



THE CRANE

Alachua Audubon Society

May, 1976

CALENDAR

May 30, Sun., full or half day - Summer Bird Count. We need birders (experience not necessary) to observe, to drive, and to help record sightings. Bring a picnic lunch to John Hintermister's where we'll count up the morning's total and plan the afternoon. Call him today for details (after 6:30 p.m.) 462-1109.

June 6, Sun., 7:30 a.m. - Bird Island National Audubon Sanctuary. Short, easy, canoe trip from the public boat landing on Orange Lake to Bird Island. The island is a rookery for egrets, herons, anhingas, and other birds. Meet at the south end of Payne's Prairie on 441. Call leader Bob Simons (372-7646) so he can arrange space for those without canoes.

July 17-18, Sat. and Sun., 7:30 a.m. Millhopper Shopping Center. Bike Hike to Blue Springs (near High Springs) and Camp Out. Rich Bradley will lead Alachua Audubon's first bike and nature expedition. This will be a good opportunity to get to know one another and to swim, camp, bird watch, and exercise. Call Rich at 377-1930 (home) or 392-1721 (Florida St. Museum).

August 15, Sun., 6:30 a.m. - Zellwood Muck Farms. Exciting birding possibilities, but come prepared for hot weather conditions. Last year John Hintermister and Jim Horner recorded 23 species of shorebirds in a single day! Their list included upland sandpiper, black tern, wilson's phalarope, avocet, and black-necked stilt. Meet at south end of Payne's Prairie on 441. Call John for details (462-1109).

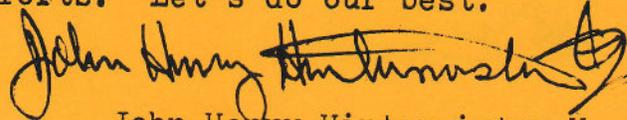
A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The first thing I want to do as the new President of Alachua Audubon is to thank Helen Hood for the great job she did as President for the last three years. Helen was the main force in convincing the state to buy San Felasco Hammock and she fought long and hard for a decent Plan of Development for Alachua County. I am sure she will continue her efforts as our Conservation Committee Chairperson.

The Board of Directors and I have set three goals for the upcoming year: 1. to increase the membership by twenty per cent;
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2. to make Colclough Hill a usable refuge and an educational tool; and 3. to involve Alachua Audubon in some meaningful educational endeavor.

These are not impossible tasks and I believe that, with the help of all of you, we can accomplish each of them. Remember this is your Audubon Society. Work for it and make it work for you and our environment. It is a great conservation organization but it can be greater with your active efforts. Let's do our best.



John Henry Hintermister V

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held at Morningside Park on April 28. After a pleasant covered-dish dinner, we unanimously elected the officers for the upcoming year and added four new members to the Board of Directors. (Officers and all Board Members listed below.)

Steve Stedman, Audubon Field Representative, spoke to us about the plans of the Army Corps of Engineers to put a system of dikes in the Apalachicola River. Steve asked us to support the Apalachicoalition, the group opposing the project. On a motion from Helen Hood we donated \$200 to the cause. Steve hopes to collect \$8000 state-wide to finance a movie publicizing the plight of the river and explaining the damage a dike system would do the ecosystem. You can make a contribution c/o Steve Stedman; 2312 C. Columbus Ct.; Tallahassee, Fla. 32304.

The highlight of the meeting was the talk given by Dr. Wayne Marion about south Texas birds. Using slides he had taken during his ornithological field work in Texas as illustrations, Dr. Marion discussed the green jay, rose-throated becard, white-tailed kite, roadrunner, and other birds of the Rio Grande Valley. Lastly, he talked about "The Ultimate Bird," the chachalaca.

A good time was had by all.

AUDUBON, THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION

Officers

*President	John Hintermister	462-1109
Vice Pres	Richard Bradley	377-1930
Secretary	Pat Lanzilotti	372-1115
Treasurer	Otto Voelchner	372-5711

Board Members

Joy Bartholomew (78)	375-3226	Bill Hardy (78)	373-1429
Caroline Coleman (77)	372-9087	David Johnston (79)	372-6095
*Jesse Connor (79)	378-2027	Lucille Little (77)	372-5955
Pat Fabrick (77)	372-0673	Brenda McGurne (79)	454-1860

(continued)

Barbara Muschlitz (79)	372-4638	Bob Wallace (79)	372-8217
Steve Nesbitt (77)	376-6028	*Phil Weinrich (78)	378-0011
*Virginia Rogers (78)	378-4272	*Don Younker (77)	376-7206
Bob Simons (78)	372-7646		

* Executive Board
 () expiration date

Standing Committee Chairmen

Helen Hood--Conservation	372-1731
Chris Pilkington--Hospitality	373-6487
Jack Connor--Endangered Species	378-2027
Candy Hintermister--Publicity	462-1109

FIELD TRIPS

The spring wildflower walk on May 1 was rained out. The small group of people who turned out despite the weather drove to Helen Hood's house where they were given a tour of the gardens and plantings. At Helen's suggestion the group collected ferns and trilliums and brought them back to Morningside Park for replanting in the newly started fern garden behind the Nature Center.

