are there.

Eight Halifax River Audubon birders saw 45 species of birds this day on our April field trip to Tiger Bay State Forest and Rima Ridge. Highlights were many. A Loggerhead Shrike's active nest discovered at 7:30AM in

a tree in the parking lot forecasted a great day of birding and we were not disappointed. A Bachman's Sparrow, sweetly singing for everyone to hear and see, even giving us time to set up a spotting scope for a closer look and take photographs, was a deliciously eye-popping event.

Some interesting birds we observed this day were a number of Swallow-tailed Kites, Brown-headed Nuthatches, a B&W Warbler, Tree Swallows and a Barn Swallow, many Wild Turkeys, an Anhinga and a Peregrine Falcon.

We thoroughly enjoyed birding at Tiger Bay State Forest. A very great day.

April 20, 2009 Program Meeting

GLOBAL WARMING BY FRED MOSHER

Fred Mosher, Associate Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, did an outstanding job in taking a very complicated scientific issue – global warming – and breaking it down into understandable segments during his presentation at our April meeting. He pointed out how each of us is affected by climate change:

National Audubon, using data gathered in 40 years of Christmas Bird Counts, found that 60% of the 305 species recorded have shifted their ranges north by an average of 35 miles

Gardeners all use the Hardiness Zone maps to ensure tender plants aren't harmed by cold weather. The map in use since 1974 was revised in 2004 showing the zones all shifting to the north, even in Florida.

Locally, mangroves which were never seen in historical photos because they are killed at 28°F are now documented as far north as St. Augustine.

The growing season is nine days longer today than it was 100 years ago.

These are but a few of the interesting facts presented to make the argument about global warming. He also discussed the possibility that these changes are nothing more than the normal fluctuations that the Earth has seen over thousands of years as well as the cooling effects of global dimming (particulate matter in the air,) methane gas and storms. See the summary of his presentation in the April *The Pelican*, page 3.

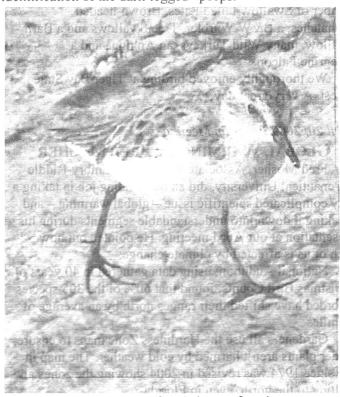
A GREAT TREAT

Quite a few organizations have prepared a report called "The State of the Birds 2009". When you Google this you will get a page allowing you to view a beautiful video of birds from all over the United States along with narration (you can turn off the sound and just sit back and enjoy the pictures). In addition there is a 36 page report that really tells you the good news and bad news about The State of the Birds.

TIP ON HARD-TO-IDENTIFY BIRDS

Dave Freeland, The Limpkin, April 2009, newsletter of Space Coast Audubon.

Here's a tip that most experienced birders know: Semipalmated Sandpiper feeds mostly on the mud, while Western Sandpiper feeds mostly in shallow water. So a flock of Westerns will be spotted wading in a tidal pool or with its "knees wet," while a flock of Semipals stick to the dirt. This isn't a hard-and-fast field mark, but it's a darned good start at identification of the dark-legged "peeps.



Semipalmated Sandpiper – feet dry



Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a checking balance of \$5,160.25.

Willie Burns reported that Golden Dog sold 19 new Chapter tee-shirts for \$366.82.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove reported that the Port Orange City Council had rejected a zoning application for a hotel on the Port Orange Causeway.

Board approved motion to amend the Chapter By-Laws to state that the Board may not use e-mail voting, and that all discussion and voting shall be only in person at a Board meeting or a special called meeting.

Board approved motion to endorse Neil Davies of the Flagler Audubon Chapter to be Southeast Regional Director on the National Audubon Society Board of Directors.

Board approved motion to endorse Bill McQuilkin of the St. Augustine Audubon Chapter to be appointed by Florida Governor Crist to the St. Johns Water Management District Board of Governors. David Hartgrove was directed to send an endorsement letter to the Governor.



Western Sandpiper – feet wet

Photos by Jerry Kerschner

Welcome to new members Charlotte Bogue, Florence Brick, Nancy L. Dunn, M. E. Fay, Virginia R. Gross, Charlotte Hall, George H. Hauser Jr., Jean Klune, Elizabeth Menzl, and Anthony Senatro. We hope you join us for our program meetings and field trips.

HINT ABOUT HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

Kathy Paynter, Bird Rehabber From *The Hummer*, West Volusia Audubon newsletter, April/May 2009.

One of the very best hummer feeders I've found is at Wal-Mart. They're a very small, tube-shaped, 5" feeder that holds just the right amount of sugar solution, is exceptionally easy to clean (I just throw mine into the dishwasher), and is light enough that you can hang them practically anywhere. And the best part - they cost only 99 cents! I have 4 in the winter and 9 in the summer and I always have hummer customers! Never use commercial food that has food coloring. The hummers are not attracted by the color of the food but rather the fake flower on the feeder. I use a simple solution of 4 parts water and 1 part sugar.

Bird Banding at Tomoka Park

SLOW AT FIRST – AND THEN WHAM

Meret Wilson

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

April 1

These last 2 weeks have been so slow I have been wondering if there would ever be a spring migration. I had 3 days that I did not catch a single bird. Finally one day I heard a Prairie Warbler and knew all would be well. Or so I thought. Seems we are going to be plagued with high winds and a few other crumby days. So, I am combining these two weeks because there are just so many views of catbirds and cardinals one cares to look at! And who would believe that nets 3 and 4 of my new nets were destroyed by the "Tasmanian Devils" of TSP?

Walking around and wondering why the catch is so low as the birds are so high up in the trees, one thing has become very obvious. The habitat is changing. Nets are only 10 feet high and the story is much above that level now. A couple of pictures will show how the trees have grown up and left bare areas behind my nets that once contained thicker foliage when I chose my net locations 5 years ago. Some of the change has been due to hurricanes, some to high winds and some to the drought we have been suffering from. Is this why my numbers of birds caught has been decreasing? It seems that there are always more questions to the questions than answers. It will be interesting to do a look back at the end of the 10 year project and see if some conclusive data comes out that will offer answers.

April 18

This week I am not sure which is more exciting: the beginning of the week with the catching of a Swainson's Warbler and male Painted Bunting, or the end of the week with the catching of a Cooper's Hawk! Either way, things are looking up thanks to the rains coming in Monday night and into Tuesday creating a fallout at Tomoka State Park. The only thing a little baffling is not catching a Prairie Warbler when there are so many around.

Although the overall numbers remain low for the spring migration, the number of species has increased and I have now passed the total number of birds banded for 2007-08 with quite a few weeks yet to go. The sample kits also arrived just in time for the Avian Flu and Stable Isotope studies, the final time.

This week brought in lots of visitors, adults and children, to the banding station from all over the US and a few local folks as well: NH, NY, WI, PA, CN, NM. Many pitched in and helped move poles, tighten nets. And as always, I could not do any of it without the support of the park staff and banding aids Denise, Bill and Paula. And you would not see any of this on the website without the

great work Paula Wehr does putting all these photos on the Halifax River Audubon web (halifaxriveras.org).

April 19-22

This week had all the signs of becoming great...for our little park! The birds are abounding in full color and we added another new species to the banded bird list for the park...AND found right over our heads a new species for the park's bird list, a Scarlet Tanager. For the second time in 5 days I also captured a new species for the banding station: a Louisiana Waterthrush. It is also new to the park list.

This season the Gray Catbirds rule. They are everywhere. It is rare now to catch a banded one with so many new ones arriving daily. Mourning Doves are bringing out their young. I found another new baby right next to one of the nets. The female finally got the baby away and under some cover so it wouldn't get into the net. The Swallow-tailed Kites are flying over, a Northern Rough-winged Swallow passed over on Monday, Great-crested Flycatchers are "whipping" everywhere, the Chuck-Will's Widows are calling before daylight and the Common Nighthawk is "peemping" overhead. The Great Horned Owls are doing early AM calls so I think they will be trying again to nest before long, and my banded Screech Owls on Helicopter Island are trilling. Very exciting place to be every morning.

A number of visitors have come to see banding this week and the group on Wednesday were thrilled with the capture of male Indigo Buntings, to see them in hand.

It is really hard to have to close the station for a short period but I will be back in the park banding on May 7th. Until then, I highly recommend making a trip over one morning and check out some of the trails on both the north and south side of N Beach Street. There is movement all over the state. If gas is an issue, coming to a state park in your own backyard if you live on the east coast, is my recommendation!

2009 GREEN RESOLUTIONS

MAY: Add a Green Twist to Spring Cleaning – May is Clean Air Awareness month, and it is a perfect time to switch to green cleaners that help the environment as well as the air we breathe. Consumers can create home-mixed cleaners that are equally as effective as traditional products, and safer for people and the environment. For those who don't have time to make their own cleaners, there are now hundreds of environmentally friendly products widely available through stores and the Internet. Important safety and environmental features of these products include being non-toxic, biodegradable, made from renewable resources and petroleum-free. DEP offers a number of Green Cleaning tips and recipes at www.dep.state.fl.us/pollutionprevention/green cleaning.htm



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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Florida Rare Bird Alert

www.halifaxriveras.org

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HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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MAY 2009

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



VOL. 54 - NO. 12

NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

JUNE 2009

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

In the March issue of *The Pelican* I wrote about SB 360, the development industry's grab bag bill designed to gut what little "growth management" there was left in that concept. That was before the bill was actually filed and had been through the sausage mill that is the legislative process. What emerged is even worse than expected. Local governments can establish urban service boundaries and avoid having to apply for permits under the Development of Regional Impact model when approving huge new projects. They can marginalize those pesky environmentalists all together with their bothersome questions about school and traffic concurrency, water supplies and quality of life issues. We've asked the governor to veto this very bad bill.

And speaking of water supplies, our very own County Council narrowly approved a partnership with Seminole County to help fund something called the Yankee Lake project. The St. Johns River Water Management District recently voted 5 to 4 (over the objections of their own staff) to allow withdrawal of up to 25 million gallons of water daily from the St. Johns River. Yankee Lake will be the treatment facility where the water is processed. The SJRWMD staff warned that adequate research hadn't been completed to determine possible effects on the river. It didn't matter. The availability of drinking water can't be used as a criterion for issuing development permits. Ridiculous as that sounds, it's codified in the water management districts' charter. The development machine must roll on regardless of the consequences.

On a brighter note, the National Park Service has announced an effort to ban all lead ammunition and fishing gear on its lands by 2010. This may be an overly ambitious goal since these things tend to be drawn out over a period of time so that the public and all interested stake holders have adequate time for comment. In 1991 the US Fish and Wildlife Service put a ban on all lead shot for waterfowl hunting. This was done after it was revealed that some lakes over which the hunting took place were fast becoming deadly toxic waste sites due to the amount of spent lead shot in their sediments. Loons and bottom feeding ducks were especially hard hit by this silent killer. There are alternatives to traditional lead sinkers and ammunition. They may cost a bit more but the cost of the toxic contamination from the lead is paid by all of us, not just the fisherman and hunter. Now that we know the

terrible cost of continuing the status quo, we have to do something different.

JUNE CALENDAR

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

Halifax River Audubon Board meeting.

Monday, June 15

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "Bottlenose Dolphins of the Indian River Lagoon" Joy Hampp, Whitney Lab, University of Florida. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, June 16

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society general meeting. "Florida Fruit" by Don Spence of Landscapes, LLC. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Saturday, June 20

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society field trip. Florida Agriculture Museum. Contact Sonya Guidry at sguidry4@cfl.rr.com.

Saturday, June 20

"Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardening with Native Plants." Seminar at Full Moon Natives at 1737 Fern Park Drive, Port Orange. 10:00-11:30. Free. Email for reservation at vette@fullmoonnatives.com or call 212-9923.

A HATCHLING'S SONG

I'm almost hatched! I'm almost hatched! I'm small, I'm wet, I'm not out yet. I'm almost hatched!

I'm pecking hard, I'm pecking hard. I'm tired, I'm weak, it hurts my beak. I'm pecking hard.

My head's outside, my head's outside. The moon is bright - the world's so white! My head's outside.

I'm really hatched, I'm really hatched.

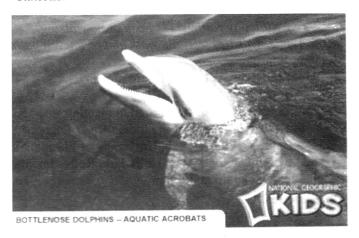
At last I'm free. Hey, Dad, it's me!
I'm really hatched.

By Judy Sierra

Program Meeting - June 18

DOLPHINS ON THE INDIAN RIVER

Bottlenose dolphins are a regular sight for most Floridians who live near the coast. They are routinely seen gracefully diving in and out of the water a few hundred yards from the beach. They travel up and down the intracoastal waterway and may even come near your boat as you fish. Everyone knows Flipper, the "smiling" pet dolphin belonging to Game Ranger Rick Porter and his sons, Sandy and Bud, from the TV series which ran from 1964-67 and intermittently ever since then on cable stations.



Join us at Monday evening, June 18, to learn more about these intelligent creatures which live in the Indian River Lagoon. Joy Hampp, Program Coordinator of the Marineland Right Whale Project, is just completing a year-long project on the dolphins and will share the results of her study with us. Refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m. The presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. The brief Annual Meeting will follow, including voting for new officers.

Don't miss this meeting!

April 24-26, 2009

CEDAR KEY FIELD TRIP

Peggy Yokubonus

The first HRA field trip to Cedar Key was a great success with 19 members attending and a total of 86 species sighted. We traveled in caravan from Ormond and arrived at the first birding spot, Shell Mound around 11am. John Roessler was waiting there for us and was able to point out shorebirds of interest that could be seen from the dock. After lunch we walked the Dennis Creek trail, a beautiful walk through coastal scrub and a boardwalk over salt marsh.

We then headed into the town of Cedar Key, population 900, to check into the Beach Front Motel. The hotel is located on the West end of the island and overlooks the water and nearby islands. Later we all met at The Island Room for a wonderful dinner.

On Saturday we did some early morning birding at the Cedar Key State Museum which yielded several life

birds for the group. After the museum we headed for the dock to board the Tidewater Tours pontoon for a three hour trip to the surrounding islands. Captain Doug is an excellent local shorebird guide. He was able to pull the boat up close to resting flocks so we had excellent views of the birds. We saw Red Knots with their chests turning red, Wimbrel, Snowy Plover, Marbled Godwit, Short Billed Dowitcher, and lots of Black Skimmers among others. Magnificent Frigatebirds were soaring overhead and were added as life birds for several aboard.

On the way back in we skirted Seahorse Key which is a rookery for Brown Pelican, White Ibis, Herons and a roosting site for Magnificent Frigatebirds. The remainder of the afternoon was left open so we could do some museum visiting and shopping in the local artist's co-ops. We met again for dinner; this time at Tony's for some local seafood.

Sunday morning we tried several spots and eventually returned to the State Museum grounds which had proved to be a very good spot on Saturday. Life list birds for the weekend included Cape May Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, House Finch, Black Throated Blue Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Ovenbird, Chimney Swift, Gray Kingbird, Wimbrel, Snowy Plover, and Magnificent Frigate.

We all left Cedar Key with smiles, hopefully to return soon. Life is truly a joy between marshes and mangroves.

MAY BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a checking balance of \$5,034.87.

Willie Burns reported on Golden Dog sales to data along with a check for \$581.88.

Membership Chair John Carr reported current membership of 536.

Education Co-Chair Marion Monaghan received 10 response cards from teachers who received Audubon Adventures kits. Ten teachers would like the kit next year (one teacher said no thanks because she was being moved and she didn't know where).

Board approved wording of By-Laws amendment up for vote at June program meeting.

Board approved donation of \$200 to Audubon's Birds of Prey Center in Maitland. It was then decided that the money currently in the Friends of Wild Birds fund (\$159.02) would be used and the balance taken from the general fund.

Vice President Paula Wehr reported that the platform and sign have been installed at Boardman Pond.

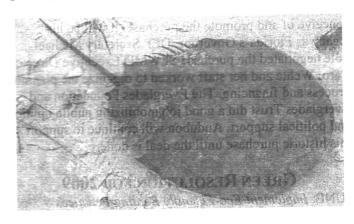
Welcome to new members Lori L. Bennett, George and Verna Hauser, Tom Moore, Judiann Rakes and Margaret L. Venzke. We hope you join us for our programmeetings and field trips meetings and field trips.

WHEN IS A CRAB NOT REALLY A CRAB?

Maia McGuire, PhD Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent

When is a crab not really a crab? When it's a horseshoe crab! There are three species of horseshoe crabs in the world, but only one is found in the Atlantic Ocean. The horseshoe crab, *Limulus polyphemus*, can be found in coastal waters from the Yucatan Peninsula to Maine, and is most closely related to spiders, scorpions and ticks. Unlike other crabs, horseshoe crabs have no antennae. Instead of a single pair of claws, horseshoe crabs have five pairs of walking legs with claws, and a pair of feeding appendages which have pincers. The pair of legs closest to the rear of the animal is larger than the others and is used by the horseshoe crab to push itself forward.

