THE PELICAN

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

VOL. 50 - NO. 11 ***NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON*** ***MAY 2005***

May Program

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF TIGER BAY STATE FOREST

Paula Wehr

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

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

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

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

APRIL BOARD MEETING ACTIONS

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

Actions:

- Lois Robinson reported proceeds to date from the Bird-A-Thon. Plans to apportion the funds was deferred to the August meeting. List of the 128 bird species found will be listed on the Chapter web site.
- The year-to-date proceeds from Willie Burns' Golden Dog book sales is $1,022.87. The profit from the Dora Canal trip was $130.
- The Board voted to discontinue publication of *The Pelican* in June and July.
- At the Earth Day celebration at Washington Oaks Gardens State Park April 23-24, **HRA** will set up a telescope so visitors can view birds, especially a Red-tailed Hawk nest. Members will sell Golden Dog items.
- The Chapter will charter two 12-passenger vans for the Ft. DeSoto trip rather than a bus because only 19 people have signed up. Sleeping rooms, meetings rooms and catering have been arranged.
- The Board gave Madeline Shaddix authority to purchase a new feeder for Sugar Mill Gardens, John Roessler will install it and Barbara Kieran and Diane (head of the volunteer program at Sugar Mill) will take responsibility for filling and maintaining the feeder(s). Barbara requested that members donate field guides, new or used, to be placed in the Sugar Mill Library for use by visitors and guests. She will also contact Eagle Optics to learn if they may be willing to donate binoculars to the Library.
- David Hartgrove donated a copy of the DVD HRA Birds of Backyards, Beaches and Byways for use by **HRA** members who speak to other organizations. Lois will use it in her "Beginner Bird Class" each fall.
- Pat Mihalic explained the Universal Tag Program for the benefit of new Board members. Following discussion, the Board reiterated its support of this program. A letter of support was generated several years ago when this program was first introduced. The Universal Tag Program ordnance will go before Halifax County Council for enactment this fall.

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

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

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

MONTHLY PROGRAM MEETING APRIL 18, 2005

Paula Wehr

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DORA CANAL FIELD TRIP

Willie Burns

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CALENDAR 2004-2005

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

Note:

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

Thursday and Friday, May 5-6

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

Saturday, May 14

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

Monday, May 16

HRA Program Meeting. Speaker Cathy Lowenstein, Forestry Resource Administrator. "Environmental Importance of Tiger Bay State Forest." Sica Hall, Holly Hill, 6:30pm.
NOTE: Members present will vote on slate of officers for 2005-2006 Chapter year.

Tuesday, May 17

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

Saturday, May 21

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

Sunday, May 22

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

Saturday, May 28

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

Monday, June 6

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

Tuesday, June 14

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

Tuesday, June 21:

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

THE SPRING MIGRATION COUNT

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

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

BUTTERFLY FIELD TRIP

Carol Branch

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

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

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

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

PEREGRINE FALCONS NESTING

Willie Burns

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

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

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

Here is the address for the Falcon cam home page: www.dep.state.pa.us, then one scrolls down and clicks on "Falcon cam" on the right side of the page. www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon should take you directly to the site without scrolling.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

****

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

****

DONATIONS REQUESTED FOR CASEMENT"S "CHRISTMAS WALK"

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

BIRDATHON PARTICIPANTS WE THANK YOU!

Lois Robinson

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

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

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

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

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

Birdathon Song written by Carol Branch

THE DIXIE CHICKADEES SONG

(*To The Tune Of The Hokey Pokey*)

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

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

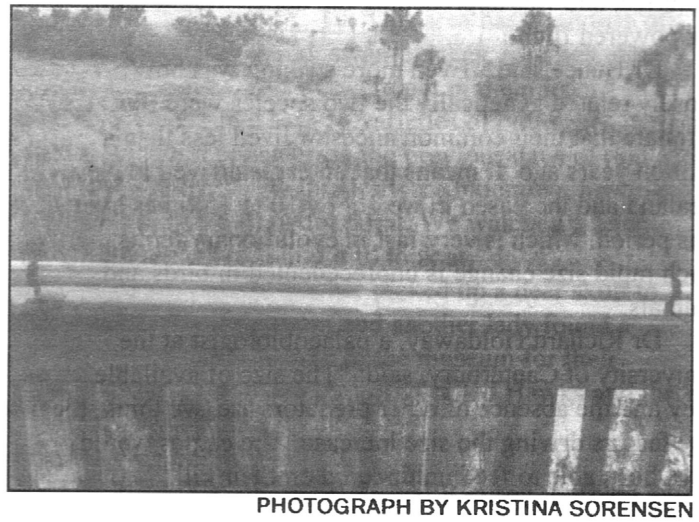
From *Woodruff*, newsletter of Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR, Inc. Spring 2005.

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

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

PHOTOGRAPH BY JERRY PACE

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



PHOTOGRAPH BY KRISTINA SORENSEN

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

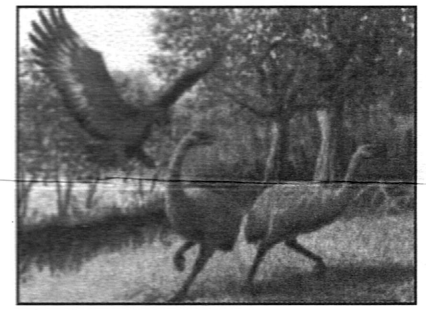
HUGE EAGLES 'DOMINATED NZ SKIES'

Alex Kirby, BBC News

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BIRD SONG

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

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

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

-- Laura E. Richards

Conservation Notes

David Hartgrove

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

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

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

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

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

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

If an eight year old says he wants to pour gas all around the school house and light it, some figure of authority is supposed to step in and say, "No." Legal authority flows downhill from the US Constitution. Congress and the federal government have powers that trump those of the states. States have powers that trump those of local governments. The counties are supposed to have the power to protect us from the abuses of our local governments when that becomes necessary. Why then are some people in the County offices in DeLand seeking ways to accommodate Deltona's greedhead grab for more land?

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

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

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

Mark Your Calendar!

Audubon Assembly 2005
October 21-22

At Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort
Special rate: $89.99/night. Parking and resort fees are free.
Reserve rooms now at 800-206-2724.
Special Audubon rate good through September 28 only.

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

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

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

Mary Keller, "The Bird Lady"

Pat Mihalic

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

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

THE PELICAN

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

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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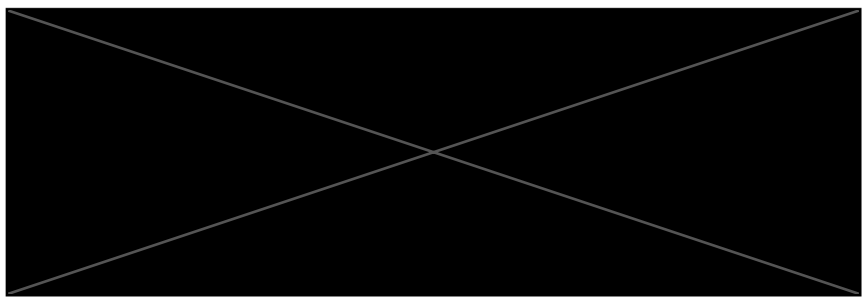
Daytona Beach, FL



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President and Board

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Madeline Shaddix	Vice President	761-0301	meshaddix@aol.com
Lois Robinson	Treasurer Past President	760-8480	msrobn512@juno.com
Open	Recording Secretary		
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Bird Information and Web Site

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

May 2005

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

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