

The Pelican

For wildlife & people since 1923

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November, 2019



Comments & Conservation Notes

I attended the Audubon Assembly in Gainesville last month and heard some encouraging news. The state legislature has finally accepted that we have a serious problem with water quality. Those of us in the environmental movement have been trumpeting this issue for decades and hearing the sounds of crickets in response from elected officials.

I think the deciding factor came in 2017 when the south end of the Indian River, near Stuart, was suddenly covered in a foul smelling goo with the consistency of guacamole. Suddenly those multi-million dollar water front mansions were unsellable because potential buyers ran screaming in the opposite direction. There were multiple causes for this environmental disaster, untreated storm water runoff being one.

One of the workshops I attended was titled "Treatment Wetlands." These are man made wetlands designed to allow storm water or treated waste water to flow through a series of ponds where aquatic plants bind up and remove pollutants from the water column. A couple of examples of these facilities include Viera Wetlands in Brevard County, Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Palm Beach County and Sweetwater Wetlands in Alachua County. All three of these places, in addition to others around the state, have become tourist destinations for the birding opportunities they offer. So not only do they offer a low cost option for cleaning waste water, they've become revenue engines for the local tourist economy. When Sweetwater Wetlands was being considered the other option for Gainesville was to spend 45 million dollars expanding their existing treatment plant. Instead they spent 25 million building the wetlands and last year over 9,000 people came from outside Alachua County just to go birding there. In addition, some had driven far enough that they decided to spend the night so over 1,200 spent money to stay in a hotel. That's the kind of good news local chamber of commerce types pay attention to.

There was also good news on the conservation lands issue. Audubon has long worked with ranchers and farmers to try to ensure that their lands can stay in agriculture. The problem often is one of increasing land values that drive up tax bills to the point that it makes no sense to maintain a ranch or farm on the property. Another workshop I went to was titled "Trees, Cows and Wetlands." We were told that Audubon and agricultural property owners are approaching the state legislature to increase funding for the Rural and Family Lands program and for Florida Forever. Working together we might just be able to get adequate funding to insure a better future for the state and those coming after us.

David Hartgrove

Calendar & Events

Monday, November 18th, Program Meeting- Dream Green Volusia is an organization dedicated to finding solutions to our problems with single use plastics. Join us when founder, Suzanne Scheiber, gives us a presentation on the group's activities and how we can all become a part of the solution. We meet at Sica Hall, 1065 Daytona Ave, Holly Hill, FL 32117. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there.

Field Trips

Friday, November 1st, Lake Apopka- Join Peggy Yokubonus for this trip to one of the state's premier birding destinations. There's very little walking on this one. Bring a lunch and we'll meet for carpooling at Int'l Square - East of I-95 on Int'l Speedway Blvd. behind Krystal. Questions? Call Peggy, 386-316-4085.

Friday, November 8th, Guana River Preserve- Join Joan Tague for this trip to St Johns County and some fine birding in a maritime hammock and in pine flatwoods. We will meet to carpool at Ormond Town Square, 1464 W Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach, behind Chick-Fil-A. Bring lunch. Questions?, Call Joan, 386-871-6049.

Thursday, November 14th T M Goodwin Marsh- Join David Hartgrove for this trip to a special place in south Brevard County. Gray-headed Swamphen, Crested Caracara and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks are our target birds. Then for lunch we'll go to Marsh Landing, located in the historic Fellsmere Land Company building. We'll meet to carpool at Target, East of I-95 on Dunlawton Avenue behind Panera's in Port Orange. Questions? Call David, 386-235-1249.

Upcoming Out of Town Trips

We'll have two overnight trips this season: January 7th-10th to St Marks NWR and April 21st to the 24th to Fort DeSoto. We'll stay at [Shell Island Fish Camp](#), 850-925-6226, for the St Marks trip. For Fort DeSoto we have a block of rooms reserved under the Halifax River Audubon name at the [Holiday Inn, St Pete West](#), 727-322-0770. It's not too early to begin planning for these two exciting trips. Last year we had a fantastic time at both locations. We hope you'll join us.

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From the Quotable Birder

"The sparrow is sorry for the peacock at the burden of its tail."