Horseshoe crabs have ten eyes (defined as structures containing photoreceptors). The two large compound eyes can easily be seen on the upper surface of the shell. Five tiny "eyes" are also located on the upper, front portion of the body. There are additional photoreceptors located on the animal's tail. Scientists use the compound eyes of the horseshoe crab to study vision, specifically to learn more about how the cells of the retina work. Despite this, horseshoe crabs really cannot see very well in the daytime. However, horseshoe crabs do have good night vision!



Horseshoe crab (shell) washed up on the shore. *Photo by Maia McGuire*

Horseshoe crabs breathe underwater using five pairs of book gills, which are covered by a sixth, protective pair of covers. Horseshoe crabs do not have blood like ours, but they do have a circulatory system which contains hemolymph. This fluid is sometimes referred to as "blue blood" because its copper-based hemocyanin turns blue when exposed to air. By contrast, human blood contains hemoglobin, which contains iron and which gives it its red color. Hemolymph contains a clotting compound which is used by pharmaceutical companies for testing drugs and other intravenous products. About one third of a horseshoe crab's fluid can be removed without harming the animal, which is then released. The fluid is then used to conduct tests on the products. If the products are not sterile, the horseshoe crab "blood" will clot.

The tail, or telson, of the horseshoe crab is not used as a weapon by the animal. Rather, it is used as a lever to help the animal turn itself right side up if a wave flips it over. The telson is attached to the body by a joint much like the one in a

human hip or shoulder, which allows it to rotate in many directions.

Like true crabs, horseshoe crabs must molt (shed their old shell) in order to grow. This process allows the crab to detach its epidermis from its shell so the animal can crawl out of the shell. Unlike true crabs, the horseshoe crab will crawl forward out of the old shell, rather than backing out of it. Once the animal is free of its old shell, it will take in water to enlarge its new, stretchy shell layer. After a period of time, the new shell will harden, and the animal will have room to grow again. A horseshoe crab may molt 17 or 18 times before reaching its adult size. As it gets older, a horseshoe crab will molt less frequently.

Horseshoe crabs live for about 19 years, but do not become sexually mature until about 9 to 12 years of age. Male horseshoe crabs are generally smaller than females. During spring and summer full moons, pairs of mating horseshoe crabs can sometimes be observed during the high tide. The female tries to get as high up onto the beach/shore as possible to lay her eggs. A single female may lay up to 30,000 eggs at a time in a series of shallow nests that she digs in the sand. The male, which often hitches a ride on the back of the female using modified claws as hooks, fertilizes the eggs. The pale green eggs are about 2-3 mm in diameter. The eggs will hatch



Red Knot. Photo by Mike Parr, American Bird Conservancy.

after 14-30 days into juvenile horseshoe crabs which look like miniature adults with very short tails! After about a year, the young crabs will have a shell width of about 4 cm.

Before they have a chance to hatch, horseshoe crab eggs are

gobbled up by migrating shorebirds, especially in the Chesapeake Bay region. Here, these eggs provide a staple food source for the migrating Red Knot as it heads to its breeding grounds in the Arctic from its wintering grounds in Florida, California and South America. Check out the PBS website for more information about the impact of declining horseshoe crab populations may have on Red Knots: http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/episodes/crash-a-tale-of-two-species/introduction/592/. (Ed: See this. It's great! Google crash-a-tale-of-two-species.)

Researchers in Florida are asking the public to report sightings of live horseshoe crabs so that they can get a better understanding of the status of Florida populations. Horseshoe crabs can be spotted in the ocean and in the intracoastal waterway. Whether you see one horseshoe crab or fifty, you are asked to report the sightings by completing the online survey at http://research.MyFWC.com/horseshoe_crab. You can also report sightings by sending an e-mail to horseshoe@MyFWC.com; or by calling 866-252-9326. Information that may be requested is as follows: How many horseshoe crabs were seen? Were they mating? What was the date, time and location of the sightings? What type of habitat were they in? Were there any juveniles (smaller than 4 inches in width)?

JUNE VOTING

Members present at the Halifax River Audubon Chapter program meeting June 15 will vote on two items. We will vote on the following slate of officers for the Board presented to the Board by the Nominating Committee.

President - David Hartgrove
Vice President - Paula Wehr
Vice President - Elizabeth Abrams
Treasurer - Rachel Ramsey
Corresponding Secretary - Karen Mosher
Recording Secretary - Peggy Yokubonus
Membership Secretary - John Carr
Historian - John Carr
At Large 2010 - John Roessler (replacing
North in the final year of his term)
At Large 2012 - Karen Mosher
At Large 2012 - Holly Zwart-Duryea

We will also vote on a proposed amendment to our Chapter By-Laws that was approved at the April 2009 Board Meeting.

Section 4. All motions, discussions and decisions requiring Board approval shall be conducted at face-to-face meetings and shall not be conducted via telephone or e-mail. In the event an emergency arises which requires a decision to be made prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, a special meeting shall be called by the President or a Quorum of the Board (as stated in Article III, Section 2 above.)

AUDUBON OF FLORIDA COMMENDS THE SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FOR DECISION TO PURCHASE US SUGAR LANDS

In May the SFWMD Governing Board approved the long anticipated purchase of 73,000 acres of land from the US Sugar Company for \$536 million. The land will be used to treat, store and convey water to help with Everglades restoration plans. Funding will come primarily from borrowed money that will be repaid from property tax revenues.

The existing plan is a scaled down and more affordable version of the original proposal. The water management district has an option to purchase up to 107,000 additional acres from US Sugar and can work with other landowners to swap, buy or sell land to make restoration plans work.

The purchase includes 40,000 acres of sugarcane lands that are proximate enough to Lake Okeechobee and the canals that drain south to be usable for water storage reservoirs. 33,000 acres of citrus lands are also part of the

deal and will probably be used to solve farm runoff problems. U.S. Sugar will lease back the 40,000 acres of sugarcane lands for seven to 20 years. 10,000 acres of sugarcane land and all of the citrus land may be available sooner.

The deal should be final in early 2010. Until then the contract and financing plan has to survive legal approval and challenges by opponents.

Audubon has intervened in litigation to support the deal's financing and is participating in the public planning process to determine the best water storage and treatment system to ensure the purchase helps the Everglades. Audubon will continue to insist that the purchase meet the original goals:

- Water storage to protect Lake Okeechobee and its coastal estuaries.
- More fresh water delivered to the Everglades.
- Reduce pollution entering the Everglade.
- Stop back-pumping into Lake Okeechobee.

A number of individuals and groups deserve a pat on the back. Governor Charlie Crist had the vision to conceive of and promote the purchase. It will be his legacy as Florida's Governor. DEP Secretary Michael Sole negotiated the purchase SFWMD Executive Director Carol Wehle and her staff worked to organize the planning process and financing. The Everglades Foundation and Everglades Trust did a good job mobilizing public opinion and political support. Audubon will continue to support this historic purchase until the deal is done.

GREEN RESOLUTION FOR 2009

JUNE: Implement Eco-Friendly Boating Practices — National Boating and Fishing Week takes place every June. With more than a million registered boaters in Florida, this is a perfect time of the year to implement eco-friendly maritime practices such as: using phosphate-free, biodegradable and non-toxic cleaners; using oil absorbent material to catch drips from the fuel intake and the vent overflow; and using marina pumpout stations and rinsing holding tanks regularly. Florida's Clean Marina Program provides boaters and marinas more tips on environmentally friendly practices at www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina/.

CORRECTION

The item in the May 2009 Pelican about native plants and wildlife was not written by Paul Rebmann. The source of this article was the Florida Native Plant Society and the data was from a study by Doulas Tallamy, PhD, the keynote speaker at the recent FNPS conference in West Palm Beach. Also, the current President of the FNPS Pawpaw Chapter is Scott Burdick.

RARE GREATER SAND-PLOVER FOUND

The Jacksonville Times-Union reported it, the word got out on a blog by the American Birding Association, and then birders from all over the country flocked to Huguenot Memorial Park. What they came to see is a Greater Sand-plover a bird which breeds in Mongolia, Turkey and Siberia. How this shorebird from Asia got here remains a mystery. It is documented in the Western hemisphere only one other time, when it was seen in 2001 in Marin County, California.

The celebrity plover, Charadrius leschenaultia, spends the day catching fiddler crabs on the beach of a cove at the Fort George Inlet at the Jacksonville city park just north of the St. Johns River.

Carole Adams of the Duval Audubon Society tells about finding it.

"Birders have come from Massachusetts, Canada, California, Tennessee, West Virginia, Maine and New Jersey that I know of.

"The bird was discovered by Doris Leary, Lesley Royce and Carole Adams. Doris noticed the bird initially calling out, "I have a Wilsons with green legs!" Of course the response was, "no you don't, 'cause Wilsons don't have green legs!" I was on Doris' scope in a heartbeat, not wanting to lose the bird. We noticed the rusty bib and crown, the very long legs and bigger bill. Resembles a Wilsons, walks like a Wilsons - but we had no idea what kind of bird we had. Our field guides were of no help.

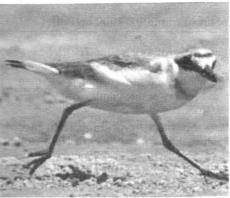
"Finally I pulled out "The Shorebird Guide" by O'Brien, Crossley and Karlson and we virtually went through the book. Ultimately finding our Greater Sandplover. Lesley, who is usually extremely competent with setting up her digiscoping fumbled nervously in the excitement - we were literally jumping up and down with excitement - knowing we had something special and wanting to get verification and confirmation on our identification. Never did a one of us imagine the magnitude of our find. Our hearts are still racing.

"This was truly a team effort. We called Roger Clark and asked him to bring his photo equipment to get a better picture and the phone calls began! We have no idea how this bird arrived on our shores, how long it will stay or how it will survive. It appears quite healthy, chowing down on fiddler crabs and keeping Wilson's Plovers at bay.

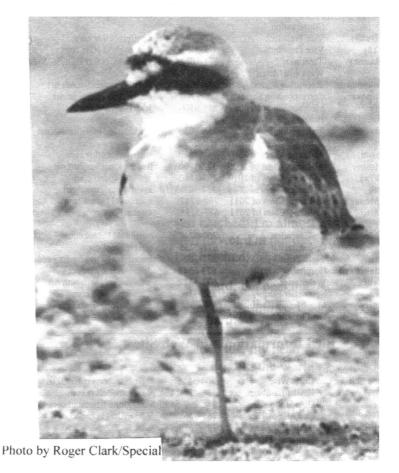
"We were out there in the first place to do our weekly bird monitoring for Huguenot Memorial Park as part of the management plan. Our focus of course was the 400 or so Red Knots. We never did finish our monitoring that Thursday 5/13.

"What needs to be mentioned mostly is the results of the park taking action and installing bollards to restrict vehicular traffic from the mud flats. The fiddler crabs are thriving and providing a feast for the shorebirds. Without this I doubt we would have ever seen the bird. Kudos to the park staff and the city of Jacksonville."





Photos above by Thomas J Dunkerton@2009

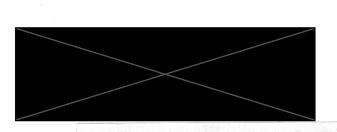




HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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	Historian, Publication		
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Joan Anderson	Membership Recruitment	761-2888	jnjanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds

Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.of

The Marine Science Ctr. Chris Wise

Phyllis Lamborn Gina Holt

David Hartgrove

Maitland, FL

and Retention

304-5545 Dee Ann Snyder 761-3262

788-2630

chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us 386-423-1434 plamborn@cfl.rr.com 386-299-5890 hunt4gloria@hotmail.com dedesnyder41@aol.com

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

www.halifaxriveras.org

407-644-0190 http://listserv.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html **JUNE 2009**

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

appreciates the support of the newsletter The Pelican by

FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.

In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

ORMOND BEACH GARDEN CLUB

Thank you

For support of our 2008-2009 activities

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

Chapter Meetings - Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through June at Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests welcome! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 \$. 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.

Styce 1923

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

VOL. 55 - NO. 1 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

JULY 2009

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

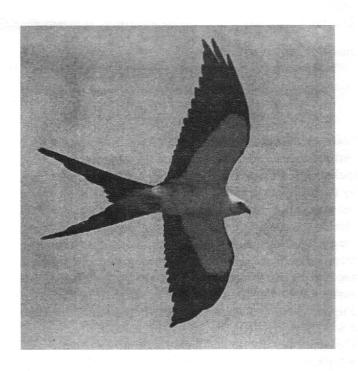
On May 5th, I discovered an American Swallowtailed Kite nest just west of the FPL yard where I work. One of my coworkers had told me that he thought there might be a nest in a particular tree back there but I failed to find it at first. It was about 70 feet high in a mockernut hickory (one of two types of hickory native to Florida), an unusual choice for a nest tree for this bird. They usually construct a somewhat sloppy nest high in a skinny pine or cypress that is then often a victim of high winds. I began to monitor the nest daily and keep a log of the activity there. I missed a few cues and was surprised to discover on May 9th, while doing the Spring Migration Count, two fuzzy white heads showing just above the edge of the nest. This turned out to be the only time I saw two nestlings and I have no idea what happened to the 2nd chick. Over the course of the next 2 weeks I watched as the remaining chick grew and was fed a variety of prey items including brown and green anoles, a baby bird, a frog of some kind and other items delivered too quickly for me to identify.

It began to rain around 9:30 on the morning of May 18th. For the next 5 days it rained almost non stop, often with winds above 25 mph. I was working long hours due to the weather but I still stopped by the nest and tried to see what I could as the windshield wipers slapped back and forth in front of my binoculars. The female was steadfastly trying to protect her youngster. One of my coworkers, to whom I'd shown the nest, told me on the 21st that the nest was gone. I doubted that since this nest was well situated in the crotch of several substantial limbs. He was just looking in the wrong spot. I stopped by later that day and during a brief lull in the rain, saw the female perched on a limb beside the nest. There was no sign of the chick but I hoped that it was just napping. I stopped by 2 days later and found the nest abandoned. There was no sign of either adults or the chick and it was much too young to have fledged. My guess is that it was weakened by lack of food and then succumbed to exposure. During the 5 days of intense rain, the adults would have had a difficult time foraging for themselves and a rapidly growing chick.

No doubt this little drama wasn't the only natural disaster caused by the rains in May. Wood Storks have been nesting on the north shore of Lake Disston, in western Flagler County. High water in Wood Stork foraging areas mean they can't find sufficient prey for

those hungry little ones. Chuck-Wills-Widows and Common Nighthawks both nest on the ground. I did a night time survey for those species on June 16th and many areas were flooded. Between the sounds of the mosquitoes and the chorus of frogs, we heard a good number of the birds. Whether or not they'll be able to find dry ground for nesting remains to be seen.

As I write this, the Black Skimmers that have nested on the beaches in our area for the past 2 years have again nested in an inopportune spot. This time they were in front of the Hilton Hotel. The nest was far too close to the surf line and was washed out by a high tide on the evening of Thursday, the 18th. It's not a very good year to be a nesting bird in Volusia County.



Swllow-tailed Kite

Photo by Danny Bales

Welcome to new members Brian Boutwell, Rainer Martens, Arlene Sherman, Cherie Siegel, Margie Suddard, Gina White, and Melanie Woods. We hope you will join us for our program meetings and field trips.

JUNE BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a checking balance of \$4,805.33.

Willie Burns reported that Golden Dog sales are low. Membership Chair John Carr reported current membership at 513.

Conservation Chair reported on a Swallow-tailed Kite nest he was monitoring.

David reported on the Audubon of Florida Regional Conservation Committee meeting he attended. There was discussion about a bill in the Florida legislature that would affect citizen input in decisions of water management districts, and about another that would affect the Florida Department of Community Affairs regarding future development.

David also reported that the Sea Bird Island development is still pending. The Port Orange City Council disapproved a 14-story building at the site.

Education Committees Co-Chairs Becky Tate and Marian Monaghan plan for Audubon Adventures kits to two more elementary schools. Marion plans to compile a list of chapter education projects.

The book <u>Audubon's Birds of America</u> is a gift to the chapter from Virginia Tedesco. The Board approved a book raffle at \$1.00 /ticket to be sold during the September, October, and November meetings. The winning ticket will be drawn at the December meeting. This book with 500 prints will be on display at meetings.

June 15, 2009 program meeting

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS IN FLORIDA

Joy Hampp - Whitney Laboratory of Marine Bioscience, University of Florida

Joy Hampp began her year-long research project on Bottlenose Dolphins of the Indian River Lagoon, but soon realized that she needed to expand the geography to include all of Florida. In June 1987, bottlenose dolphins by the hundreds began to strand themselves and die on the beaches first in Massachusetts and then southward to Florida as time progressed. In the eleven months between June 1987 and April 1988, 742 dolphin deaths were recorded in Florida. In the three years prior to 1987, the average for that same time period was one-tenths that number. Knowing that not all the dead/dying bottlenose dolphins were washing ashore or being found in the water, it was estimated that possibly 2,500 had actually died. That number – approximately 50% of the east coast population – sounded the alarm to the scientific community.

