THE PELICAN

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

VOL. 55 - NO. 8 *NEWSLETTER OF HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON* FEBRUARY 2010

CONSERVATION NOTES

David Hartgrove

We've been concentrating on local issues over the past several months. I thought it was time to see what's going on in the rest of the country in birding news. Massachusetts Audubon has a monthly electronic newsletter called the "Birding Community E-Bulletin", by Paul Baicich and Wayne Petersen. Here are a couple of brief bits you may not have heard about.

In California, several Audubon chapters, along with the American Bird Conservancy and others, went to court to halt Los Angeles County's plan allowing a Trap, Neuter, and Release program that encourages the establishment of feral cat colonies. In June 2005, the L.A. Board of Animal Services Commissioners adopted TNR as the "preferred method of dealing with feral cat populations as its official policy." The lawsuit filed by the above mentioned groups sought a cease and desist order until an environmental assessment is completed. Such an assessment is required under state law there and Los Angeles County chose not to follow the law in this case. Scientists estimate that domestic cats may be responsible for as many as 1 billion bird deaths annually.

That claim will be one of many now subjected to scientific review during the environmental assessment required under the California Environmental Quality Act. All parties in this debate claim science is on their side. I'm afraid the plaintiffs are about to learn a lesson about kicking a hornet's nest when it comes to stirring up the cat lovers of the country. Here's what one of our founding fathers had to say on the subject: "[T]ouch a solemn truth in collision with a dogma of a sect, though capable of the clearest proof, and you will soon find you have disturbed a nest, and the hornets will swarm about your legs and hands, and fly into your face and eyes." - John Adams, 1814.

Also from the Bulletin comes news that some of our migrant birds stop over in Mexico for a second nesting opportunity. In an article published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, researcher Sievert Rohwer and his colleagues, have discovered that at least five species - Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Orchard Oriole, Hooded Oriole, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Cassin's Vireo - regularly engage in a second breeding season during their stopover in the lowland thorn forests of coastal Sinaloa and Baja California Sur before reaching their western Mexico wintering destination. This second nesting occurs during the local monsoon season, which lasts from June through August. How this discovery will impact bird conservation plans remains to be seen. You can find the archives of the Bulletin at www.refugenet.org/birding/birding5.html. It's well worth a look.

February 15 Program Meeting

BOSQUE DEL APACHE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

"I saw them first many Novembers ago and heard their triumphant trumpet calls, a hundred or more Sandhill cranes riding south on a thermal above the Rio Grande Valley, and that day their effortless flight and their brassy music got into my soul." .... Charles Kuralt

The Friends of Bosque del Apache website states that "Charles Kuralt loved the Bosque del Apache NWR. He visited the Refuge many times and featured it on his Sunday Morning television show often. His vivid memory of first experiencing the Sandhill Cranes rings true with all of us who also love this beautiful oasis."

Join us for our February 15 meeting when David Baker, retired teacher of Earth and Environmental Sciences, will present a photographic show about the birds of Bosque del Apache at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will begin at 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: The location of the meeting is changed from Sica Hall to Trinity Lutheran Church, 1205 Ridgewood Avenue, Holly Hill.

Welcome to new members Abbie Alexander, Jerry Ballard, Chesley Bennett, Joye Berger, Elizabeth Brown, Andy Corriveau, Kate Counts, Lori & Darrell Doughty, Dianne Edgar, Betty Goldkamp, Marie Herrmann, William Klug, Patricia A. Lang, Debora MacDonald, Lois McDaniel, Jessie A. Partington, George R. Patingre, Sylvia Richey, Conrad A. Roberts, Eleanor Rossero, Katie Rodgers, Betsy Smith, Josh Tomlinson, Jan Turp, and Dottie Viorde. We are looking forward to meeting you at our program meetings and field trips.

Audubon Adventures for Kids

Marion Monaghan and Becky Tate

Thanks to the generous donations of HRA membership, fourth graders in 21 Volusia school rooms are enjoying *Audubon Adventures* this school year.

This year's *Audubon Adventures* program "Action for Planet Earth" is designed to engage and inform young people about America's natural treasures - our rivers, streams, and wetlands, our forests, prairies, and mountains, our lakes and oceans. The focus is on "action for planet Earth".