Rabindranath Tagore

Over this past summer the board began considering an update of our chapter's bylaws. We owe a special word of gratitude to Holly Zwart-Duryea for the many hours she put in researching and rewriting our bylaws. We will vote on their adoption at the November meeting. In keeping with the bylaws we're required to publish them in the Pelican before the vote.

BY-LAWS

of

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC.

Article I: Name and Affiliation

This organization shall be a not-for-profit corporation known as the HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. and shall be a chapter of the National Audubon Society. The relationship between this Chapter and the National Audubon Society shall be governed by the Chapter Policy. Neither Chapters nor National shall enter into any commitment binding on the other without written authorization to do so.

Article II: Purpose

Through education and advocacy, HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. fosters understanding and care of the environment that provides quality of life for people and wildlife.

Article III: Membership

HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. membership shall consist of three categories of members: National Members, Chapter-Only Members and Honorary members.

Section 1: The National Audubon Society membership shall include membership in Audubon Florida and HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. and shall pay annual dues to the National Audubon Society. Memberships shall receive the official publications and have all other membership privileges of those societies with which such membership is maintained. National dues are established by the National Audubon Society.

Section II: Chapter-Only membership shall be in HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. only. Chapter-Only members shall have the full privileges and voting rights as the National Audubon Society members in the Chapter functions. Chapter-Only dues shall be established by the Board of Directors of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. These monies are to remain in the Chapter.

Section III: Honorary members of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. shall be elected by HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. in recognition of outstanding service in the promotion of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. objectives. Their membership shall be continuous from the time of their election and there shall be no annual dues required. They shall have no voting privileges in HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. unless they are joint members with the National Audubon Society, thereby becoming voting members of the local chapter.

Section IV: The membership year for members shall be from the time of enrollment in the National Audubon Society or Chapter-Only to the anniversary of their enrollment. Delinquent membership status shall be as defined in the By-laws of the National Audubon Society.

Article IV: Meetings

Section I: Chapter membership meetings of the HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. shall be held monthly from September through May each year on dates established by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: The Annual Meeting of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. shall be the chapter membership meeting in May at which time the program shall include elections and such business as the membership may desire.

Section 3: The time and place of the chapter meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors or the President.

Article V: Board of Directors

Section 1: The control and conduct of the property, business, long term objectives and overall policies of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. shall be vested in a Board of Directors. The elected officers of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. The remaining members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed by the President subsequent to discussion and approval by the Board of Directors. When a new president assumes office, the past president shall remain a member of the Board of Directors for one additional year.

Section 2: Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the first Monday of every month or as directed by the Board of Directors. Additional meetings may be called by the President or a quorum of the Board of Directors when deemed necessary.

Section 3: A simple majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. The Board of Directors shall conduct business by majority vote, provided a quorum is present. In the event of a tie vote, the presiding officer, who shall normally not vote, shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 4: All expenditures of the HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. shall be in accordance with a Board of Directors approved budget or shall be approved by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article VI: Officers

Section 1: The Officers of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of members, occurring in odd years, and assume their duties immediately following the close of the meeting. They shall hold office for two years. The President may not succeed himself for more than one term for a total of two consecutive terms. In case of a vacancy occurring among the officers before the end of their term of two years, the office may be filled for the balance of the term by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: The President shall conduct the meetings of the HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. and its Board of Directors and supervise the work of other officers and, in cooperation with them, the work of all committees, and appoint the chairmen of all committees and any replacements for them that may be necessary.

Section 3: The Vice-President shall assist the President by giving leadership and supervision of the chairmen of the committees assigned to them, and shall substitute for the President as directed by the Board of Directors whenever he is unable to perform his duties.

Section 4: The Secretary shall prepare minutes of the meetings of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. Board of Directors. The minutes shall be made available for uploading onto the Chapter's website accessible by HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. Board of Directors for the carrying on of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. business. The Secretary shall perform any other such secretarial duties as HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. directs.

Section 5: The Treasurer shall receive and deposit in a public bank all funds of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC., and make all payments of the HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. funds as directed by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all financial transactions of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. and report all receipts and disbursements to HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. and its Board or Directors at their regular meetings.

Article VII: Nominating Committee

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall annually appoint at the February Board of Directors meeting the Nominating Committee to consist of at least three members of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. The names of the members of the Nominating Committee shall then be made known to the members of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. in the March issue of the HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. newsletter and suggestions for nominations for members of the Board of Directors and officers may be submitted to such committee by any other members of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC.