Duke University coordinated a study which found that disease moved southward because of migrating populations of dolphins. Subsequent years of research found a new strain of morbillivirus, a disease with clinical signs in affected dolphins which are similar to canine distemper. Menhaden, a fish locally known as pogy, were

found to be a source of the virus. Bottlenose dolphins are not known to feed on pogies, but they do eat Spanish mackerel which feed on pogies. This was the first time the virus was shown to move through the food chain.

By the time the affected dolphins wash ashore, they have multiple health issues. For comparison, marine organizations take samples from healthy, stranded dolphins or those killed in bycatch. Testing included bloom samples, physical exams and tissue samples which are now stored for future use. Standard analysis protocols are used by all labs. Data is headquartered in Charleston, SC.

Joy analyzed red tide events from geographic locations and chronological appearance and spoke about the national cost of harmful algal blooms (HABs.)

The good news is that we haven't had an Unusual Mortality Event in Volusia County nor in the northern Indian River Lagoon. We can all help to prevent harmful algal blooms from occurring by using native plants, eliminating or reducing use of fertilizer on lawns, picking up trash/plastics on the beach, avoiding the use of unnecessary medications (especially antibiotics), avoiding the use of flame retardant materials and promoting permaculture concepts (an approach to designing human settlements and perennial agricultural systems that mimic the relationships found in natural ecologies.)

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

John Carr, Membership Chair

If you see a red circle around your expiration date on *The Pelican* newsletter, it means it is time for you to renew your membership.

If your expiration date is followed by CO it means you are a Chapter-Only member and that you should send your dues renewal check to me: John Carr, 357 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach FL 32118. If you are 62 or over, or a student, your Chapter-Only dues are \$15.00. Otherwise your dues are \$20.00. Your Chapter-Only dues remain in our chapter

Do not send National Audubon renewal dues to me. Send them to: National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 42250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250.

I hope this will help you with your renewal. We do not want to lose you as a member.

JULY 2009 CALENDAR

Saturday, July 18

"Waterwise Landscaping." Seminar at Full Moon Natives at 1737 Fern Park Drive, Port Orange. 1000-11:30. Call for reservation at 212-9923. Free.

Tuesday, July 21

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society general meeting. "Water Authority of Volusia" by Lindsay Roberts, Executive Director. 7:00pm at Sea Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holb Hill.

BIRDS ON THE MOVE SHOW SIGNIFICANT CHANGES UNDERWAY

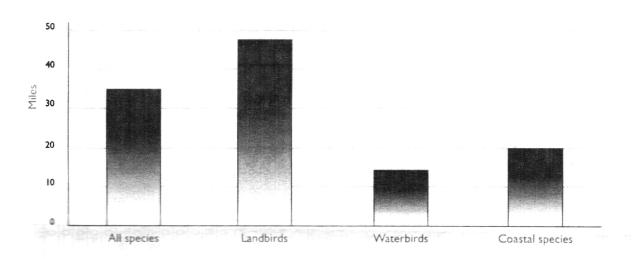
Analysis of four decades of Christmas Bird Count observations reveal that birds seen in North America during the first weeks of winter have moved dramatically northward—toward colder latitudes—over the past four decades. Significant northward movement occurred among 58% of the observed species—177 of 305. More than 60 moved in excess of 100 miles north, while the

average distance moved by all studied species—including those that did not reflect the trend—was 35 miles northward.

There was also movement inland, from warmer coastal states into areas not long accustomed to winter temperatures suitable for their new arrivals.

The analysis found these trends among nearly every type of species; their sheer numbers and variety pointing to a powerful common force contributing to the movements.

NORTHWARD SHIFT IN CENTER OF ABUNDANCE OVER 40 YEARS



Audubon's Christmas Bird Count tallies the species and number of birds in 2,000 specified locations (count circles) each year within two weeks of Christmas. Audubon scientists analyzed forty years of CBC data (Christmas 1966-2005), examining observations on 305 species that are regularly encountered in five or more

SPELLING LESSON

Bruce H. Anderson of Winter Park, a member of the Florida Ornithology Society, sent us a spelling lesson on the rules of bird names. Thank you.

When we publish the names of birds, we use those given to North American species by the American Ornithologists' Union. Some names consist of one word while most consist of more than one word, one or more often hyphenated. Some rules to remember are:

Name is one word: **Sora** [noun-always capitalized]
Name is multiple words, some, or all of which, may be
hyphenated and multiple words that make up a single name are
all hyphenated: **Chuck-will's-widow** [note how only the first
letter is capitalized]

Multiple words, some of which may or may not be hyphenated, comprise a name: Blue (adjective) Jay (noun) [the adjective and noun are capitalized].

Great (adjective) Crested (adjective) Flycatcher (noun): This flycatcher is both great (large) and crested.

states or provinces to assess changes in the range of North American birds. Identified range changes are based upon movement in the centers of abundance for each of the 305 species – half the individuals of a species are found south of the center of abundance; the other half are found north.

[Note that all three words are capitalized].

Brown-crested (adjective) **Flycatcher** (noun): This flycatcher has a brown crest. [Note that only the first word of the hyphenated adjective is capitalized, as well as the noun].

Saltmarsh (adjective) Sharp-tailed (adjective) Sparrow (noun): This sparrow has pointed tips to the tail feathers and is usually found in saltmarshes. [Note each adjective begins with a capital letter, but only the first word of the hyphenated adjective, and the noun is capitalized].

Black-crowned (adjective) **Night-Heron** (noun): [note how only the first word of the hyphenated adjective is capitalized, but both words of the hyphenated noun are capitalized]

So, HYPHENATED ADJECTIVES HAVE ONLY THE FIRST WORD CAPITALIZED, but HYPHENATED NOUNS HAVE EACH WORD CAPITALIZED.

If you are writing about warblers, sharp-tailed sparrows or night-herons and not about a particular species of warbler, sharp-tailed sparrow or night-heron, all words are lower case.

	Ċ		ò		•		•			•	0	•	0	4
	Spi	S Bull	ount 2	Spring Count 2006-2009	2	,	5 4	0	Mississippi Kite	0 7	0 0		0	Sandpiper, Purple
2006	2007	2008	2009	Name of Bird	0	4	0	ρ	Eagle, Bald	- 6	007	5 0	0 (Dunin
0	2	0	0	Loon, Common	0		- 0	0		90	0 !	0	0	peep, sp.
7	0	2	2	Grebe, Pied-billed	0	2	3	7	Hawk, Sharp-shinned	-	17	2	0	Dowitcher, Short-billed
0	64	-	0	Gannet, Northern	3	က	2	2	Hawk, Cooper's	-	0	0	0	Snipe, Common
0	0	0	0	Booby, Brown	0	0	0	0	accipiter sp.	1663	920	1547	451	Gull, Laughing
0	0	0	2	Pelican, White	74	73	69	61	Hawk, Red-shouldered	15	53	20	33	Gull, Ring-billed
1136	615	1049	1073	Pelican, Brown	0	0	-	0	Hawk, Broad-winged	9	16	က	7	Gull, Herring
130	70	59	52	Cormorant, Dbl-crested	1	0	10	15	Hawk, Red-tailed	1	-	4	1	Gull, Great Black-backed
29	41	33	44	Anhinga	0	-	0	0	buteo sp.	0	0	0	0	gull, sp.
0	0	0	0	Bittern, American	2	-	-	2	Kestrel, American	0	3	2	3	Tern, Caspian
0	0	0	0	Bittern, Least	0	2	-	0	Merlin	က	209	285	268	Tern, Royal
20	91	28	65	Heron, Great Blue	0	0	0	0	Falcon, Peregrine	0	22	0	0	Tern, Sandwich
0	-	0	0	Great White Heron	33	20	23	33	Turkey, Wild	0	5	0	0	Tern, Common
353	250	195	386	Earet, Great	2	9	15	9	Bobwhite, Northern	0	21	3	2	Tern, Forster's
237	213	482	160	Egret, Snowv	-	7	14	7	Rail, Clapper	114	88	69	17	Tern, Least
09	58	125	111	Heron, Little Blue	-	0	0	0	Rail, Virginia	2	0	0	0	sterna, sp.
49	21	30	65	Heron, Tricolored	-	0	0	0	Sora	0	14	0	-	Skimmer, Black
C		-	-	Faret Reddish	0	3	0	-	Gallinule, Purple	164	224	185	208	Pigeon, Rock
	0	0	0	White phase	75	25	17	40	Moorhen, Common	24	45	69	47	Collared-Dove, Eurasian
1000	796	1125	838	Foret Cattle	10	28	3	20	Coot, American	22	0	0	0	-
16	10	10	15	Heron Green	2	2	-	2	Limpkin	505	469	439	620	Dove, Mourning
C	c	29	17	Night-Heron Black-	104	205	70	92	Crane, Sandhill	9	19	18	31	Ground-Dove, Common
))	ì	56 55	crowned	0	0	0	0	Crane, Whooping	0	0	0	0	Parakeet, Monk
3	5	80	4	Night-Heron, Yellow-	37	78	71	43	Plover, Black-bellied	0	0	0	0	Parakeet, White-eyed
				crowned	0	2	0	0	Golden-Plover, American	-	11	0	10	Cuckoo, Yellow-billed
195	203	481	765	Ibis, White	7	12	15	1	Plover, Wilson's	0	0	0	0	Owl, Barn
18	6	7	10	Ibis, Glossy	211	385	43	92	Plover, Semipalmated	2	5	19	11	Screech-Owl, Eastern
-	3	2	9	Roseate Spoonbill	48	53	48	28	Killdeer	0	3	0	-	Owl, Great Horned
116	26	14	23	Stork, Wood	5	11	8	7	Oystercatcher, American	9	7	9	22	Owl, Barred
0	0	0	0	Whistling Duck, Black-	7	0	0	4	Stilt, Black-necked	-	-	-	12	Nighthawk, Common
		* = 1		bellied	2	18	2	0	Yellowlegs, Greater	27	27	11	47	Chuck-will's-widow
0	0	0	-	Goose, Canada	10	4	0	1	Yellowlegs, Lesser	0	0	_	0	Whip-poor-will
40	88	83	68	Duck, Museovy	18	18	0	3	Sandpiper, Solitary	220	261	79	105	Swift, Chimney
73	82	35	38	Duck, Wood	73	49	19	2	Willet	10	6	9	3	Hummingbird, Ruby-
14	10	9	7	Duck, Mottled	19	28	7	6	Sandpiper, Spotted					throated
59	23	35	28	Mallard	0	0	-	0	Sandpiper, Upland	2	9	0	2	Kingfisher, Belted
0	2	0	0	Teal, Blue-winged	0	7	0	0	Whimbrel	23	13	22	22	Woodpecker, Red-
0	0	0	0	Shoveler, Northern	0	0	0	0	Godwit, Marbled					headed
-	3	0	0	Duck, Ring-necked	253	180	131	485	Turnstone, Ruddy	82	123	167	169	Woodpecker, Red-bellied
0	-	0	0	Scaup, Greater	9	22	0	13	Knot, Red	11	11	0	0	Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied
0	0	0	0	Scaup, Lesser	1474	692	408	941	Sanderling	49	20	41	51	Woodpecker, Downy
0	0	3	0	Merganser, Red-breasted	15	431	15	0	Sandpiper, Semipalmated	0	0	0	0	Woodpecker, Hairy
367	292	684	529	Vulture, Black	53	31	7	40	Sandpiper, Western	-	13	13	17	Flicker, Northern (Yellow-
139	135	214	330	Vulture, Turkey	0	81	3	10	Sandpiper, Least					shafted)
74	108	89	101	Osprey	0	-	0	0	Sandpiper, White-rumped	46	47	9	7.1	Woodpecker, Pileated
15	29	25	22	Kite, Swallow-tailed	3	0	0	0	Sandpiper, Pectoral	0	0	0	0	Wood-Peewee, Eastern
	31		125							-	0	0	-	Phoebe, Eastern

106 107	07 102	107	Flycatcher, Great Crested	2		>	2	waibler, black-throated		o contracted, vilgon o
0	7 1	2	\dashv					Blue	0 0	0 Swan, Mute
			\dashv	-	0	-	-	Warbler, Yellow-rumped		0 Shelduck, Ruddy
_		4)	\dashv	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Black-throated	0	0 Duck, Peking
	2		-					Green		-
0	0	_	Swallow, Northern	0	2	0	0	Warbler, Blackburnian	2009 data:	
			\dashv	~	9	6	4	Warbler, Yellow-throated	Date: June 06-09	Car Hours: 73:50
0			\dashv	27	36	22	32	Warbler, Pine	Species: 132	Boat Hours: 4
0	0 0	0	Swallow, Cliff	2	0	0	0	Warbler, Prairie	Individuals: 12,768	Cloud % 20-50
5 11	110 55	32	Swallow, Barn	10	0	က	0	Warbler, Palm	Observers: 41	Pemp: 69-94
136 12	128 101	164	Jay, Blue	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Palm (Yellow	Time: 0300-1900	Temp: 69-94
4	11 0	11	Scrub-Jay, Florida				W	Palm)	Owling Hours: 4.50	Wind: 0-SW15
47 4	49 128	134	Crow, American	28	29	20	9	Warbler, Blackpoll	Foot Hours: 53.50	Precipitation: None
172 18	194 234	206	_	13	18	3	-	Warbler, Black-and-white		
0	46 0	54	crow, sp.	45	21	74	34	Redstart, American		1
	7 7	12	Chickadee, Carolina	-	-	0	0	Warbler, Prothonatory	2009 Observers: Chandra Bruce, Matt Bruce,	ra Bruce, Matt Bruce,
199 17	175 204	311	Titmouse, Tuffed	0	0	0	0	Warbler, Worm-eating	Kenata Calero, John C.	Renata Calero, John Carr, Beth Cushing, Cheryl
00	00	0	Nuthatch, White-breasted	1	-	က	4	Ovenbird	Cutler, David Cutler, Ko	Cutier, David Cutier, Roger Cutier, Gall Domroski,
0	9 5	0	Nuthatch, Brown-headed	1	-	-	9	Waterthrush, Northern	Richard Domroski, Nove	Richard Domroski, Novetta Duffer, John Eggen,
33	0	0	\vdash	-	0	4	`	Waterthrush, Louisiana	Vacculton Anglove, Sally F	David Harigrove, Sally Hobling, Naryn Hollinan, Mike
113 22	224 217	307	-	0	0	-	0	Warbler, Connecticut	M. T. T. Beller, Kern Murphy, Sheldon	ern Murphy, Sheldon
	0	0	-	18	19	59	41	Yellowthroat, Common	Der Diezel Merries Di	Nurphy, Terry Palmer, Nen Park, Koger Peterson,
0		0	-	6	2	10	က	Tanager, Summer	Disch Ham Dobings	Disch Ham, Dakingan Jaha Dagselar Eli Shanaraw
2		-	Kinglet, Ruby-crowned	337	472	399	513	Cardinal, Northern	George Sibley Gail Star	George Sibley Gail State 1 ee Ann Stewart David
27 6	61 48	9/	-	2	0	0	0	Grosbeak, Rose-breasted	Stock James Stock Ste	Stock James Stock Steve Strawn Sara Taylor
	13 24	24	-	-	0	2	0	Grosbeak, Blue	Larry Wallberg Fred Wi	arry Wallberg Fred White Nancy White Meret
0		0	-	0	0	0	0	Bunting, Indigo	Wilson	,
0		0	\vdash	0	0	0	0	Bunting, Painted		
0		0	Thrush, Wood	0	0	0	0	Dickcissel	000C W.H.H.	IIII V 2009 Green Resolution
0	0	0	Robin, American	56	20	22	22	Towhee, Eastern		
5	19 7	9	-	2	0	4	2	Sparrow, Bachman's	(
333 331	31 361	411	-	0	0	0	0	Sparrow, Chipping	Iravel Green - Le	I ravel Green - Leaving nome doesn't
27 3	35 31	25	Thrasher, Brown	0	0	0	0	Sparrow, Field	mean travelers should stop being	uld stop being
0 232		0	Waxwing, Cedar	0	0	0	0	Sparrow, Savannah	environmentally co	environmentally conscientious. Florida
	12 12	18		0	0	0	0	Sparrow, Grasshopper	has nearly 400 hote	has nearly 400 hotels, motels and bed
197 194	94 169	255	-	45	35	0	0	Bobolink	and breakfasts that are designated	are designated
14 2	23 15	42	Vireo, White-eyed	267	197	160	159	Blackbird, Red-winged	members of DFP's	members of DFP's Florida Green Lodaina
0	3 0	0	Vireo, Blue-headed	5	16	4	4	Meadowlark, Eastern	Drogram The proof	Droorsm The program was actablished in
0	9	3	Vireo, Yellow-throated	329	330	275	299	Grackle, Boat-tailed	2004 to me progr	alli was established i
	28 24	24	-	101	119	114	145	Grackle, Common	2004 to recognize and reward	and reward
0	0	0	vireo, sp.	7	7	0	2	Cowbird, Brown-headed	environmentally co	environmentally conscientious lodging
0		0	≥	-	0	0	0	Cowbird, Shiny	facilities in the stat	facilities in the state. Beyond staying at a
110 187	11	178	-	2	0	0	0	blackbird, sp.	designated property	designated property, travelers can also
4	0	-	Warbler, Yellow	-	2	0	0	Oriole, Baltimore	learn how to be a q	earn how to be a green guest by visiting
0	0	0	Warbler, Chestnut-sided	æ	13	19	22	Finch, House	http://www.den.sta	http://www.den.state.fl.us/green/travel.h
		1	Warbler, Magnolia	3	1	0	-	Goldfinch, American	tm.	
0	1	0	Warbler, Cape May	47	76	35	7.	Sparrow House		
					2	3	0	Spanow, House		

NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD

This bird belongs to the family Mimidae that includes Mockingbirds and Thrashers.