February 2010 Calendar

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

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Flagler Audubon Society program meeting. "Beach Combing: Not Just the Seashells" by Maia McGuire. Meeting Room A or B, Florida Hospital Flagler (west of I-95 on SR100 Palm Coast). 6:30pm

Friday, February 5

Flagler Audubon Society bird walk. Shorebird survey. Flagler pier. 7:30am. Contact 904-540-2433.

Friday, February 12

Halifax River Audubon field trip. Biolab Road at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 7:00am at Lowes parking lot on Dunlawton Ave, east of I-95, Port Orange. Led by John Roessler, 255-9826. Bring lunch. (2)

Saturday, February 13

"Bird Bonanza" at Lyonia Environmental Center. Michael Brothers leads expedition to find flighty Florida Scrub-Jay and co-habitants of the scrub. 9:00am. Free with paid admission to LEC. Reservation required - call 386-789-7207.

Monday, February 15

Halifax River Audubon program meeting. "Birds of Bosque del Apache" by David Baker, Retired Earth and Environmental Science teacher. **Note new location: Trinity Lutheran Church, 1205 Ridgewood Ave., Holly Hill.** Refreshments at 6:30pm; program at 7:00pm.

Saturday, February 20

"Reptiles of Lake Woodruff" by Boyd Blihovde, Refuge Manager. Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. 9:00 to 11:00am. 2045 Mud Lake Road, DeLeon Springs. 386-985-4673.

Saturday, February 20

Florida Scrub-Jay Festival. Lyonia Preserve Environmental Learning Center. See article.

Saturday, February 20

Southeast Volusia Audubon field trip. Orlando Wetlands Park. Meet at 7:00am at Market Square parking lot Edgewater, Ridgewood Ave. & 442 between Dunkin Donuts & Chic-Fil-A. Contact Gail Domroski 1-386-428-0447. Bring lunch. (3)

Tuesday, February 23

West Volusia Audubon Society program meeting. "Birds and Bird Anatomy" Dr. David Stock, Stetson University. Women's Club of DeLand, 128 West Michigan Ave., DeLand. 6:30pm, program and refreshments.

January Board Meeting

- Checking account balance is $5,789.05.
- Golden Dog December sales profit was $172.
- Current membership is 526.
- John Roessler will lead February 12 field trip to Merritt Island NWR.
- Letter from Tom Pelham, Dept. of Community Affairs was read. This was in response to HRA's letter opposing approval of Comp Plan change requests by the Miami Corp. for the Farmton project. DCA has responded to Brevard & Volusia Counties with recommendation to reject the change requests.
- The City of Port Orange approved the re-zoning for the Port Orange Marina. However, Dept. of Environmental Protection & Corp. of Engineers has not yet replied regarding additional permits needed.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission plans to establish a Volusia Shorebird Partnership. Board discussed whether to focus study on winter birds or nesting shorebirds.
- Volusia County Science & Engineering Fair will be held on January 30 at Atlantic High School. Halifax River, SE Volusia and W Volusia Audubon chapters will each send a judge and $100 check. Fred Mosher and Tom Arbogast are judges from HRA..
- Chapter's 24-month CD is maturing. Treasurer will check on current rates and decide whether to reinvest or let it roll over.
- Ray Scory will man a table to promote the Beginner Birding Class at the Port Orange Library's Clubs & Hobbies Fair on January 23.
- Chapter received a thank you letter from ARK's Wildlife Rescue and Education Center in DeLand regarding HRA's donation.
- Celine Sullivan will man the Membership Table at monthly meetings during Joan Anderson's absence.
- David Hartgrove will send a letter of support to The Nature Conservancy about the failure of the 2009 legislature to fund the Florida Forever Coalition.
- DeDee Blanchard is unable to provide refreshments at the January meeting.