Section 2: The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for officers of the HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. and shall present its slate of nominees to the membership at the April chapter meeting. This slate of nominees shall also be published in the HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. newsletter prior to the May chapter meeting.

Section 3: In case any member of the Nominating Committee shall be unable to serve, then the President shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy.

Section 4: The month of May shall be designated as the Annual Chapter Meeting of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC., at which time the election of new officers shall take place. Prior to the actual election, the presiding officer shall call for additional nominations from the floor. The newly elected officers shall assume their duties at the start of the new fiscal year.

Article VIII: Standing Committees

Section 1: A Membership Committee shall conduct membership campaigns and bring into HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. all who are interested. It shall also be the duty of the committee to maintain a current membership roster.

Section 2: A Program Committee shall make all plans and arrangements for the meetings of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON INC.

Section 3: A Field Trip Committee shall organize and arrange for the appropriate conduct of field trips.

Section 4: A Publicity Committee shall strive to secure through newspaper, radio, TV and other media the maximum of publicity covering the activities and objectives of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC.

Section 5: A Conservation Committee shall endeavor to keep HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON INC. informed of conservation developments and legislation on local, state and national governmental levels and submit recommendations to the Board of Directors for their consideration and possible action.

Section 6: An Education Committee shall endeavor to promote the interest of youth in nature and conservation by whatever means deemed effective.

Section 7: The Historian shall keep a continuous record of the highlights of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON INC. activities, field observations, inventory and location of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON INC. property and personal history of its leaders.

Article IX: Finances

The Fiscal Year of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON INC. shall run from July 1 to June 30.

Article X!: Amendments

Section 1: These By-laws may be amended at any chapter meeting of HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. by a majority vote of those members present and voting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given at a previous meeting and in any subsequent regular official HALIFAX RIVER AUDUBON, INC. newsletter.

Section 2: A copy of any amendments to these By-laws shall be submitted to the National Audubon Society with the next annual report.

These By-Laws were adopted on [Oct. 15, 2012] and most recently revised on [date].

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It's Festival Time Again

January is right around the corner and there are three birding festivals around the state to vie for your attention. First up is the [Everglades Birding Festival](#). It runs from January 16th through January 20th. If you're hoping to add birds like Gray-headed Swamphen, Short-tailed Hawk or Mangrove Cuckoo to your life list, this might just be where you want to go.

If the Miami area seems a bit far to go then you have another choice on the same dates, January 16th through January 20th. The [North Shore Birding Festival](#) is sponsored by Orange Audubon and though centered around the north shore of Lake Apopka it will feature trips to Ocala National Forest, Emerald Marsh, bird banding at Lake Lotus Park and many others.

Then we come to the Grand Daddy, the largest birding festival in the country, the [Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival](#), in Titusville. It runs from January 22nd to the 27th. Every binocular manufacturer in the country will have a booth in the headquarters building at East Florida State College and it's by far the best place to try them out before purchase. There will be a pelagic trip, several trips to look for the elusive Black Rail, Scrub Jays and more. All three festivals will feature photography workshops lead by some of the country's best photographers, art competitions, keynote addresses by leading authorities in fields beyond birding and much more. Registration is now open for all three festivals and some of the field trips are already filling up.

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Audubon Adventures

The Audubon Adventures program is aimed at third, fourth and fifth grade classrooms. Each sponsored class receives four sets of a 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. They are specifically designed to mesh with the science curriculum offered by our local schools and help the students prepare for their end of class exams.

Please 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.
3 And thank you for thinking of our future leaders.

A Red Cardinal Watch

Sheets of wild rain pounded down. Thunder crashed and lightning flashed. Outside my window felt the impact of a late Florida storm. The wind and rain was the boss - sending unforgiving missiles loose in all directions. Scary weapons of power whipped stationary trees into a mad and uncontrollable frenzy. The reedy branches of thick leafed "Fire Spike" slap relentlessly against my office window and I watched as the blistering storm shed its watery sustenance upon a cowered landscape. No other birds were seen but one lone gull. Caught in the turmoil, it sailed by sideways trying desperately to get back in control.