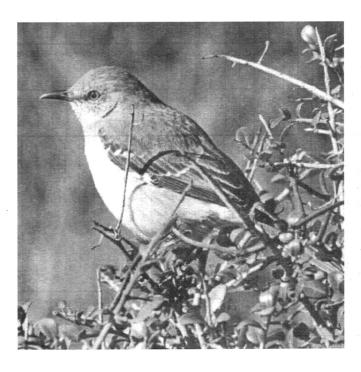
Its size ranges between 9 and 11 inches, about American Robin size but more slender and with a long tail. A gray bird, it has white wing patches and white outer tail feathers.

Its range extends from the middle of the United States and northward to Maine, down into Mexico from coast to coast. It is almost ubiquitous in Florida, especially in residential yards, parks, and rural areas.

The birds nest in bushes and low trees and build a bulky nest with sticks and week stems. They lay 3 to 5 brown-spotted green eggs.

The rather long song imitates that of other birds and the "Mocker" usually repeats itself from two to six times, but that is regional. Mockingbirds often sing at night and especially on moonlit nights and in lighted urban areas. Its call is a harsh *chak*. In one study, bird call of 36 different species was made by one bird. In our area they have the habit of out-stretching their wings as they hunt for insects in grassy areas.

In the breeding season, the mail flashes his wings as he displays in the air, or sings while flying to and from his songposts. The pair become very territorial and will vigorously defend their territory. The male will attack its reflected image so strongly that he will sometimes injure himself.



Northern Mockingbird

Photo by Jerry Kerschner

MOCKINGBIRDS IN FICKLE CLIMATES SING FANCIER TUNES

DURHAM, N.C. -- Why are some birds simple singers and others vocal virtuosos? Researchers suspect that inconsistent climates may play a role. A large-scale study of mockingbirds in diverse habitats reveals that species in more variable climes also sing more complex tunes.

As environments become more variable or unpredictable, song displays become more elaborate, said Carlos Botero, a postdoctoral researcher at NESCent in Durham, NC

"Local climate patterns are good indicators of how challenging life is in a given location," Botero said. "Survival and reproduction become more complicated when weather patterns are unpredictable because you don't know when food will be available or how long it will be around," he explains. What's more, the consequences of picking a mediocre mate are magnified in harsher climes.

"In really difficult or demanding environments you would expect females to be choosier," he said. "Male mockingbirds sing primarily to impress mates," said Botero. "Superior singing skills are a cue that a male is a good catch. Complexity of song display, how many song types a bird sings, how hard the songs are is a good predictor of the quality of the individual," said Botero. Males that sing more complex songs tend to carry fewer parasites, and have offspring that are more likely to survive

Songbirds aren't born knowing their songs, however: they have to learn them over time. Since birdsong is a learned behavior, Botero and colleagues suspect that songlearning ability may also be a display of learning ability in general. The bird equivalent of sparkling conversation, complex songs may indicate which males have not only brawn, but also brain power. "Birds that sing better are telling others, at least indirectly: Hey, I'm a good learner," said Botero.

More importantly, singing skills may be a sign that males are clever enough to cope with iffy environments. "Individuals that are more intelligent tend to be better able to compensate for the difficulties of unpredictable climates. For example, if some individuals are able to invent new foraging techniques, then they are going to be better at surviving harsh winters than the poor guys who only know one way to forage," Botero said. "The more intelligent you are, the more resourceful you are, and the more curve balls you're able to handle.

To see if there was a correlation between climate and song, Botero searched sound archives around the world and embarked on a solo tour of the southern hemisphere to record bird songs in the wild. Armed with supersensitive recording equipment, Botero trekked his way through desert, jungle, scree and scrub in search of mockingbirds in song. Botero's recordings - nearly 100 tracks from 29

mockingbird species - will enhance pre-existing sound archives by filling in gaps for species for which high-quality recordings weren't previously available.

Back in the States, Botero used computer programs to convert each sound recording - a medley of whistles, warbles, trills and twitters - into a sonogram, or sound graph. Like a musical score, the complex pattern of lines and streaks in a sonogram enables scientists to see and visually analyze sound.

Botero and colleagues then painstakingly analyzed each snippet of song and compared their patterns to a database of temperature and precipitation records. The researchers found that species subject to more variable and unpredictable climates had more elaborate song displays.

The connection between birdsong and climate is new and somewhat surprising, Botero explains. "We're connecting two dots that were far away before.

For Botero and his colleagues, the next step is to see whether this pattern holds true for other animals. By studying animal communication, Botero ultimately hopes to shed light on how language evolved in humans. "You can't help but wonder what is it about humans that made our vocal communication so incredibly complicated compared to other animals," Botero said.

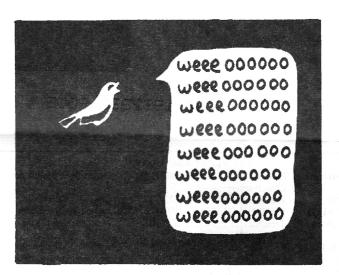
"It has long been hypothesized that one reason why humans have such exaggerated displays - not just language, but music, art, and even math - is because females have selected for signals of intelligence," explains Botero.

"What we have now is a nice arena - outside of humans - where we can test these ideas and start understanding processes that are fundamentally important for our own species

The team's findings were published online in the May 21 issue of the journal Current Biology.

mockingbird problem









birdandmoon.com



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Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds Mary Keller Rehab.Ctr.of

The Marine Science Ctr. Chris Wise

Phyllis Lamborn Gina Holt

Bird Identification Birds of Prey Center Halifax River Audubon

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JULY 2009

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

appreciates the support of the newsletter The Pelican by FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT, INC.

In Recognition of David Hartgrove

HALIFAX COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

ORMOND BEACH GARDEN CLUB

Thank you

For support of our 2009-2010 activities

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

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

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



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AUGUST 2009

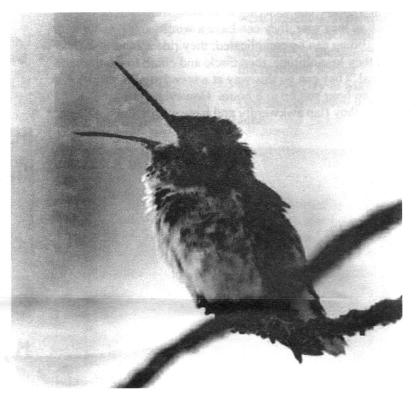
CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Serendipity is a wonderful thing. Here I was trying to think of what to write about in this column and an e-mail pops up from Kevin Doxstater. Those of you who've been around the chapter for some time remember Kevin and his excellent photography. Several years ago he sold his home, packed up all his camera gear and Roxy, the black Lab, and set off to follow his muse. His travels took him up to Alaska and all over the west. He eventually settled in Utah with a summer job as an interpretive ranger at Bryce Canyon National Park. When someone of Kevin's caliber enters your sphere of influence you see quickly that you'd be well advised to do all in your power to keep him there. The powers that be in the NPS saw what a valuable addition he was to the staff and the next thing you know he was a full time Ranger, complete with the iconic hat. Now he spends summer evenings guiding astronomy walks and summer days leading bird and fossil treks. It has now been pretty well established that birds, as we know them, evolved from dinosaurs, or at least prehistoric reptiles. So not only is he guiding folks to the living birds, he's in a place where he can point out the fossilized remains of their ancient ancestors.

His web site (http://www.naturalvisionsphoto.com/) contains a link to his blog. He posts a photo bird quiz weekly, offers a wealth of information about his observations of the area in which he's living and let's us see some of the photos for which he's now nationally famous. One of those is printed here.

A rare bird for the Utah area, a Northern Goshawk, showed up at the bird bath/dripper he has set up near his camp site. He got some great shots of this bird, the largest of our accipiters. He had also been watching the summer abundance of western hummingbirds there. There are Black-chinned, Broad-tailed and Rufous. As usual, the hummers are extremely protective of their food source. So the action is heavy and it's a case of winning through intimidation. One little female Rufous had apparently worn herself out chasing rivals and Kevin caught her yawning! This is one of those rare photos where timing is everything. I urge you to check out Kevin's site and his blog. You'll be glad you did.



Rufous Hummingbird

Photo by Kevin Doxstater

One of the birds many birders want to see is the Yellow Rail. This bird is known to winter in Florida but sightings are very rare and in "The Birdlife of Florida", Stevenson and Anderson note that "the Yellow Rail remains the most elusive rail species in the U.S."

Two summers ago I wrote of the post by Jean Iron, a volunteer with the Royal Ontario Museum, of a Northern Mockingbird on Akimiski Island, in James Bay. That's a long way north for that bird to be seen. Just this month Jean posted a note of finding 300+ Yellow Rails in northern Ontario and marshes further north. While daylight at those latitudes runs to 18 to 19 hours at this time of year, it's still not an area that's especially people friendly. By late August the temperatures are in the 20's. So it's no wonder Yellow Rails head south.

It's thought that there are far more in Florida in January than anyone realizes. The birds are very secretive, even for rails. None have been reported in Volusia County yet but a good place to look might be Lake Woodruff NWR. If you're looking for a vision quest, this would be a good one to start with.

TURKEY VULTURE

Our Turkey Vulture here in Florida ranges most of the states and down to Mexico. Long thought to be a raptor, its family was changed to the same family (Ciconirformes) as the stork but that just that has been questioned. Nobody knows just what family it belongs to! One difference between the vulture and raptor is that the vulture's feet cannot clutch and fly with its prey, but its chicken-like feet are good for running on the ground.

Turkey Vultures soar by holding their wings up in a slight V-shape and teetering from side to side. Beautiful to watch as they soar, they can have a wingspan of six feet. This gliding can be complicated: they ride air thermals until they lose altitude, then circle and climb to another thermal. They can go this way at a speed of almost 60 miles an hour and up to 6 hours. However, once on the ground they flap awkwardly and have a hard time getting airborne.



Photo by Jerry Kerschner

Besides having excellent eyesight, they have a fine sense of smell and often fly low to the ground to pick up the scent of dead animals. They can detect odors even below a forest canopy. Vultures usually forage alone, usually over mixed farmland and forest and they roost in trees or large buildings. The sexes appear identical.

The head of the Turkey Vulture is bald and red. When it eats carrion, it can stick its bald head inside the carcass to reach the meat. Because of its featherless head. pieces of the vulture's meal don't stick. And after a meal, it can perch in the sun, where whatever has managed to cling to the bits of fuzz on its heads is baked off.

The Turkey Vulture, like the Wood Stork, often defecates on its own legs where evaporation can help it cool down.

They don't build nests but lay their eggs on the ground in caves and crevices or even abandoned buildings. They lay one to three whitish-creamy eggs that are blotchy round the round end. The new chicks can't hold their heads up, but they can hiss. In fact, adults don't "talk" much either, just hiss and grunt, especially when courting.

birdandmoon.com

I am a turkey vulture.



My head is bare to prevent rotting flesh from adhering to



My main defense is





Yes indeed.



To keep cool, I poop on my leas and feet.



projectile vomiting





Used by permission of Rosemary Mosco

BIRDS ARE GROSS

-AUGUST 2009 Green Resolution-

Enjoy a Florida State Park Staycation — With a downturn in the economy and families trying to save more money, the term "staycation" became a new addition to the American vocabulary. In addition to being affordable, the staycation can also reduce your carbon footprint. The perfect staycation can be found at any of Florida's 160 state parks. From mermaids at Weeki Wachee Springs State Park to manatees at Blue Springs State Park, from the lush gardens of Maclay State Park to the beaches of Caladesi Island State Park — Florida's state parks have something for everyone's interest, and the regular entrance fee for most state parks is \$4.00 per carload of two-to-eight people, \$3.00 for one person in a car and \$1.00 per pedestrian or bicyclist. To find a state park in your backyard visit www.dep.state.fl.us/parks.

AND – to help you decide where to visit –

Here's The Great Florida Birding Trail entries for places right here in Volusia County.

Lake George State Forest – SR-40
Lyonia Preserve - Deland
Lake Ashby Park - Deland
Smyrna Dunes Park – Deland
Scottsmoor Land – Deland
Deleon Springs State Park – DeLeon Springs
Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge – DeLeon
Springs

Hontoon Island State Park – Orange City
Blue Spring State Park – Orange City
Bulow Creek State Park – Ormond Beach
Tomoka State Park – Ormond Beach
Lake Monroe Conservation Area; Brickyard Slough
and Kratzert Tracts – Osteen
Lighthouse Point Park/Marine Science – Ponce Inlet
Ponce Preserve – Port Orange
Port Orange Causeway Park – Port Orange

SPRING BIRD BANDING REPORT

Meret Wilson reported about her bird banding station at Tomoka State Park saying that this season's success was much the same as last spring. There was little rain and wind. Only 4 days produced no birds at all. The most prominent bird was the Gray Catbird which seems to have a liking for Tomoka State Park judging by the number of recaptures done through all seasons of the year.

Two new species were caught this spring, a juvenile Cooper's Hawk and a Louisiana Waterthrush. A Scarlet Tanager was spotted and photographed as a first ever sighting for the Park in May. Only one American Redstart and one Black and White Warbler were caught. A pair of Northern Bobwhites were heard. This is a most hopeful sign since the number of NOBO are declining severely due to habitat loss.



Trees that were low or sheared off during the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005 have grown back to a nice height, making many of the warblers out of reach.

Many visitors visited the banding station this year, 44 individuals, the most to date. A number of children were present with parents.

Meret participated in two surveys, the International Spring Migratory Day in May and a Goatsucker Survey in early June.

Scarlet Tanager

TOTAL

Banding occurred for 29 day from March 14 to May 13. Six to 10 nets were used for a total of 1,274.75 net hours. Her largest daily catch was 20 birds on April 22. The total number of birds banded was 103 in 20 species. 26 birds were recaptured.

Number of males captured was 20; females – 25; sex unknown – 58. Recaptured birds less than 12 months old – 59; more than 12 months old – 44.

The following species were banded this spring:

Gray Catbird	41
Common Yellowthroat	21
Ovenbird	9
Black-throated Blue Warbler	9
Northern Cardinal	4
Worm-eating Warbler	3
Indigo Bunting	2
Downy Woodpecker	2 (at same time)
Blackpoll Warbler	1 (first one in 2 years)
Louisiana Waterthrush	1
Black and White Warbler	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	1
Cooper's Hawk	1
Mourning Dove	1
Swainson's Thrush	1
Painted Bunting	1
House Wren	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1 (a Hatch Year-very
	early for this bird)
American Redstart	_1

103

JULY BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a checking balance of \$4,638.04.

Willie Burns gave an end-of-year report of Golden Dog Sales. His last yearly check to the Chapter was \$260.73. The total given to the Chapter this fiscal year was \$1,179.63; total profits to the Chapter since Willie started Golden Dog is \$11,201.95.

Willie and David Hartgrove also reported a problem with the stability of dyes used in printing the new tan tee shirts. The manufacturer will replace shirts which were damaged.

Membership Chair John Carr reported current membership at 477.

Field Trip Chair John Roessler distributed the 2009-2010 trip list. Members who are willing to lead a trip are asked to contact John so he can add their names and contact information.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove teleconferenced with the Environmental Council. They discussed the Restoration project west of New Smyrna Beach and the Miami Corporation property west of Osteen.

President Hartgrove reported about efforts to erect signs that show the new inclusion of an island under the Dunlawton Bridge as part of the Great Florida Birding Trail. He has contacted the Port Orange Director of Parks & Recreation and the GFBT. David reported that two signs can be purchased for \$70 each, following approval to install the signs from Port Orange. David may recommend installation on the guard rail by the roadside rather than on a post.

Voting at the June general membership meeting resulted in approval of nominated Board members and an amendment to the By-Laws. As required in the By-Laws, President Hargrove appointed all sub-committee Chairs. Names are listed in *The Pelican* and Chapter website www.halifaxriveras.org.

Board appointed Edie Fiske to audit the Treasurer's Reports for fiscal year July 2008 through June 2009.

Motion passed that e-mails regarding Board topics be directed to Officers and Board members only. Motion passed with one dissenting vote.

Holly Zwart-Durya reported that Volusia County Council intends to enforce water regulations beginning with warning letters and educational information. There will be four levels of fines.

BIRD NAME CHANGES

Bruce H. Anderson, Florida Ornithology Society

The American Ornithologists' Union standardizes North American bird names, and their taxonomy based on various published studies. Each July, they publish a supplement describing changes made during the previous 12 months.