BIRDING IN PANAMA - Part 2

By David Hartgrove, on his November 7-day trip to Panama

Saturday was relocation day. We were off to Canopy Lodge. We took a 2 hour stop at the Panama Canal, at Mira Flores Locks, to tour the museum and watch a small boat transit the locks. Located at around 2,500 feet, at the base of the cloud forest, it's a bit cooler and it rains more frequently at the Lodge. The facility is beautiful. A mountain stream flows through the property and platform feeders are kept stocked with bananas. So the **Clay-colored Robins, Thick-billed Euphonias,** and **Scarlet backed Tanagers** are constantly in view, along with **Collared Aracari,** and **Chestnut-backed Oropendula**. Sunday morning we headed out in a slight drizzle to a spot further up the mountain and got **Yellow-faced Grassquit, Rufous-capped Warbler**, and some of "our" birds that winter in Panama, like **Tennessee Warbler,** and **Eastern Wood Pewee.**

After lunch we went to the town down the mountain, Valle De Anton. We stopped in at a house that belonged to Domi's in-laws to view their resident **Tropical Screech Owl**. We then went to the market for souvenirs and on to a last stop where we got **Lineated Woodpecker**, and the real prize of the day, a **Tody Motmot**. This is another of those very difficult to see Central American birds and it took a long time to find it. While we were waiting for the motmot to appear, we were treated to yet another lifer, the **Violet-crowned Woodnymph**. This striking little hummer (are there any other kinds?) was at times no more than 10 feet from us.

Breakfast was at 5:30 on Monday morning. We were heading out on a long trip to El Cheru. This area is in dry forest and pasture, where we got **Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Savanna Hawk,** and **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl**. Raúl Arias de Para, our host and owner of both the Lodge and Tower, has a lovely beach house at Santa Clara. We went there for lunch and most of us took a swim in the Pacific for the first time. Fishermen were hauling nets nearby and we had fresh fish appetizers that night at dinner.

After lunch we drove through a pouring rain to some rice fields at a spot called Juan Hambron. Here we got **Gray-necked Wood-Rail, Striated Heron,** and **Lance-tailed Manakin**, among many others. There were more **Crested Caracara** here than I've ever seen in one place. After another harrowing ride up the too narrow mountain road, dodging pedestrians, bicycles and oncoming traffic, we had a delicious dinner and it was off to bed. We did stop to watch the **Orange Nectar Bats** as they worked to empty one of the hummingbird feeders.

Our last full day started out near the top of the mountain where we got the **Orange-bellied Trogon, Black-faced Grosbeak,** and **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis**. As we were finishing lunch, a steady rain began to fall. That made for a damp ride for those who rode the zip line at the nearby Canopy Adventure. I opted out at the last minute and relaxed at the lodge. This decision meant that I missed seeing the **White-Hawk** and **White-ruffed Manakin** that the others saw after their exciting ride down the line in the rain. Dinner that night was a memorable affair with lots of laughter and the sharing of memories.

Our flight home started with a wake up at 4:00 a.m. It's a long ride from Canopy Lodge to the airport through morning rush hour traffic. Aside from the men hawking lottery tickets to drivers at traffic lights, it's pretty much like any rush hour here. We arrived in Orlando as a cold front blew into town with a rain storm. That drop in temperature felt very good after a week in the tropics. Our hosts were gracious, the food was good and we all came home with a much longer list of life birds, mine by 162. Yes, I would go back.

Photo by David Hartgrove

Collared Aricari

Florida Scrub-Jay Festival

February 20th will be the first year of the Florida Scrub-Jay Festival dedicated to celebrating the Florida Scrub-Jay, the **only** bird **only** found in Florida! Learn more about this charismatic bird, which is a threatened species, and its unique scrub habitat, and other interesting wildlife.

The festival will offer live music in the Deltona Amphitheater, guided nature walks in Lyonia Preserve, presentations and activities for children in the Environmental Learning Center (LEC), and environmental displays in the Deltona Regional Library auditorium

The festival will be held at the Lyonia Preserve LEC from 9am to 3pm. Admission to the festival, the environmental center and Lyonia Preserve will be free.

Indoor activities

- Kids Activities
- Scrub-Jay Habitat
- Scrub-Jays at Lyonia Preserve
- Prescribed Fire
- Scrub Insects
- Jay Watch

Field Trips

- Prescribed Fire
- "Early Bird" Scrub-Jay Walk
- Scrub-Jay walks (6 walks scheduled)
- Kids Walks (2 scheduled)
- Natural History Walk (I and II)
- On-Site Land Management
- Plant Walk

Entertainment

Susie Cool, Stuart Hall, Vic de Giorgio, KZ Zuckerman, Matt Tuten's Flat Mountain Band.

Also available at the Lyonia Environmental Center are the Bagel King Café and a gift shop.