As a sunny day turned wildly dark, I sat by my desk in utter fascination. Not six feet from my nose on the outside of my window sat a female Northern Cardinal on her nest as driving rain beaded on her protective feathers. The "Fire Spike" bush, where nestled the nest, swayed to the rhythm of the ongoing storm. We stared at each other, the cardinal and me, for the longest time. The storm seemed to stop and faded into a noiseless blur. What I remember most about that wild crashing storm was those dark penetrating eyes looking straight through at me and the composed, stoic beauty of this bird. Just me and the bird alone, no storm.

Out of a global population of approximately 120,000,000 Jane and I are so fortunate to have two Northern Cardinals coming to our neighborhood yard every day. During the summer months, their fledglings will also appear at our feeders. They look similar to the female cardinal but with a dark bill instead of the coral color of adults. They will stay a few weeks but then are gone. The two adults will stay and later introduce another family.

They are not a picky bird. While we are accustomed to seeing Northern Cardinals feeding on black oil sunflower seeds, a wide variety of food sources grace their palate from wild seed to suet, insects and fruits. They also live in various habitats from suburban areas to swamps, including wood edges, water edge thickets and vegetation around houses, ranging over a vast territory of about 2,239,393 square miles.

I feel close to the Northern Cardinal. I have a history with them. While the cardinal is a southeastern bird. A little more than a century ago they began moving north along the Mississippi River and by 1895 they had reached the Great Lakes. By 1903 early field guides listed them in lower New York. Now here is where my connection with the cardinal begins. In 1948 they were found nesting in Connecticut. During the WW2 years my mother fed the birds but I don't remember any cardinals in our yard at that time. In 1947 I joined a local Boy Scout troop and two years later I began my year long study for the BSA Bird Study Merit Badge. I didn't list a cardinal during this period. But during the early 1950's I began to see a few harvesting cherries in both of my grandfathers's yards. By the mid 1970's they were well established in Connecticut, coming to my yard year round - but only two, the male and female. Northern Cardinals are quite territorial keeping other cardinals away from my feeders in both my Florida and Connecticut yards.

However, one day a raging snow storm clobbered Connecticut, leaving over 20 inches of snow and drifts much higher. The next day as the storm cleared, we sat by the large backyard window, looking out at a white, shimmering yard posing as a magnificent winter wonderland. Northern Cardinals were everywhere. I estimated a grand total of forty cardinals in the yard at one time. Many at the feeders. Others resting on the snow drenched boughs of the backyard white pine trees.

Red on white clinging to dark green branches all moving to the whims of a receding snowstorm. Picture postcard perfect.

Truly "A Red Cardinal Watch."

Ray Scory



A raging winter storm does not deter the Northern Cardinal from their appointed feeder watch rounds. Other small birds are experts at finding food during blustery Connecticut winter storms.



A female Northern Cardinal built her nest secretly in a tangle of thick leaves and scraggly branches directly in front of my office window. So well hidden was this nest that I did not discover it until this wide eyed chick was ready to fledge. From this nest two fledged that day, adding to the vast number of cardinals inhabiting our planet.

Photos by Ray Scory

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So here's some "Steve" humor, from board member Steve Underwood.

Q: What birds spend all their time on their knees?

A: Birds of prey!

Harry Robinson's monthly surveys at Tom Rennick Park and at the Port Orange Bridge offer an opportunity to learn from one of the best birders in the state. Here's his report from September for Tom Rennick Park. Ed.

The year is nearly over or so it seems, September is now done and gone. This month I did 30 surveys over 144 hours (a record for this month). For the year I have seen 197 species and 257 ever. To date I have added six species this year (none this month) as against the five that I had hoped to add for the whole year. This month I saw 108 species, the second best year. The best days were 4,286 birds on the 5th and 42 species on the 7th.

That was the dull bit, now to the birds. There were two Pied-billed Grebes on the sea on the 25th, a new high count. For a change there were a few shearwaters. There were single Cory's on the 15th and 21st with a Scolopi's on the 20th. There were two Greats on the 1st and 20th with one on the 21st. There were also two on the 22nd with one on the 24th. To round out the shearwaters there was single Sooty on the 14th and an Audubon's on the 20th. There was an adult Brown Noddy on the 30th. There was a Magnificent Frigatebird on the 4th with a party of five on the 11th. This is a new high count. Finally there was one on the 28th.