The most recent changes include the removal of the tanagers of the genus *Piranga* from the tanager family (a large, mostly tropical family) Thraupidae. The *Piranga* species include Summer, Hepatic (western US), Scarlet, Western and Flame-colored (western US) tanagers that are familiar to many US birders. These species (and others in the genus), have been moved to the cardinal, grosbeak and bunting family, Cardinalidae!

Other changes that will interest Floridians are changes in the names of the 2 sharp-tailed sparrow species; the sharp-tailed epithet has been dropped, and they are now known as Nelson's Sparrow and Saltmarsh Sparrow.

A summary of the latest (50th) AOU Checklist supplement can be found at: http://djringer.com/birding/2009/07/11/aou-50th-supplement-taxonomic-and-nomenclatural-changes/

AUGUST 2009 CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 3

Halifax River Audubon Board meeting. Saturday, August 8

"Common Birds of Fort Matanzas". Basic bird identification by volunteer naturalist Veronica. Fort Matanzas National Monument, St. Johns County. North on US-A1A. Meet at the benches in front of the visitor center. 9:30-11:30am. For more information contact call 904-471-0116 or contact http://www.nps.gov/foma-

Tuesday, August 11

Dr. Walter Kinsley will discuss his new book, "A Guide to Florida Grasses". Florida Native Plant Society meeting. Auditorium of Volusia County Agricultural Center, 3100 East New York Ave. (I-4 and SR44 in Deland). 7:00pm

Saturday, August 15

"Square Foot Gardening." Seminar at Full Moon Natives at 1737 Fern Park Drive. Port Orange. 10:00-11:30. Call for reservation at 212-9923 or vette@fullmoonnatives.com. Free.

Tuesday, August 18

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society general meeting. "Successful Plant Rescues" by Jackie and Mage Holt of Tarflower Chapter. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Saturday, August 22

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society field trip. Summer Plant Swap and Shaded Walk, Tuscawilla Park, Daytona Beach. Contact Sonya Guidry at sguidry4@cfl.rr.com.

OUR NEW BACKYARD FRIEND

David Hochstetler

Let me tell you about the Limpkin who has been visiting our property. I spotted the bird while I was walking our dog Sasha early (6:30am) in the morning of June 17th. At first I was unsure of the kind of bird he was. The long curved beak reminded me of an Ibis and the wingspan was similar to the size of a Blue Heron. After returning home with the dog, I then noticed the bird had landed on the top of the overflow drain between the retention pond and the small lake behind our home.

I then researched the unique bird in the "National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America" and found that he was a Limpkin.

The bird later began his crying call which surprised my wife Jean and me. The bird's call was both loud and eerie. The Limpkin was joined once by his mate a couple of days later.

Early the next week, I was awakened to the Limpkin's very loud call at 5am. While I was glad to see him again, I didn't need an early wake up call. He has since come to visit in the mornings a couple times a week at our home is in Halifax Plantation in the north end of Volusia County.



ABOUT LIMPKINS

In Jean's picture you can see the Limpkin feeding on its primary diet, an apple snail, but they also eat freshwater mussels. It sees the snails in clear water, or pokes or swings with its bill. The bill is unique: it has a gap in the end and a slight curve to the right that allows it to slip its bill into the right-handed chamber of the snail. The Limpkin quickly turns the shell opening upward and cuts through the muscle attachment allowing it to be removed. This usually takes about 15 seconds and usually leaves the shell unbroken.

Males are territorial: they charge, retreat, and make a screaming call.

Their nests are made of sticks, grass and other vegetation and are built on floating platform or on shore or even up in trees. They lay 3 to 8 splotchy whitish-gray-

greenish eggs, and the chicks are quickly up and about, even running and swimming.

Limpkins have been becoming rarer in Florida as their water habitat supporting apple snails has declined. Lucky Dave, to have Limpkins in his yard, despite their call!

PAUL REBMANN WINS ANOTHER CHERTOK AWARD

On June 18 the Orange Audubon Society awarded Paul Rebmann an Honorable Mention in the "Florida Invertebrates and/or Wildflowers" category of the 2009 Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest. The recognized photograph is an extreme close-up of a small butterwort flower, taken in the Heart Island Conservation Area.

This is the third year in a row that Halifax River Audubon member Paul Rebmann has won an award in this contest that regularly draws over 300 entries annually. 2008 awards included First Place in the "Florida – Beyond Birds" category for a just hatched loggerhead turtle headed to the sea and Honorable Mention in the "Florida's Avian Wonders" category for a photo of Daytona Beach's most famous black skimmers, Homer & Bart. In 2007, a great horned owl photo titled "Don't Mess With My Chicks" won third place in the "Florida's Birds!" category. This owl was one of the adults in the tree in central Ormond Beach where David Hartgrove replaced a chick that had fallen out of the tree.

All of the winning photos and more than 2000 other photos of Florida nature can be seen at wildflphoto.com where over 400 plant and nearly 200 animal species are posted.

Paul Rebmann is also a member of the local Pawpaw Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Board Report- July 14, 2009 Editor's note: Items of interest. Full report is available online a thttp://www.sjrwmd.com/boardnews/

- Water withdrawal project funding is delayed until studies are completed. (This was previously approved and is now not likely to pass.)
- Indian River Lagoon project is the only project whose funding has increased. All other project's fundings have decreased.
- Average districts homeowner's SJWMD tax cost is about \$62.
- Public hearings on the proposed budget will be held at 5:05 p.m. on Sept. 8 and Sept. 22. Final budget adoption will take place at the Sept. 22 meeting.



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds

Mary Keller Rehab. Ctr. of

The Marine Science Ctr. Chris Wise

Phyllis Lamborn Gina Holt

Maitland, FL

Bird Identification Birds of Prey Center Florida Rare Bird Alert

chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us 304-5545 386-423-1434 plamborne@cfl.rr.com 386-299-5890 hunt4gloria@hotmail,com

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Halifax River Audubon Web Site www.halifaxriveras.org

http://listserve.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html

407-644-0190

AUGUST 2009

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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

HALIFAX COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

ORMOND BEACH GARDEN CLUB

Thank you

For support of our 2009-2010 activities

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

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

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



VOL. 55 - NO. 3 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

SEPTEMBER 2009

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

Dogs on the beach. Now there's a loaded proposition if there ever was one. On one side you have all of the dog owners who think it's just fine to take their dogs to the beach. The salt water probably helps with the flea problem and there's no doubt that most of the dogs enjoy their time in the water, especially the retrievers and spaniels. On another side there are those who worry about irresponsible pet owners who wouldn't dream of picking up after their dog. They envision steaming mounds of dog waste littering the beach. Imagine laying your blanket down and finding a pile some irresponsible bozo had covered with a little sand.

For us bird people there's another side to this debate.

Dogs, in the form of foxes and wolves, are four legged predators to a bird. Their avian brains are hard wired to go into panic mode when a 4 legged predator comes into view. The fact that its name might be "Fifi" and it's a 4 pound miniature poodle with no thought of harming a bird in its fuzzy little head doesn't enter into the equation for the bird.

Don Picard, President of Southeast Volusia Audubon Society, has a suggestion. If the County Council decides to open the beach to dog owners, then restrict that access to areas open to cars. Close both Smyrna Dunes and Lighthouse Point Parks to dogs, as well as keeping them out of the conservation zone. These areas are important to a variety of nesting, resting, and migrant shorebirds, including endangered species. Birds that feed and rest along the shore and share the beach with cars are used to those "creatures." They don't see them as a threat and can get out of the way when they approach. This issue is in its initial stages of study. It'll be interesting to see how it plays out. Stay tuned.

Last January some developers brought a proposal before the Port Orange Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). The Intra Coastal Oasis Marina is to be crammed onto a tiny slice of land along the southeast side of the Dunlawton Causeway. A minimum of 28,000 cubic yards of dredge and fill will be required to create a parking lot for their facility and its nearly 100 boat slips. This represents a reduction from their plan presented in January. At that meeting, the CRA's reaction was very negative. Our hopes soared that perhaps finally there was

a development that wasn't going to be wholeheartedly endorsed by local government.

At the January meeting I pointed out some glaring misrepresentations in their proposal regarding nearby Rookery Island. Apparently they took offense to that because there seemed to be a degree of barely disguised smugness in their latest presentation to the CRA. As their power point scenes flashed across the screens in the City Council chambers, an image of the front page of this publication appeared. It was followed by a second image. These were from the November, 2008 The Pelican and highlighted a story about the "Big Sit." In the story are two sentences that the developers seized upon in an attempt to strangle our opposition to their project. "The causeway park is a beehive of boating and people activities. Yet the birds fit in nicely." This statement is true, as anyone who's been there will attest. But there is a danger of reaching a breal ant. The birds on Rookery Island seem content to share the space with what's in Port Orange Causeway Park now. Cramming a new marina into the area will have any number of unforeseen consequences for the rookery, not to mention ruining the experience of birding the area for those now doing so.

The CRA meeting I attended last night (August 18) was a depressing affair. The same people who showed such distaste for the project in January now seemed positively enthusiastic about it, now that it has been scaled back a tiny bit. It is still an egregious assault on the environment and will cause major damage to the rookery. We will explore our options in preventing that.

Welcome to new members April Rae Anderson, Beverly Ardin, Sandra Beaulieu, Sharon Becker, Anthony Costa, Scott & Anne Darragh, James Fenlon, Joyce Fleming, Christine A. Fritch, Phillip Garrett, Roger A. Grubic, Ben Harrington, Clarise A. Harty, Ms. Regina Inman, Annette Parker, Richard L. Pierce, Ormond Beach Public Library, R. M. Reavis, Daytona Beach Regional Library, Port Orange Regional Library, Ms. Adrien K. Remer, Madeline Riva, Phyllis H. Robertson, Susanne Snider, Kimberly Wallace, and Barbara Young. We hope to meet you when you join us for our program meetings and field trips.

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."

John Muir

ALL ABOUT WILDFLOWERS

The Introduction to the Florida Wildflower Foundation website states, "In the 500 years since Ponce de Leon christened our peninsula 'Florida,' native wildflowers have struggled to co-exist with the pressures of progress. As the state's natural landscape has been increasingly threatened by development – particularly within the last 30 years – some species have vanished altogether. Still others have been classified as endangered or threatened. The Florida Wildflower Foundation's mission is to protect and replenish native wildflowers while increasing public knowledge of them as vital members of the state's delicately balanced ecosystems."

Join us on Monday evening when Lisa Roberts, Executive Director, Florida Wildlife Foundation, will present an overview of the Foundation, their programs, biodiversity of ecosystems and why it's important to replenish Florida's native species. She will include information on how vital wildflowers are to birds and other wildlife.

Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m.; the speaker begins at 7:00 p.m. at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill.



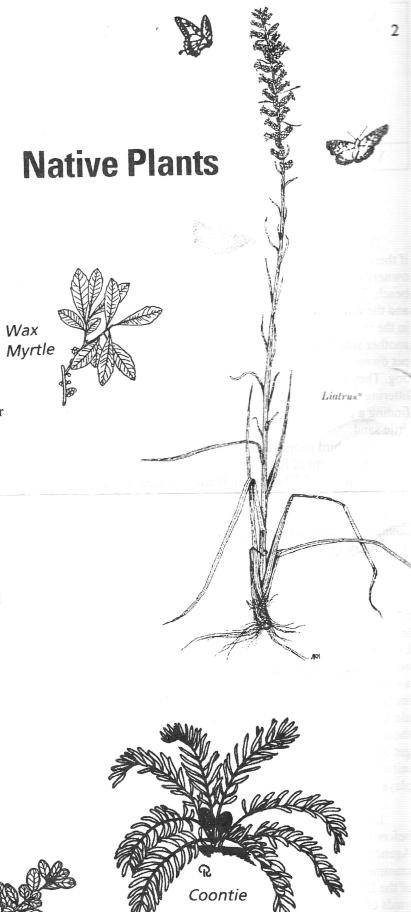
Would you like to share your appreciation of nature with youngsters by stimulating their curiosity? **Audubon ADVENTURES** is a nationally-acclaimed environmental education program of brochures, posters, activities and action tips geared for grades 3 - 6. This year's topic is "Action for Planet Earth".

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.

Yaupon Holly



FALL MIGRATION COUNT

David Hartgrove

Saturday, September 19th, is the date of the Fall 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 that 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 or birdman@earthlink.net

2009 GREEN RESOLUTION

SEPTEMBER: Participate In Coastal Cleanup – Every September thousands of Floridians take part in International Coastal Cleanup Day. It is estimated that litter and debris harm more than one million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals and turtles every year. Help by participating in a coastal cleanup effort near you. Some of the most dangerous items to sea life during the coastal cleanup include: monofilament fishing line, fishing nets, bags, balloons, traps (crab/lobster/fish) plastic sheeting/tarps, rope, six pack holders, strapping bands and syringes. For more information on coastal cleanup go to www.dep.state.fl.us/cmp.

SEPTEMBER 2009 CALENDAR

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) >1 mile walk and/or uneven path. Tuesday, September 8

Halifax River Audubon Board meeting. Note date change.

Saturday, September 12

Halifax River Audubon field trip. International Migratory Bird Count. Meet at 7:00am at Southeast end of City Island parking lot, Daytona Beach. Led by David Hartgrove, 788-2630. Bring lunch. (3)

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society general meeting. "Florida Native Plant Society" by Karina Veaudry, Executive Director. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Saturday, September 19

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society field trip. Haw Creek Preserve, West Flagler County.

Saturday, September 19

"Butterfly and Hummingbird Gardening with Native Plants." Seminar at Full Moon Natives at 1737 Fern Park Drive, Port Orange. 10:00-11:30. Call for reservation at vette@fullmoonnatives.com or 212-9923. Free.

Sunday, September 20

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet at 5:00pm under Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. Led by John Roessler, 212-6957. (1)

Monday, September 21

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "All About Wildflowers" by Lisa Roberts, Executive Director, Florida Wildflower Foundation. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

AUGUST BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a checking balance of \$4,788.64. The fiscal year report was filed for audit.

This year's field trip schedule will be made available for distribution.

Conservation Chair D. tgrove updated news regarding the Miami Corporation property southwest between Edgewater and Mims. Also the Restoration project southwest of New Smyrna Beach has been stalled by the downturn of the economy. The Department of Community Affairs has given serious challenges to a portion of the development.

David also reported receiving emails concerning recent Osprey shootings in the state.

Education Co-Chairs Becky Tate and Marion Monaghan will be requesting donations for purchase of Audubon Adventures kits for classrooms in our area.

President David Hartgrove reported on the status of the Chapter's effort to install newly designated Great Florida Birding Trail signs on the Dunlawton Bridge causeway. He will meet with a Port Orange representative regarding our donation and discuss the placement of the signs on city property.

Vice President Paula Wehr reported that the platform and sign that the Chapter financed have been installed at Summer Pond (located within Tomoka Basin State Park's boundary). Paula showed a photo of the completed bird lookout platform. The platform can be accessed from Pine Tree Drive which runs west off Old Dixie Highway (extension of Beach Street) in the Ormond Beach area.

Publication Chair John Carr discussed the editing and reprinting of the Greater Daytona Bird Watching Guide.

Each year every Audubon chapter is required to develop and publish a plan for how it will accomplish its mission in the following year. We're also required to send in other documents outlining chapter leaders, finances, etc. In an effort to keep all of our membership informed, here's our plan for the next year.

David Hartgrove President & Conservation Chair Halifax River Audubon, Daytona Beach, FL August 12, 2009

ANNUAL PLAN, HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010

Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary

We have been working with both the City of Port Orange and Volusia County to enhance amenities and access to the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary. This sanctuary, which was rediscovered in 2007, was originally proclaimed as a partnership between the Florida Inland Navigation District and what was then known as the Florida Audubon Society in 1960, with the Halifax River Audubon Society serving as sanctuary stewards. Rookery Island, which as the name implies contains a very important water fowl rookery, lies just seventy-five yards south of Port Orange Ca Park. This makes it one of the most accessible rookeries in the state of Florida. The park is Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant so even those with mobility limitations can easily view the birds and their many activities. In order to facilitate this, our chapter holds numerous guided bird walks at the park at various times during the year. We provide both binoculars and spotting scopes and these events are well publicized and open to the public.

Port Orange Causeway Park has recently been designated as stop on the Great Florida Birding Trail. The state has no funding mechanism at this time for signs directing travelers to the park, as was done with the most other stops on the GFBT. We are working with the City of Port Orange and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to erect official GFBT signs along the entrance roads into the park. We will be funding the purchase, and if necessary, the installation, of these signs.

We are also working with the Volusia County Environmental Management Department to replace some information signs on Rookery Island which are currently missing. We assisted in the installation of these signs last year and they've already been stolen. In addition, Volusia County is working with the state to develop what's to be called "The Atlantic Blueway", a trail for canoeists, kayakers, and boaters running the length of the Intra Coastal Waterway. They have asked our assistance in planning and eventually maintaining the trail. This project

is still in the planning and design stages and we are very involved with its development.

Finally, the sanctuary and especially Rookery Island are under serious threat from development plans for privately held properties adjacent to the Port Orange Causeway. We hope that this area can be protected through adherence to existing land use regulations and zoning. But the city has shown a willingness to alter those regulations to accommodate proposals from developers. We are ready, if necessary, to seek redress in the courts.