The Preserve is at 2150 Eustace Ave., Deltona. Directions from Daytona Beach area: West on I-4, Left on Howland Blvd (#472, exit 114), Right on Providence Blvd (#4155).

Photo by Danny Bales

Big News about Wetlands Restoration

Eric Draper – Audubon of Florida

This January 55,000 acres of land were reclaimed and will be restored to wetlands and panther habitat. Many organizations joined Audubon of Florida at the ground breaking on the Picayune State Forest failed development at the south end of the western Everglades about two miles east of Naples.

The 70,000 acre Forest is comprised of two recreational tracts, the Belle Meade Tract (an equestrian tract) and the Sabal Palm Hiking Trail. Another tract is the infamous South Golden Gate Estates Tract.

Florida Division of Forestry Article excerpt

"Picayune Strand State Forest was originally logged for cypress trees in the 1940's and 1950's, and then in the 1960's, a developer purchased over 57,000 acres to create the largest subdivision in American to be called "Golden Gate Estates". A massive system of canals and roads were built and thus began the infamous "swampland in Florida" scam.

"Potential buyers were flown over the area during the dry season then subjected to high pressure salesmen who were selling lots averaging 2.5 acres apiece. Most of the land south of Interstate 75 could never be developed due to the summer flooding, and the development eventually went bankrupt.

"In 1985, a plan was put into place to purchase South Golden Gate Estates using Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) funds under the "Save Our Everglades" program. This was an incredibly large undertaking as it involved acquiring land from 17,000 landowners. In 1998, the federal government gave 25 million dollar in aid to the state of Florida to help bring the land acquisitions to a completion. Once the land acquisition is completed, hydrological restoration activities will begin in earnest. This will restore the sheetflow of freshwater that is necessary for the continued existence of the ecologically sensitive Ten Thousand Islands and the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve."

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT
FEBRUARY 12-15

From **Sharing our Recipes**, published by Halifax River Audubon Society, Inc. 1999.

BIRDS EAT TOO

Garden Recipe for Birds and Butterflies — Mary Keller

Fresh water (still and moving)
Trees, shrubs and bushes of different heights
Flowering vines
Colorful flowers
Bird feeders and bird houses
Fallen leaves
Wild area
Small area of moist mud
Small bare area with exposed dirt

Have clean water in high and low bird baths. A pond, small or large, with running water or waterfall is also excellent. Plant trees around the area, then place shrubs and bushes of different height levels to afford cover, protection and even food for birds and butterflies. Blackberries, elderberries and raspberries are good to plant among the trees. Flowering vines, like Trumpet Vine, along with other colorful flowering plants not only add beauty to the yard, but make a good food source for birds and butterflies. Bird feeders can be stocked with seeds, fruit and suet treats and hung from poles or trees. Apples and oranges are especially good fruit treats. Fallen leaves, if raked off the yard, should be piled in an area under trees or in borders and left for butterflies which over winter in leaf litter. The leaves will provide shelter for bugs and larvae under them. Leave a small part of your yard wild where a lot of weeks can grow and produce seeds that birds eat. Butterflies love to get salt from moist mud. Birds love dust baths which you can provide by leaving a small clear place for that purpose.

NOTE: The Mary Keller Seabird Rehabilitation Center at Ponce Inlet is named for long-time bird rehabilitator.

Bird Bread — Pat Mihalic

3 lb can lard
2 C peanut butter
2 24-oz pkg corn meal
2-3 lbs sunflower seeds or hearts (optional)
2½ lb wild bird seed (optional
1½ lb cracked corn (optional)
1 lb raisins (optional)
Flour

In a large kettle over medium heat melt shortening and peanut butter. Remove from heat. Stir in the cornmeal. Add sunflower seeds or hearts, birdseed, cracked corn and/or raisins, if desired. Add flour to thicken if necessary. Pack into 32-oz yogurt cartons or other plastic containers. Store in the refrigerator.

Fruit Spikes — Pat Mihalic

Any fruit such as oranges, apples, bananas, etc.
Finishing nails

Put finishing nails on tree. Spear fruit that has been cut in half onto nails. Watch for Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Northern Mockingbirds, Northern Cardinals, grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, Bluejays and may other species to enjoy this special treat.