There were single Reddish Egrets on the 8th and 18th. There were four Roseate Spoonbills on the 6th with six on the 24th. Blue-winged Teals were present all month with 505 on the 16th and 1,130 on the 22nd. There was also a Northern Shoveler on the 28th. Green-winged Teals were seen from the 21st with 20 on the 27th. There was a Northern Harrier on the 6th. On that date there was also a light morph Short-tailed Hawk. There were single Merlins on the 7th, 16th and 28th. The only Peregrine Falcon was seen on the 26th.

A party of eight American Avocets flew to the south on the 14th. There were two Greater Yellowlegs on the 6th with two more on the 28th. There were 14 Lesser Yellowlegs on the 4th with six on the 5th. The only Spotted Sandpiper was one on the 5th. There were single Whimbrels and Marbled Godwits on the 3rd. The last Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted on the 5th. There were 40 Western Sandpipers on the 8th with 12 on the 10th and 18 on the 14th. Least Sandpipers were seen to the 6th. There were two Pectoral Sandpipers on the 1st with one on the 16th. There were two Dunlin on the 5th with 35 on the 29th. There were also two Long-billed Dowitchers on the 8th with ten on the 28th. For Red-necked Phalaropes there were eight on the 14th, ten on the 15th and 25 on the 21st this is a high count. Finally for this group there was a Red Phalarope on the 1st.

There were single Parasitic Jaegers on the 11th, 21st and 28th. Herring Gulls were seen from the 13th. There were single Lesser Black-backed Gulls on the 2nd and 29th. Of special interest were two adult Sabine's Gulls on the 14th. Common Terns were seen all month with 141 on the 19th and 98 on the 26th. There was an adult Arctic Tern on the 15th. Forster's Terns were seen from the 2nd. Least Terns were in contrast were seen to the 29th. With the hurricane there were two Bridled and eight Sooty Terns on the 4th with a single Sooty on the 13th. Black Terns were scarce this year with a high count of 34 on the 4th.

There was a White-winged Dove on the 10th with a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the 5th. There was a Common Nighthawk on the 30th. Chimney Swifts were only seen to the 7th. There was a Belted Kingfisher on the 11th. There was a Downy Woodpecker on the 24th with a single Pileated Woodpecker on the 3rd. During the hurricane 273 Eastern Kingbirds flew to the south on the 4th a new high count. There was a Gray Kingbird

on the 6th. As usual there was an American Crow on the 27th. There was a Purple Martin on the 9th with a Tree Swallow on the 4th. There was a Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the 5th. There was a Bank Swallow on the 3rd with two on the 4th and one on the 5th. There was also a Cliff Swallow on the 4th. Barn Swallows were only seen in low numbers except for 3,770 on the 5th. Again during the hurricane there were 20 Bobolinks on the 4th. There was a male Baltimore Oriole on the 7th. Finally the only House Finches were two on the 7th.

Please can I have a least one new species for the park in October?

Harry Robinson

Stay tuned to next month's Pelican to find out if Harry got his new species. If you'd like to rendezvous with Harry and see some of the birds he's been reporting you can contact him at sirharrydeland@gmail.com to see when would be a good time to come out and join him. He's often accompanied by Kim Ramos, Sam Krah and Eli Schaperow.

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THE PELICAN

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PO Box 166
Daytona Beach FL 32115-0166

Email: editor@halifaxriveras.org

Web: <http://www.halifaxriveras.org>

Halifax River Audubon

forbirds@halifaxriveras.org

Meets monthly September through May

President: David Hartgrove

Vice President: Vacant

Past President: Melissa Lammers

Treasurer: Ellen Tate

Recording Sec.: Pam Pinnella

Membership Sec.: Joan Tague

Corresponding Sec: Steve Underwood

Historian: Holly Zwart-Duryea

At-Large: Barbara Northrup, Steve Underwood and Peggy Yokubonus

Committee Members

Conservation: David Hartgrove

Education: Holly Zwart-Duryea

Field Trips: Peggy Yokubonus

David Hartgrove

Newsletter Editor: David Hartgrove

Welcome: Pam Pinella

Webmaster: Joan Tague

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We wish to thank our sponsors, whose contributions play a vital part of allowing us to continue our work:
5 Florida Power & Light, Colonial Colony and the Spruce Creek Garden and Nature Club.