Environmental Education and Community Outreach

For the past 14 years our chapter has been involved in the Volusia County Schools Environmental Learn and Serve Legacy Project. This began with just a few classes from one high school at what is known as the Rose Bay Project. This piece of property, on a salt/brackish marsh along the west side of US 1, adjacent to Spruce Creek Park, has been developed as a passive park with nature trails, an environmental learning center and an observation platform by the students and teachers of the school district. The driving force behind all of this is one exceptional teacher, Louise Chapman.

We have been providing support by teaching bird identification to students and teachers and volunteering in other capacities. The project was greatly enlarged three years ago and now encompasses a variety of schools from elementary through high school at three separate locations. We went from volunteering one or two times a month to three or four times a week, often driving round trips of nearly 50 miles. We plan to continue our support of this vital program throughout the next year, though our level of participation may be somewhat diminished due to the extensive hours requested. Most of the other persons involved in this project, aside from the teachers, are county employees from the Environmental Management Department and are doing this as part of their work assignments. We have had many great experiences with the students over the years and look forward to doing so again this year.

Our Beginning Birding classes are full each year. They are taught by Ray Scory, a former board member and past President of the New Haven Bird Club in Connecticut. He's an excellent instructor and a number of his former students are now chapter and or board members. These classes are well publicized and held at the local library, so members of the public are drawn into participation with the chapter.

Finally, we have participated in numerous city and county sponsored events where we can get the message of Audubon out to the public. We have participated in Earth Fest, the Earth Day event sponsored by Washington Oaks Gardens State Park, since it began and will again next year. We also plan to participate in the "Wings on the Wind Festival", sponsored by the Volusia County Marine Science Center. We contribute time and financial support

to the bird rehab facility operated by them. We feel that our newsletter, "The Pelican", is one of the best in the state and we continue to receive praise from the community for its content.

Environmental Management & Citizen Science

Our county, like many in Florida, is under immense pressure to bulldoze anything not already designated a park. In fact, several years ago a developer had plans to ask the state for a portion of a state recreation area near the coast for development as a golf course. We continue to work with the other two Audubon chapters here in Volusia County, and with other environmental groups, on issues of conservation of habitat, water quality and access, etc. In addition to the threats mentioned above to the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary, we are watching several other issues. The Miami Corporation has long operated a silva culture operation on their vast holdings which straddle the Volusia/Brevard County line in the southeast portion of the county. They are currently seeking a major change in land use regulations to allow construction of 38,000 new homes in what is now the Farmton Wildlife Management Area. A short distance north of that area lies a proposed development that has gone through several name changes and is currently called "Restoration." Their plans call for major destruction of wetlands and 5,800 new homes, along with several million square feet of retail space. With the recent changes in land use laws that whisked through our ever compliant legislature and were signed into law by the governor, our challenge in conserving habitat is greater than ever.

We will continue our commitment to citizen science through our participation in a variety of bird counts. We have been involved in the Great Backyard Bird Count since its inception. We have been involved in the North American Migration Counts (NAMC) Spring and Fall Migration Counts since 1996 and reestablished the Daytona Beach Christmas Bird Count the same year. We have also participated in shorebird counts sponsored by USF&WS and plan to again in the Spring. We are also involved in an ongoing count to establish baseline data on the property known as "Restoration." We will also participate again in next year's U.S. Nightjar Survey, conducted by the Center for Biological Diversity.

Conclusion

This is an ambitious plan but we feel up to its challenge. We have an excellent board whose commitment is shown in their willingness to participate when asked. All organizations, environmental, community service, unions, etc. face extraordinary challenges today. With the advent of all kinds of new (and now older) media, people are far less apt to become involved in organized activities. We are facing these challenges as best we can and feel we're doing a good job.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS

If you see a red circle around your expiration date on *The Pelican* newsletter mailing label, it means it is time for you to renew your membership.

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 bimonthly 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 and mail with this form to John W. Carr, 359 Brackline Ave, Daytona

APPLICATION TO JOIN HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC

Beach, FL 32118-3311 C9ZE410Z

Chapter-Only Annual dues are \$20.00/ year, and \$15.00/ year per senior citizen or student. All of your membership dues go to Halifax River Audubon, Inc., a Chapter of 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.

The state of the s
Name
Address
AptCity
StateZipPhone
email address
Make check out to Halifax River Audubon, and mail

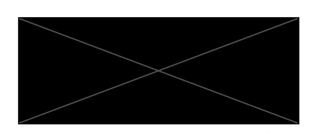
Make check out to **Halifax River Audubon**, and mail with this form to John W. Carr, 359 Brookline Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32118.



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

Post Office Box 166 DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0166

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



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Paula Wehr	Vice President	673-5332	paulawehr@cfl.rr.com
Elizabeth Abrams	Vice President	299-4727	eabrams10@cfl.rr.com
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
	Ways and Means		S
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary	673-7679	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
Karen Mosher	Corresponding Secretary	322-3790	frederickmosher@att.net
John Carr	Membership Secretary	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
	Historian, Publication Ch.		3 (3)
John Roessler	Past President	212-6957	birdman3651@bellsouth.net
			9
Willie Burns	At-Large Class of 2010	253-2150	wwillie@juno.com
John Roessler	At-Large Class of 2010	255-9850	birdman3651@bellsouth.net
Marion Monaghan	At-Large Class of 2011	760-2747	nautilus411@aol.com
Becky Tate	At-Large Class of 2011	677-5255	tatebm@aol.com
Karen Mosher	At-Large Class of 2012	322-3790	frederickmosher@att.net
Holly Zwart-Duryea	At-Large Class of 2012	672-8788	hollis1000@aol.com
M M			
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Joan Anderson	Membership Recruitment		

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds

Bird Identification

Birds of Prey Center

Mary Keller Rehab. Ctr. of

The Marine Science Ctr. Chris Wise

304-5545 Phyllis Lamborn 386-423-1434 plamborne@cfl.rr.com Gina Holt 386-299-5890 hunt4gloria@hotmail,com Dee Ann Snyder 386-761-3262 dedesnyder41@aol.com

And Retention Ch.

David Hartgrove 788-2630 Maitland, FL 407-644-0190 Halifax River Audubon Web Site www.halifaxriveras.org

Florida Rare Bird Alert

http://listserve.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html

chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us

SEPTEMBER 2009

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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

HALIFAX COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

ORMOND BEACH GARDEN CLUB

Thank you

For support of our 2009-2010 activities

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

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

5/NCE 1923

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

VOL. 55 - NO. 4 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

OCTOBER 2009

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

A recent victory in a land development case in Marion County may be a cause for optimism in the growing debate about the Miami Corporation's plans for its property in southeast Volusia. Two women, Susan Woods and Karen Reico, fought a two year legal battle against a developer and his attorneys. They did it without an attorney of their own and beat the odds by using the provisions of the state's Growth Management Act. That's the one that's routinely ignored by regulators at every level of government.

They challenged the proposed amendment to Marion County's "Comp Plan" on the grounds that there was no demonstrable need for the development. It was a 400 acre development that would have plopped 796 homes into an area zoned for just 40. It would have ruined the character of the horse country around it and damaged the environment in the process.

The Department of Community Affairs had originally approved the amendment. These two women gave such impassioned and well researched arguments that the DCA reversed its position. They testified for the women at a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge and the judge found that they had proven their case "beyond reasonable debate."

To call this unprecedented is an understatement. The entire state owes these two women a huge debt of gratitude. The significance of this ruling will have a ripple effect here and all over the state. Their perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds is a lesson to us all that right can triumph over wrong, at least once in a while.

Two years ago I wrote about the annual slaughter of migratory shore and wading birds on the island of Barbados. Lakes and wetlands are staked out by shooters (you can't really call them hunters) who blast away at birds in the air and on the ground. Using live decoys and artificial calls, as many as 30,000 to 45,000 Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, Whimbrels, and others are shot for the "sport" of it each year.

Now, from the American Birding Association's "E-Bulletin", comes information that a couple of former shooters have banded together with support from Bird Studies Canada and Bird Life Caribbean to convert a former shooting area into a conservation site. The 10 acre Packers Conservation Wetland has several ponds and some mixed swamp forest that contains a heron and egret

rookery. Though the shooting will continue elsewhere, there will be a little space of refuge there now.

In another bit of news from ABA, Pacificorp, one of the largest power companies in the West, pleaded guilty to unlawfully killing Golden Eagles, and other raptors and migratory birds in Wyoming. They were ordered to pay a \$510,000.00 criminal penalty, \$900,000.00 to be paid into a fund for raptor research, and to spend 9.1 million to retrofit their facilities to prevent electrocution of birds.

From January, 2007 until July, 2009, 232 Golden Eagles were killed on Rocky Mountain Power facilities, mostly on poles with conductors framed too closely together. They were found guilty of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Here in Florida, FPL (which makes a generous contribution to our chapter annually) has spent large sums trying to prevent bird contacts with energized facilities. The birds most at risk here are Ospreys and Monk Parakeets. I know of only one Bald Eagle killed in our area. That was several years ago at the Volusia County Landfill and FPL had a crew out there 2 days later to reframe the poles to prevent any recurrence.

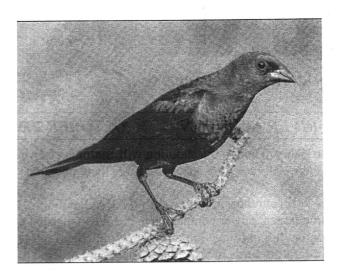
We'll keep you posted on the information regarding development issues. And as we start our next season of meetings and field trips, we hope to see more of you all at both.

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.

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



THE BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD MAFIA

Karyn Hoffman, President, West Volusia Audubon Society, in *The Hummer*, Sep/Oct 2009

When I first started birding, my favorite bird was the Brown-Headed Cowbird. I loved the crazy whistling songs it produced as well as its beautiful iridescent feathers. That was until I happened to pick up an old Audubon birding guide. Unlike my Sibley guide, the Audubon guide said these birds were parasites, leaving their eggs in the nests of other birds. The baby Cowbirds would then compete with the nestlings for food and possibly cause some of the other nestlings to starve because of their bigger size and appetite.

A recently released decade-long stuffy by Jeff Hoover of the Illinois Natural History Survey reveals some interesting information about this parasitic relationship. Hoover wondered why the host birds did not eject the Cowbird eggs or nestlings, and began a studin the Cache River watershed in Southern Illinois using nest boxes for Prothonotary Warblers.

Until this point, it had been assumed that once the Cowbird laid its egg, it moved on and left the host parent to incubate and feed the young. But when researchers removed Cowbird eggs from the Warbler nest boxes, they found the Cowbird parent was lurking nearby and would return to depredate the nest, destroying the host birds eggs. Only 60% of these nests were successful. If researchers left Cowbird eggs in the nests, the success rate was greater than 95%, with less than 6% of accepter nests being ransacked.

When the researchers inserted a piece of wood with a smaller access hole into the nest boxes and then removed the Cowbirds' egg, no nests were ransacked because the Cowbirds were unable to squeeze through the smaller next hole opening to depredate the nest.

The researchers concluded that the reason the host birds allow parasite eggs in their nests is because their own young will have a greater chance of living (because the Cowbirds won't ransack the nests). They also found that the predatory tactics of Cowbirds extended to Warbler nests that had not been parasitized, ransacking unparasitised nests 20% of the time (they call this tactic "farming"), suggesting that Cowbirds do benefit from their own predatory behaviors. It is believed that because of loss of habitat, there will be greater pressure on the more than 100 species of birds that currently accept Cowbird parasitism. Look out Sopranos – the Cowbird Mafia is in town!

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

Treasurer Rachel Ramsey reported a checking balance of \$3,717.89. Membership Secretary John Carr reported 478 current members.

Conservation Chair David Hartgrove reported that the Port Orange Community Redevelopment Agency has stated that it likes the new preliminary plans for the Intracoastal Oasis Marina on the Dunlawton Causeway.

Sica Hall will not be available for our meetings after December. Board will look for a new location.

David Hartgrove announced that he and Willie Burns will man Halifax River Audubon tables at Estuary Day at the Marine Discovery Center in New Smyrna Beach on September 26, Wings on the Wind Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet on November 14 and the Grand Opening for the Lyonia Preserve Environmental Education facility in Deltona on October 17. Volunteers are needed.

Treasurer will disperse the earmarked funds from this year's 50/50 Raffle to the four bird rehabilitators that our Chapter supports.

OCTOBER GREEN RESOLUTION: Make the Switch

- October is energy awareness month, a month where consumers are reminded to make wise energy choices. The easiest way to save energy is to switch from traditional incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent bulbs that reduce energy consumption, generate less air pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If every household in Florida changed just one light to an ENERGY STAR® product, saving would total more than \$37 million in energy costs annually. In addition, Florida could save up to 351 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year, which is enough energy to light all the households in Tallahassee for nearly three years, and prevent almost 540 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions each year. For more energy tips visit:

www.dep.state.fl.us/green/tips/tips.htm#home.

Welcome to new members William Collins, Nancy M Hougendob, Paul B. Hunter, Katheryn P Musette. Clyde Stockeholm, and Rudulfs Treiguts. We are looking forward to meeting you at our program meetings and field trips.

THE BIG SIT

Ray Scory

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

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

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

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

Program Meeting - October 19

HORSESHOE CRABS Their Biology and Their Role in the

Interdependent Web of Life

Beach goers up and down the east coast of the US have probably come across the hardened shell of a horseshoe crab and marveled at it's unique properties.



Join us on Monday, October 19, when Dr. Barbara Battelle from the Whitney Laboratory of the University of Florida will make the presentation which was originally scheduled for February 2009. She will discuss this ancient creature which has relationships with the medical community as well as the avian world.

Refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m.; Dr. Battelle will begin her presentation at 7:00 p.m. at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill.

OCTOBER 2009 CALENDAR

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

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Volusia County Landfill. Meet at 8:00am at Lowes parking lot on Dunlawton Ave. Port Orange, east of I-95. Led by Peggy Yokubonus, 673-7619. Bring lunch. (2)

Tuesday, October 6

Eaglewatch Training. Class for monitoring Eagle nests, by Lynda White, Eaglewatch Coordinator. Sponsored by Flagler Audubon. Center for Marine Sciences Building, Audubon of Florida Room, 9601 Oceanshore Blvd. (A1A), Marineland. 6:30-8:30pm. To participate contact Joe or Judie Dziak at 904-445-8490, or 904-540-2433 or flaglerlibrary.org/Audubon/classes.

Tuesday, October 6

"An Overview of Florida's Environmental Issues" by Clay Henderson, previous President of Audubon of Florida, Senior Counsel with Holland & Knight, and author of *The Floridas*. Volusia County Library Center Auditorium. 105 E. Magnolia Ave., City Island, Daytona Beach. 2:00pm

Saturday, October 10

Native Plant Sale by Pawpaw Chapter of Native Plant Society. Atlantic High School, Daytona Beach. 10:00am-4:00pm.

Sunday, October 11

THE BIG SIT. See article.

Friday, October 16

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Tomoka State park. Meet at 7:00am at Tomoka State Park gate, Ormond Beach. Led by John Roessler, 212-6957. Bring lunch. (2)

Saturday, October 17

"Birdscaping with Native Plants." Seminar at Full Moon Natives at 1737 Fern Park Drive, Port Orange. 10:00-11:30. Learn how to develop a bird sanctuary in your yard using native plants. 1737 Fern Park Dr., Port Orange. Make reservation at 212-9923 or vette@fullmoonnatives.com. Free.

Monday, October 19

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "Horseshoe Crabs: Their Biology and Their Role in the Interdependent Web of Life" by Barbara Battelle, Ph.D., Whitney Lab, University of Florida. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Tuesday, October 20

Pawpaw Chapter of Florida Native Plant Society meeting. "Pollinator Partnership" by Tom Barnett, a Port Orange bee keeper, and honey judge. 7:00pm at Sica Hall Community Center, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Saturday, October 24

"Birds in our Community" by Kathy Paynter, Bird Rehabber. Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. 9:00am to 11:00am. 2045 Mud Lake Road, DeLeon Springs. 386-985-4673 or -0926

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION Garden for Wildlife Website

Common Butterflies

Brightly colored butterflies can be a welcome addition to your wildlife garden, not only because of their beauty, but also because of their usefulness in pollinating flowers.

Attracting butterflies involves incorporating plants that serve the needs of all life stages of the butterfly. They need a place to lay eggs, food plants for the larva (caterpillar), a place to form a chrysalis, and nectar sources for the adult.

Most adult butterflies live 10-20 days. Some, however, are believed to live no longer than three or four days, while others, such as overwintering monarchs, may live six months.

More than 700 species of butterflies are found in North America. Very few are agricultural pests. Adult



Monarch

butterflies range in size from the half-inch pigmy blue found in southern California to the giant female Queen Alexandra's Birdwing of New Guinea, which measures about 10 inches from wing tip to wing tip.