Suet Cakes for the Birds — Madeline Shaddix

1 lb lard (no substitution)
28 oz crunchy peanut butter
4 C oats
4 C corn meal
1 C flour
¼ C sugar
1 C raisins (optional)

Melt lard and peanut butter in large pot over low heat. Remove from heat and add oats, corn meal, flour, and sugar and mix well. Soak raisins in a little water until they are plump, drain and add to mixture. Pour mixture into a flat pan that leaves the mixture 1 to 2 inches thick.

Chill in the refrigerator until firm enough to cut into pieces. These pieces can be any size you wish, preferably about 3- or 4-inch squares, small enough to be eaten before they can spoil. Wrap pieces with plastic wrap, put into a plastic bag and freeze until used. Wrapping them individually keeps them from freezing together and makes them easier to handle later. Put the pieces on a platform feeder.

NOTE: There is a problem with the cakes; the birds love them and quickly devour them, especially during the time they are feeding nestlings. Therefore, it is a good idea to double the recipe. Raisins attract Mockingbirds, Carolina Wrens and other birds that do not usually frequent seed feeders.

Pine Cone Treat — Marie Oglesby

Pine cone
String
Peanut butter
Bird seed
Raisins (optional)

Tie string securely to pine cone. Smear cone with peanut butter, then roll cone in bird seed and raisins. Tie to a tree branch.

Popcorn Treat — Marie Oglesby

Unpopped popcorn
Needle
Heavy thread

Pop unbuttered, unsalted popcorn. Using long needle and thread make strings of popcorn and drape over tree limbs and bushes. May also be placed loose in feeding area.

THE PELICAN

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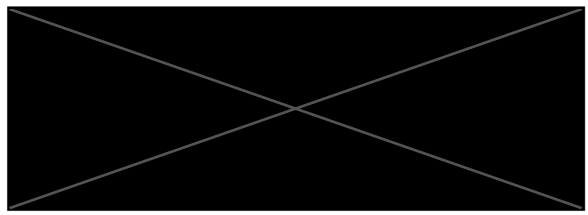

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FEBRUARY 2010

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HALIFAX COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB

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COLONIAL COLONY

Thank you

For support of our 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, FEBRUARY, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1205 Ridgewood Ave, Holly Hill, 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.

President and Board

David Hartgrove	President Conservation Ch.	788-2630	birdman9@earthlink.net
Paula Wehr	Vice President	673-5332	paulawehr@cfl.rr.com
Elizabeth Abrams	Vice President	299-4727	
Rachel Ramsey	Treasurer Ways and Means	673-1037	gmamimi@cfl.rr.com
Peggy Yokubonus	Recording Secretary	673-7619	yokubonus@bellsouth.net
Karen Mosher	Corresponding Secretary	322-3790	frederickmosher@att.net
John Carr	Membership Secretary Historian, Publication Ch.	255-9360	jcarr14@juno.com
John Roessler	Past President	255-9826	birdman3651@bellsouth.net
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
Marion Monaghan	Co-Education Ch.	760-2747	nautilus411@aol.com
Becky Tate	Co-Education Ch.	677-5255	tatebm@aol.com
John Roessler	Field Trips Ch.	255-9826	birdman3651@bellsouth.net
Dedee Blanchard	Hospitality Ch.	673-6541	dedee@clearwire.net
Paula Wehr	Webmaster	673-5332	paulawehr@cfl.rr.com
Fran Carr	Newsletter Editor	255-9360	franniep@juno.com
Joan Anderson	Membership and Retention Ch.	761-2888	jnjanderson3@juno.com

Bird Information and Web Site

Injured Birds Mary Keller Rehab. Ctr. of The Marine Science Ctr.	Chris Wise	304-5545	chriswise@co.volusia.fl.us
	Phyllis Lamborn	386-423-1434	plamborne@cfl.rr.com
	Gina Holt	386-299-5890	hunt4gloria@hotmail,com
	Dee Ann Snyder	386-761-3262	dedesnyder41@aol.com
Bird Identification	David Hartgrove	788-2630	
Birds of Prey Center	Maitland, FL	407-644-0190	
Halifax River Audubon	Web Site	www.halifaxriveras.org	
Florida Rare Bird Alert		http://listserve.admin.usf.edu/archives/frba.html	