Photo by Meret Wilson

Butterfly tarsi or "feet" possess a sense similar to taste. Contact with sweet liquids such as nectar causes the proboscis to uncoil. Millions of shinglelike, overlapping scales give butterfly wings their color and patterns. Metallic, irridescent hues come from faceted scales that refract light; solid colors are from pigmented scales. During the time from hatching to pupating (forming the pupa or chrysalis), the caterpillar may increase its body size more than 30,000 times. The chrysalises or pupae of many common gossamer wings - a group of butterflies which includes the blues, hairstreaks and elfins - are capable of producing weak sounds. By flexing and rubbing together body segment membranes, sounds are generated that may frighten off small predators and parasites

..... and the Plants they Eat

Acmon Blue - buckwheat, lupines, milkvetch
American Painted Lady - cudweed, everlast
Baird's Swallowtail - dragon sagebrush
Black Swallowtail - parsley, dill, fennel, Queen Anne's
lace, common rue
Cabbago White, mambago of mustard family

Cabbage White - members of mustard family Coral Hairstreak - wild black cherry, American and chickasaw plum, black chokeberry Dun Skipper - sedges, grasses including purpletop Eastern Tiger Swallowtail - wild black cherry, ash, tulip tree, willow, sweetbay, basswood

Giant Swallowtail - prickly ash (Hercules club), citrus, common rue, hoptree, gas plant, torchwood

Gray Comma - gooseberry, azalea, elm

Great Purple Hairstreak - mistletoe

Gulf Fritillary - maypops, other passion vines

Henry's Elfin - redbud, dahoon and yaupon hollies, mapleleaved viburnum, blueberries

Monarch - milkweeds

Painted Lady (Cosmopolite) - thistles, mallows, nievitas, yellow fiddleneck

Pygmy Blue - saltbush, lamb's quarters, pigweed Red Admiral/White Admiral - wild cherries, black oaks, aspens, yellow and black birch

Silver-spotted Skipper - locusts, wisteria, other legumes Spicebush Swallowtail - sassafras, spicebush

Sulphurs - clover, peas, vetch, alfalfa, asters

Viceroy - willows, cottonwood, aspen

Western Tailed Blue - vetches, milkvetches

Western Tiger Swallowtail - willow, plum, alder, sycamore, hoptree, ash

Woodland Skipper – grasses

woodiand Skipper – grasses

Zebra Longwing - FL State Butterfly passion vine

Zebra Swallowtail - pawpaw

Program Meeting - September 21

FLORIDA WILDFLOWER FOUNDATION

Lisa Roberts, Executive Director of the Florida Wildflower Foundation, began her presentation with a photo of the Grand Dame of Wildflowers, Lady Bird Johnson, sitting in a field of wildflowers. Florida is moving toward becoming a second wildflower tourist destination with hopes for an education center in our future where we can showcase demonstration gardens, conduct research and restore habitat.

In the 1960's Florida accidentally stumbled into wildflowers blooming along the roadside when FDOT contracted with a vendor to spread Bahia seeds. The vendor accidentally planted wildflower seeds which produced beautiful blooms. Studies further documented that not only would wildflowers provide beauty and entice visitors, they would also save on road maintenance costs by eliminating the need for constant mowing. Using native ecotypes provides the best chance for the plants to thrive in the heat and drought. FDOT officials continue to monitor the roadside plans to ensure the wildflowers do not create safety hazards by restricting sight lines.

The Florida Wildflower license plate can be purchased for an additional \$15 over the price of a standard tag. Over \$2 million has been raised over the past six years from tag sales. These funds have created jobs and restored habitat, while educating residents and visitors alike.

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

Presents

NNER BIRD WATCHING



2009

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.

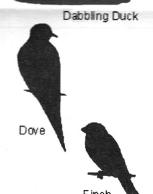
Donation: \$25.00 check, payable to Halifax River Audubon, is due October 23, 2009. Mail to:

> Halifax River Audubon P.O. Box 166



Daytona Beach, FL 32115-0166

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.



Classroom instruction will be held on Friday October 30, November 6 and November 13 at 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sign up with a friend, or make a new one, and have lunch after the class.

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

Tuesday, November 3 - 8:00 a.m. at Port Orange Bridge Tuesday, November 10 - 8:00 a.m. at Spruce Creek Tuesday, November 17 - 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.

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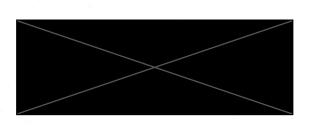


HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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OCTOBER 2009



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	And Retention Ch.		

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds

Bird Identification

Birds of Prey Center

Mary Keller Rehab. Ctr. of

The Marine Science Ctr. Chris Wise

Phyllis Lamborn Gina Holt

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Halifax River Audubon Web Site www.halifaxriveras.org Florida Rare Bird Alert

http://listserve.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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SINCE 1913

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

VOL. 55 - NO. 5 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

NOVEMBER 2009

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

The recent vote by the Volusia County Council in favor of the proposed development of the Farmton property by its owners has caused all kinds of grief in the local environmental community. The Miami Corporation is the largest land owner in the county. That they would get their way with the local government was seen as a sure thing by anyone who's watched development issues over the years. The grief I mentioned is caused in part by the sheer size of the planned development: 29,000+ homes and millions of square feet of commercial space plopped down in what is now a pine plantation, wildlife management area, and wetlands mitigation bank. Under current land use regulations, they're only permitted around 4,000 units. So the deal has been sweetened by the promise of the largest conservation set aside in the state's history.

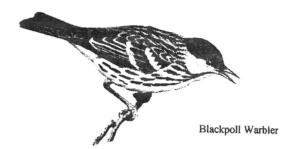
Clay Henderson, one time President of the Florida Audubon Society, and Charles Lee, the current Director of Advocacy of Audubon of Florida, put in many long hours negotiating the deal. They believe it's the best that can be achieved and have lobbied hard for its acceptance.

The involvement of Audubon of Florida in this issue has caused a serious rift in the local environmental community. Our chapter and Southeast Volusia Audubon Society believe we're giving away far too much in the form of increased density. West Volusia Audubon Society saw things differently. They seem to agree that the benefits, nearly 40,000 acres set aside in a conservation easement managed by a partnership that includes Audubon, outweighs the destruction that will be caused by this gigantic give away of development rights. Under the regulations, the county could require the currently permitted 4,000 units to be clustered so that even more land would end up in conservation if the rules were stringently enforced.

Sierra Club, the Environmental Council of Volusia/Flagler, and Wetlands Alert, all groups we've partnered with on development issues in the past, feel betrayed.

In spite of the rhetoric that has been flying back and forth through cyber space, this is not a simple black and white issue. Something was going to be put there. Like it or not, the owners have a right to develop their property and state law gives them all of the aces in the game. The men who parlayed their past and present connections to

the environmental movement into a position of influence over the outcome of this deal did so with the best of intentions. They believe that unless we lock up land in state sanctioned conservation entities, or own it, it will be bulldozed. They may be right. But that doesn't make this outcome any easier to swallow.



November 16 Program Meeting

WOOD WARBLERS

Nearly forty species of Wood Warblers breed in eastern North America. Although some, like the Palm and Yellow-rumped warblers, are abundant winter residents in Florida, most are intercontinental migrants that winter in the American tropics. In spring they journey to northern forests to breed. Smaller than a chickadee, some, like the Blackpoll Warbler, cover thousands of miles from northern Canada to South America - nonstop over the Atlantic Ocean. Suddenly and ephemerally abundant during spring migration, a glimpse of a Blackburnian Warbler or an American Redstart has turned many casual observers into hard-core birders.

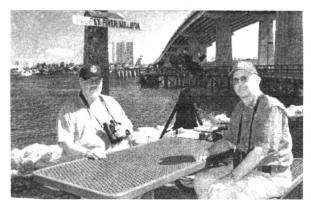
Naturalist and photographer Chuck Tague will explore the life-style of these birds, their habitats and threats to their survival on their breeding grounds, their winter range and the many stopovers in between

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

Welcome to new members E. Allan, Gerald & M. Althouse, Lorena M. Blackwell, Patricia Blankenship, George Colby, Elizabeth Cronin, Trish Harbord, Gertrude Hopper, Alan Hovey, Tara Jalazo, Robert W. LaFlamme, Pamela Lampard, Margaret Leone, Doris Lettman, Ronald Meuse, Joseph Nelson, Patty Page, Donna Peterson, Nanette Rocha, Aliene M. Turner, Louise V. Vianen, Victoria M. Washe, and Robert Wood.

THE BIG SIT STORY

Ray Scory



When John Carr and Ray Scory do THE BIG SIT at the Dunlawton Bridge, it's more about seeing through the obstructions than about moving slowly and whispering quietly (Yikes, don't slam the car door!) to find their avian quarry.

Sitting next to a boat ramp parking lot in a 17-foot circle under a bridge on a busy Sunday in sweltering heat for 12 hours, doesn't elicit a picture of a pristine birding experience dripping in Nature's splendor.

A huge bridge overhead blocks half the sky, but Rock Pigeons roost there and once in a while a raptor will scatter the slumbering flock. Sunday a Merlin did.

Boats up and down the river, some exceedingly noisy and fast, scatter waterbirds from the oyster and sand bars, but Caspian and Royal Terns, American Oystercatchers, Willets, gulls and many other shore birds use these wonderful resting and feeding areas. We didn't count the Bald Eagle that flew across the river because the bridge was in the way. Also, we did not list the three Notucin Cardinals at the end of the parking lot because our scope doesn't see through a line of parked cars.

Yes, we did have many obstructions to getting a clear view of the birds, but that is the fun of it - to identify all the birds you can see and hear from your circle. Isn't that THE BIT SIT way?

The people we meet at the bridge are interesting, courteous and friendly. The park under the bridge is clean and well cared for by the town of Port Orange and the volunteer police security is professional and always helpful. John and I enjoyed being with all the people who visited the bridge on THE BIG SIT Sunday. It was a great birding day at the bridge.

On Sunday, October 11, 38 species of birds came to the bridge and were included on our list. Next year the bridge will host us again.

To find 2009 THE BIG SIT results, go to:

www.birdwatchersdigest.com, then > Birding Fun (at top
of home page), > click on "The Big Sit," > on left side
click on "View Big Sit Results," > search through "2009
Results." See results of our day - photos, story and results.

NOVEMBER 2009 CALENDAR

Trip difficulty ratings. (1) Easy or no walking. (2) <1 mile walk. (3) > 1 mile walk and/or uneven path. Thursday, November 5

Flagler Audubon program meeting. "Bird Wood Carving" by Joe Dziak, N. Schomberg, and Bart Larose. Meeting Room A or B, Florida Hospital Flagler (SR100 Palm Coast west of I-95). 6:30pm

Saturday, November 14

Wings on the Wind Bird Festival. Live raptor programs, exhibitors, lectures, bird-related arts and crafts, nature-inspired artworks, kid's activities. Rehabilitated bird will be released at 3 p.m. Marine Science Center, Ponce Inlet. 10:00-3:00.

Sunday, November 15

First day of Project FeederWatch. See article.

Monday, November 16

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "Wood Warblers" by Chuck Tague, Founder/Publisher Nature Observer News and member of Halifax River Audubon. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Friday, November 20

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Lake Apopka. Caravan led by Field Biologist Harold Weatherman. This site has listed 194 species in a Christmas Bird Count. Meet at 7:00am at International Square Shopping Center, International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach, east of I-95. Led by Ray Scory, 763-4260. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, November 21

Flagler Audubon field trip. Shiloh Marsh/ Merritt Island. Contact 904-540-2433.

Saturday, November 21

Southeast Volusia Audubon fielod trip. Lake Woodruff NWR. Contact Gail Domroski. 1-386-428-0447. B ring lunch. (3)

Sunday, November 22

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet at 5:00pm under Dunlawton Bridge. Port Orange. Led by Willie Burns, 253-2150. (1)

Sunday, November 29

"Christmas in the Garden" by Pawpaw Native Plant Society. Sugar Mill Garden. Noon to 4:00pm.

Friday, December 4

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Black Point
Drive, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Mee
7:00am at Lowes parking lot, Dunlawton Ave. Port
Orange, east of I-95. Led by Ray Scory, 763-4260.
Bring lunch. (2)

Saturday, December 5

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Black Point
Drive, Merritt Island NWR. Meet 7:00am at Lowes
parking lot, Dunlawton Ave. Port Orange, east of 195. Led by John Roessler 212-6957. Bring lunch.

LAWN FLOWERS A BONUS TO CONSERVATION

R.P. Haviland

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

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

Actually, there are steps to help the natural process the mast important of these is to stop using the mast important of these is to stop using the mast important of these is to stop using the mast and strubs. The purpose of weed the mast the plants adapted to the area from the mast the plants adapted to the area from the plants is based on these intruders. The belt this process along, keep mowing, but set the mast beight about one inch higher than usual for impacted lawns. This gives the new plants more time to assess and more body to withstand adverse conditions.

Some advocates of xeriscaping also say, stop madeling fertilizer. But for any recently developed area, it street sary to keep applying fertilizer: it is likely that the and consists of sod from a sod farm, grown in a layer of sludge, with the harvested sod simply laid over the was sand left after the lot was cleared. Older areas will make a build-up of organic material in the soil, especially The gress clippings have not been carried away. But the dark organic layer is at least six inches thick, lentitizer is necessary. Just don't use the common and 5-5-6 mixture: the first good rain will take it to the water body, to increase the algae growth so canals and city ponds. Use a slow-release more expensive but longer lasting and far less managing. It may be a good idea to add some trace if the fertilizer doesn't include these. A common is called frit, a glassy sand made by pouring blast mace slag into water. One application lasts for years.

The change n the lawn may be gradual or quite invasive plants will appear and may die back the time the lawn is mowed. But plants adapted to short will prosper, gradually taking over. Some will be

creepers, a fairly large plant, but never more than a few inches above the ground. Others will be small, with many present. It is not uncommon to count a dozen species in a square yard. Flowers will appear, almost hidden in other vegetation. One of the first is a Florida violet. Others will have small yellow, white or blue flowers.

The most likely sudden change is an infestation of cinch bugs if the original lawn is the common St.

Augustine grass, an import from Texas. It turns brown as the bugs devour the sap of the plant, and dies. If the large brown patches are unsightly, sow annual ryegrass as a temporary measure, to last until native grasses take over. Rye will die off during the winter months.

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

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

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

Haviland, an environmental activist and retired engineer, lives in Daytona Beach. This letter was published in Daytona Beach News-Journal 09-29-03 (For a full list of native plants in our region, visit the Native Plant Guide at eNature.com.)

CRAZY RED-SHOULDERED

Halifax River Audubon member Pat Mehalic Yesterday (October 8) we were watching two Redshouldered Hawks that were flying back and forth across the pond (Yorktown Drive in Port Orange).

There were about a dozen black ducks and Wood Ducks in the pond, four Canadian Geese and a couple of dozen White Ibis around the pond. The ducks were congregated in one area near the bank when one of the hawks decided it was time to take a bath. He flew down in the middle of the ducks and started taking his bath.

Now the strange part. The ducks went over to him and just stayed there while he flipped around on the edge of the pond wetting himself all over.

Then it became even stranger when the Canadian Geese swam across the pond to the hawk (who was still among the ducks) and chased him away.

Husband Joe and I were amazed.

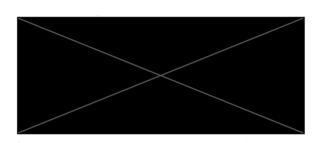


HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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Bird Information and Web Site

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David Hartgrove

Maitland, FL

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NOVEMBER 2009

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STINCE 1923

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VOL. 55 - NO. 6 NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

DECEMBER 2009

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

As we approach the year's end, it's time for a review of some of the major conservation issues we've worked on. The two biggest are the Miami Corporation's property, which straddles the Volusia/Brevard County line and encompasses 59,000 acres, and what's now being called the Intra Coastal Oasis Marina. This is to be built on 4.5 acres of submerged land between Seabird Island Mobile Home Park and Rookery Island, on the southwest side of the Port Orange Bridge.

The first issue, the Miami Corporation property, is called Farmton. They operated a pine plantation on the property, along with the state designated Farmton Wildlife Management Area, and the Farmton Mitigation Bank. The latter is the largest wetlands mitigation bank in the country. The Volusia County Council recently approved a request to the Department of Community Affairs in Tallahassee for an amendment to the county's Comprehensive Plan.

There has been no demonstration of need for this development. That is required by state law to amend our Comp Plan and DCA has already denied several other requested amendments for failure to meet this standard. It's a classic example of urban sprawl, which our Comp Plan is designed to discourage. Farmton lies entirely within the Natural Resource Management Area and has no urban infrastructure. Nearly this entire parcel lies with the 100 year flood plain. Note that the county's land development code states, "Increases of density and intensity shall be discouraged with the 100-year floodplain."

The Farmton developer is requesting an increase in density. Under the current code, if the county exercised its regulatory authority and required clustered development, a total of 4,692 residential units could be built. They are requesting a density increase to 19,800 single family homes and 4,250 rental apartments. This total doesn't include the requested increase in commercial, industrial and infrastructure development of roughly four million square feet. All of this is to be placed in the middle of what has been, up to now, a pine plantation and wildlife management area.

If this doesn't equate to the kind of sprawl Comp Plans are supposed to be in place to prevent, I can't imagine what would. We await the decision by DCA on the amendment.

The second conservation issue of our concern is the Port Orange City Council's recent approval of a planned 102 boat slip marina to be constructed just west of the boat ramp in Port Orange Causeway Park. This is within the boundaries of the Port Orange Wildlife Sanctuary and just a short distance from Rookery Island. Those of you who've been on our frequent bird walks at this newest stop on the Great Florida Birding Trail at the Dunlawton Bridge know what a treasure the place is and can no doubt imagine how devastating it will be when a new marina is crammed into that area.

One of the justifications mentioned by the Council members for approving the plan is the proposed removal of the brazilian pepper trees that currently block the view of Rookery Island and the adjacent sand bar from some vantage points. When I spoke before the Council in opposition to the plan, I told them that if we'd known they wanted the trees removed, we'd have been glad to volunteer the labor to do it.

Since the revised plan addressed a number of objections the city staff had to the original plan, the Council staff recommended approval. The City Council voted unanimously to approve the rezoning request. There will be a second reading of the ordinance next month. I'll be there to again plead for rejection this time around. There are several other chances to prevent this damage to the Sanctuary when the permits are reviewed by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Protection. Stay tuned.

Welcome to new members E. Allan, Gerald & M. Althouse, Toby L Beger, Lorna M. Blackwell, Ricardo Eliecer Bornacelli, Monica Brown, Anlynzie Childs, Tamera Clancy, Nancy Cobb, George & Connie Colby, Elizabeth Cronin, Mary Alice Crutt, Jae Gates, Trish Harbord, Pamela J. Hasterok, Harry A. Hildebrandt, Alan & Sue Hovey, M. Johansson, Margaret Johnson, Thelma Jones, Robert W. Laflamme, Pamela Lampard, Doris Lettman, Phil Mastin, Ronald Meuse, Joseph Nelson, Virenda R.Nyberg, Patty Page, Donna Peterson, Sharon Piers, Janet Proffitt, Nannette Rocha, Joan Schmidt, Aliene M.Turner, Frank Van Laethem, Louise V. Vianen, Victoria M. Washe, Mrs. Tobey M. Wilson, Robert Wood, Melanie Woods, and the William D. Young Family.

Tomoka State Park Bird Banding Station - November 13

FRIDAY THE 13TH ...

Meret Wilson

... Has ALWAYS been my lucky day and today was no exception. Because many of you in the Daytona area may be interested in finding this bird this weekend, I am sending out a special email that will not go on the banding website at this time.

The last bird of the day was caught at 11:15 (ignore the time stamp on the photos as my camera does not update for EST) in net 33. I believe I caught an Audubon's Warbler on Helicopter Island on the left side of the road, in the last net BEFORE the chain. I released it by the picnic table in the little circle off to the right where the fishermen often go.

I called John Carr to come over to the park because I had his number and he was the closest to the park in order to verify my capture. I took 55 photos of which I am including here only the very best ones. All the photos will be sent to Andy Kratter for review when I locate his email address.

The bird appears to be a fall, adult male using the criteria from Peter Pyle's ID of North American Birds, the bander's bible. I have taken 2 feathers for Stable Isotope studies in California. The bird had no fat and appeared to have used some of muscle as well. It was alert and appeared in otherwise good shape.

John Carr, Bill Horton and I speculated how this bird arrived in this net. Tracing the normal migration route of an Audubon's Warbler, it probably was in or near TX when Hurricane Ida came off of Honduras and was swept up into the winds, made landfall and took another ride on the winds eastward until encountering our NW winds yesterday and was carried to Tomoka State Park. As I say, this is only a speculation since this is a bird that normally is found west of the Rocky Mountain Range.

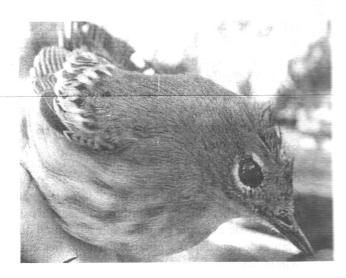
Due to the muscle condition and lack of fat, and maybe nowhere to go, I would expect the bird will stay in the park for a few days to muscle and fatten back up.

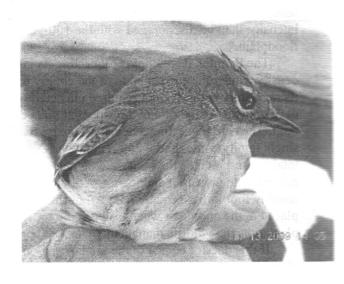
The park opens at 8:00. The banding station will be closed but you will be able to find the area by looking for the wrapped nets. Hopefully some of you will find it if you come out. Look for a federal aluminum band on the right leg. Helicopter Island is the next road on the right past the entrance to the campgrounds.

Just as an aside: we had over 300 American Robins come in, well over 1000 Tree Swallows fly over us, and no fewer than 300 Myrtle Warblers come over all before 8:00. I also caught an Orange-crowned Warbler, a Yellow Palm Warbler, and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Yesterday nosing around near the old visitor's center in the mist I located 2 Blue-headed Vireos. The Cedar Waxwings arrived last week in a flock of 25 and can be spotted moving around the park.

Audubon's Warbler







DECEMBER AND JANUARY CALENDARS

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

Friday, December 4

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Black Point Drive, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 7:00am at Lowes parking low on Dunlawton Ave. Port Orange, east of I-95. Led by Ray Scory, 763-4260. Bring lunch. (2)

Saturday, December 5

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Black Point Drive, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 7:00am at Lowes parking low on Dunlawton Ave. Port Orange, east of I-95. Led by John Roessler, 212-6957. Bring lunch. (1)

Monday, December 7

West Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Wild Acres, Lake County. Meet at 9:00am at Ed Stone Park on Hwy 44 at the St. John's River. Bring lunch. Contact Vivienne Powis at 216-9361.

Saturday, December 12

Right Whale Project talk with photos, video. Whitney Lab in Marineland. 3:00pm. Contact Joy Hampp 904-461-4058 or marinelandrightwhale@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 12

Bird Walk with Veronica. 2-hour walk. Fort Matanzas National Monument. Also Fort Cannon firing on Fort tours except 9:30 and 4:30.Contact http://www.nps.gov/foma or 904-471-0116.

Friday, December 18

Flagler Christmas Bird Count. See article.

Saturday, December 19

West Volusia Christmas Bird Count. Dinner at DeLand Woman's Club, 128 West Michigan Ave., DeLand. See article.

Monday, December 21

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "Birding Daytona: A Florida Sunshine Adventure in the Greater Daytona Area" by Ray Scory. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Potluck Dinner at 6:00; program at 7:00pm. See article.

Saturday, December 26

Daytona Beach Christmas Bird Count. Meet at 7:00 at Southeast end of City Island parking lot, Daytona Beach. Led by David Hartgrove, 788-2630. Bring lunch. See article. (3)

Saturday January 2, 2010

Ponce Inlet Christmas Bird Count. See article.

Thursday, January 7, 2010

Flagler Audubon Society program meeting. "Pelagic Birds Seen from Shore" by Michael Brothers. Meeting Room A or B, Florida Hospital Flagler (west of I-95 on SR100 Palm Coast). 6:30pm.

Friday, January 8

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Merritt Island NWR. Black Point Drive Meet at 7:00am at Market Square parking lot Edgewater, Ridgewood Ave. & 442 between Dunkin Donuts & Chic-Fil-A. Call Gail Domroski 1-386-428-0447. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, January 9

Southeast Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Merritt Island NWR. Biolab Road. Meet at 8:00am at Market Square parking lot Edgewater, Ridgewood Ave. & 442 between Dunkin Donuts & Chic-Fil-A. Call Gail Domroski 1-386-428-0447. Bring lunch. (1)

Saturday, January 9

West Volusia Audubon Society field trip. Lake Apopka. See Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, teals. Meet at 8:30am in the NE corner of the Post Office parking lot on East New York Ave. (SR44), to carpool. Contact Harry Robinson by December 22 at 386-943-8342 and leave message with name and phone number for call back.

Sunday, January 10

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Dunlawton Bridge. Meet at 4:00pm under Dunlawton Bridge, Port Orange. Led by Elizabeth Abrams, 299-4727. (1)

Friday, January 15

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Viera Ponds. Meet at 7:00am at Lowes parking lot on Dunlawton Ave, east of I-95, Port Orange. Led by John Roessler, 212-6957. Bring lunch. (2)

Friday, January 15 - Friday, February 19

Upland Master Naturalist Class (Volusia Co.) See www.masternaturalist.org for more information.

Saturday, January 16

Flagler Audubon Society field trip. Orlando Wetlands. Contact 904-540-2433.

Monday, January 18, 2010

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "Wild Florida, a Photographic Look at the Flora and Fauna of Natural Florida" by Paul Rebmann, member of Pawpaw Chapter, Native Plant Society, and Halifax River Audubon. Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill. Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Saturday, January 23

Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. "Shore Birds" by David Hartgrove. 9:00am to 11:00am. 2045 Mud Lake Road, DeLeon Springs. 386-985-4673 or -0926.

Saturday, January 23

Flagler Audubon Society bird walk. Shorebirds. Meet at Matanzas Inlet. 8:00am. Contact 904-540-2433.

December 21 Program Meeting

BIRDING DAYTONA SHOW

Ray Scory

"The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence." It may seem so, but is it always true? Earl Nightingale, a famed motivation speaker, authored a classic parable called "Acres of Diamonds." It is a story of a farmer, unhappy with his unproductive farm, who sells it and moves out to find riches in other lands. After many unsuccessful years searching throughout the world he dejectedly returns to his homeland, only to discover that the buyer who bought his farm is now very wealthy. He has discovered diamonds on the property. The parable's underlining theme is "bloom where you are planted."

His message can apply to bird watching as well. Interesting birds can be found right where you are. By nature, bird watchers are explorers. We like to go to interesting places where the birds are. However, we needn't wait to see interesting birds by venturing to faraway places. Even though birding distant lands is memorably rewarding, we can find interesting, beautiful birds right here in the Greater Daytona Area.

"Birding Daytona" is my show-time expression that brings together a love for photography and a strong interest in bird watching. For the past ten years, I have wandered within an hour's drive of my home and photographed birds, scenery and interesting details. I feel privileged to photograph the birds that make the Daytona area their home and the birds that fly through.

For my slide show production, "Birding Daytona," I consider the Greater Daytona Area my "Acres of Diamonds." Over ninety different species of birds are featured in this show.

Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm; Ray will begin the program at 7:00 at Sica Hal, 1065 Daytona Avenue, Holly Hill.

Editor's Note: Ray is a member of Halifax River Audubon and has taught many Beginner Bird classes for our chapter. He and his wife Jane live in Port Orange. He was a professional photographer in Connecticut where he was active in the New Haven Bird Club.

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

David Hartgrove

As you may know there are 3 CBC's held here in Volusia. I hope you'll be looking to take a break from the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation to come out and help out with ours.

The Daytona Beach count will be held on Saturday, December 26. 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 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 3 other CBC's to participate in locally and the compilers could certainly use your help on those if you're so inclined.

- The Flagler CBC will be held on Friday, December 18. Contact Walt Mahler, 386-313-6095.
- The West Volusia CBC will be on Saturday, December 19. Contact David Stock, 386-736-9893 or dstock@stetson.edu.
- The Ponce Inlet CBC will be held on Saturday, January 9. Contact Don Picard, 386-957-1886 or dpicard@cfl.rr.com.

Please come out and join us on one or all, but especially ours. And have a great holiday!

HOLIDAY DINNER PROGRAM

Our annual Potluck Dinner will take place on December 21 at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave., Holly Hill.

Hospitality Chair DeDee Blanchard announced that the Chapter will furnish the main dishes and desserts for our dinner. Members are asked to bring appetizers, side dishes and salads.

Dinner will start at 6:00pm. The program will start at 7:00pm. Call DeDee if you have questions.

Audubon Adventures

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

Green Resolution for DECEMBER: Decorate Green

Instead of buying plastic and glass holiday decorations, try making your own ornaments that can be reused or recycled.
 Create ornaments made from old greeting cards or cookie dough, garlands made from strung popcorn or cranberries, and potpourri made from kitchen spices such as cinnamon and cloves.

BEST CHAPTER CONSERVATION PROJECT

At the state convention of Audubon of Florida, our chapter won an award for our project to make Summer Pond on Pine Tree Drive in Ormond Beach available to the public. Part of Tomoka State Park, the pond had been barely visible from the road with no parking area until we and a bunch of volunteers cleaned it up. A parking area, signage (map, information signs and bird identification sign), pathway, bridge and platform have made it available to nature lovers. To visit the pond drive north on Beach Street from Granada Avenue, turn left on Pine Tree Drive and look for the sign for Summer Pond on the right.

Those who worked together to make it possible are Halifax River Audubon (especially Bob North and Paula Wehr), Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Program, Seabreeze High School Future Builders, Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail, Save The Loop, Florida State Parks, Legacy Project, and AmeriCorps and other volunteers.



Detail of completed platform

Program Meeting - November 16

WOOD WARBLERS

Warblers are those brightly colored little birds flitting from limb to limb in the high canopy of leafy trees. They are also drab little birds hopping in the leaf litter under shrubs and in the grasses beside paths. They are secretive little birds hiding in the mid-story of low-growing shrubs, singing and calling, yet unseen. They are all these things and more - the cause of "warbler neck," a painful spasm felt by birders who stand in one spot too long with their necks bent almost backward to watch birds in the high canopy. The challenge of identifying such small birds which are so difficult to keep in focus of the binoculars is the reason some birders go out day after day in the spring and fall. They are among the smallest songbirds, ranging from the four-inch Northern Parula to the largest warbler, the Yellow-breasted Chat which is 7.5 inches. They are misnamed because "warble" means to sing or trill with melodic embellishments. The songs of most New World Warblers are simple, buzzy and sometimes insect-like.

Chuck Tague, HRA member and long-time bird enthusiast, presented an extensive display of striking photographs of all the New World Warblers, explaining that Old World Warblers have 10 outer primary feathers to the 9 outer primaries on the birds we all know as Wood Warblers.

Approximately 37 species of wood warblers can be found in Florida annually. Only twelve species breed here regularly. Five are permanent residents and thirteen are regular winter residents. Many wood warblers are insectivores which follow the emergence of leaves northward during spring migration. Other warblers, like the American Redstart, have bristles around their beaks which assist in snagging insects on the fly. These bristles are actually modified feathers.

Chuck noted that Brown Cowbirds often use the nests of wood warblers to lay their own eggs, resulting in the destruction of the warbler chicks. Yellow Warblers utilize the same habitat as Red-wing Blackbirds which turns out to be a good association because the Red-wings don't tolerate the Brown Cowbirds. This aids in the success of the Yellow Warbler nests.

To learn more about wood warblers, join Meret Wilson at the Tomoka Bird Banding Station (see http://www.halifaxriveras.org/Tomoka_Bird_Banding.htm.) Or join HRA for a field trip during spring or fall migration. The field trip schedule is posted at http://www.halifaxriveras.org/Field_Trips.htm.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

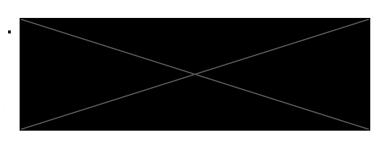
- Checking balance is \$4,250.26.
- Golden Dog sales profit is \$660.96.
- Current membership is 494.
- 20 Audubon Adventures kits will be ordered.
- Conservation Chair David Hartgrove reported that the City of Port Orange has granted approval for the marina project at the Dunlawton causeway. He also noted that the Farmton development has been passed to the Department of Community Affairs and that Audubon of Florida has given its OK for the project.
- Southeast Volusia and West Volusia Audubon Societies will donate \$100 each for awards at the Volusia County Science & Engineering Fair. David Hartgrove will be a judge.
- Board moved to donate \$1000 in start-up help for proposed Wildlife Rescue and Education Center and Gopher Tortoise Hospital in DeLand, and an additional \$250 for membership, and to continue with a \$250 yearly membership donation thereafter.
- Paula Wehr and Peggy Yokubonus reported on the Audubon Assembly. Our Chapter won this year's Conservation Award.
- Board moved to donate \$50.00 to the Port Orange
 Friends of the Library for our use of the facility for the
 Beginning Birding Class.



HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
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Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds

Mary Keller Rehab. Ctr. of

The Marine Science Ctr. Chris Wise

chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us 304-5545 Phyllis Lamborn 386-423-1434 plamborne@cfl.rr.com Gina Holt 386-299-5890 hunt4gloria@hotmail,com 386-761-3262 dedesnyder41@aol.com Dee Ann Snyder

788-2630

407-644-0190

Bird Identification Birds of Prey Center

Florida Rare Bird Alert

Halifax River Audubon Web Site www.halifaxriveras.org

David Hartgrove

Maitland, FL

http://listserve.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON

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HALIFAX COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

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Thank you

For support of our 2009-2010 activities

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

Chapter Meetings - Meetings are held the Third Monday of each month, September through June at Sica Hall, Holly Hill. 1065 Daytona Ave., at 6:30 p.m. Members and Guests

! Board meets at Dickerson Heritage Library at 411 S. , Daytona Beach, at 1:30 p.m. on the first Monday of th. All are welcome. See Calendar for dates and

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