The following day about twenty of us gathered at the bridge over the River Styx and watched zoologist Dick Franz identify and describe a wide variety of aquatic plants and animals which he netted with his skein. Golden top minnows, crayfish, chain pickerel, pygmy sunfish, and more than a dozen other swamp creatures wriggled about for our inspection. After three or four skeins-full, we paddled down the river and across Orange Lake. Observers spotted a bald eagle, two least bitterns, several purple gallinules, two limpkins, a black-crowned night heron, and a pair of wood ducks with ducklings. Our meal waited us at the Cross Creek Fish Camp. We had good food and talk and then drove back to the River Styx where Dick indentified, in the darkness of a quarter-moon, the sounds of the swamp. Heard calling were the little grass frog, a couple of pig frogs, and many green tree frogs. Let's do it again next year!

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mary Gilbreath	Prudena Quarles
Henry Gogun	P.L. Richards
Terry McKay	Ret Thomas
C.A. Musgrave	J. Kenneth Watson
The Roland Farmers	Julia Welch

HAVE YOU SEEN ANY MANATEES LATELY?



The manatee is now on the Federal Endangered Species List, and the National Fish and Wildlife Laboratory in Gainesville is seeking information for a survey and population estimate. If you see a manatee, record the location as precisely as possible, and, if you can, determine what it is doing--resting, feeding (on what?), cruising (in which direction?)--and estimate its size. Send to 2820 East University Ave., Gainesville, Fl. 32601. 904-372-2571

CONSERVATION NEWS



on the "Bottle Bill":

Florida State Senator Jack Gordon has introduced a "Bottle Bill," HR 2432, in the State House. This bill would abolish throwaway beverage containers in Florida! Obviously, such a law would help reduce litter, conserve resources, and save consumers money. Write in support to your representative in Tallahassee and to Speaker Don Tucker (c/o The State Capitol, Tallahassee, Fl. 32304).



on New Plastic Bottles:

You may want to include in your letter of support of HR 2432 a note of disapproval concerning the new plastic bottles which have recently begun appearing on the market (Coca-Cola's "Easy-Goer" for example). The Florida Conservation Digest suggests "the time is right to take action against the plastic revolution, because, as one E.P.A. spokesman said, the replacement of refillable containers by throwaways is resulting in an increase 'in consumption of energy and materials resources, an increase in litter, and an increase in solid waste.'"



on the Corps of Engineers' Defense of Marco Island

The Army Corps of Engineers has denied two of the three applications Deltona Corporation made to begin dredge and fill operations on Marco Island. As a result, only Collier Bay will be effected. This is a victory for the Florida Audubon Society, the other public and private groups that opposed the operation, and the hundreds of private citizens who wrote to the Corps in protest. Charles Lee, Vice-President of Florida Audubon, suggests we all write a letter of thanks to the Corps. Address your note to: W.C. Gribble, Jr., Lt. General; Chief of Engineers; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Forrestal Building; Washington, D.C. 20314.



on the Breaux Amendment

It seems there is no time to sigh with relief at the developments on Marco. Rep. John Breaux (D., La.) has sponsored an amendment to a bill pending in the U.S. House of Representatives (HR 9560) which takes away the power the government gives the Army Corps of Engineers to protect much of the land it oversees. The amendment excludes from federal protection all wetlands above the mean high-water (high-tide) mark. If made law, about 85 % of all the wetlands in the U.S. would be unprotected. (Incredibly, the amendment was passed (22-13) by the Public Works Committee.) Developers like Deltona Corporation would not even have to ask the government for permits for dredge and fill operations. Please write immediately to Rep. Fuqua, Sen. Chiles and Sen. Stone in opposition to this bill. (April Newsletter has addresses). You can also write to Sen. Jennings Randolph, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Works, and to Sen. Edmund Muskie, an influential member of that committee, since HR 9560 will require approval of their committee before it is brought to the floor.

BALD EAGLE REPORT



One of the sad truths about our country is that there are American citizens who shoot at bald eagles. In fact, Research Biologist for the Fish and Game Commission, Steve Nesbitt, who has recently completed a five-member, state-wide survey of bald eagles, reports that the single most immediate danger to the survival of the bald eagle is gunfire. Habitat destruction is, of course, a significant factor, but shooting kills more eagles than any other single factor. There were at least three separate shooting incidents in Alachua County alone last year.

If you see anyone shoot (or molest in any way) a bald eagle, report him to the United States Fish and Wildlife Commission (Enforcement Agency). Call Chuck Bazemore at 378-0201 or 376-0989. If you know anyone who shoots at eagles, talk to him. Explain to him that the bald eagle is an endangered species which will survive this century only if there is a supreme conservation effort made to save it. Explain to him that Florida is the last state, outside Alaska where the eagle survives in any significant numbers. Lastly, tell him the law:

Every bird in Florida, with the exception of the house sparrow and the starling, is protected by law. Most birds, like the bald eagle, may not be shot. A few species, the game birds, may be shot during specified seasons. Shooting at birds can lead to arrest and prosecution.

You will be glad to hear that Steve Nesbitt's survey found some good news this year. Bald eagles did better in 1975 than they had in any of the past three years. Of the 325 nests surveyed, 241 were found to be active and 162 succeeded, producing 260 young. The survey estimated that there are approximately 1200 nests in Florida. Alachua County had 8 successful nests of 13 surveyed. The 8 nests produced 12 young. This is an indication that bald eagles are doing better in our state. Let's hope the trend continues.

ENDANGERED SPECIES COMMITTEE

Alachua Audubon is in the process of forming a committee to help keep track of Alachua County's endangered or threatened plant and animal life. Right now we need help distributing a pamphlet given to us by Mote Marine Laboratory. The pamphlet describes and illustrates the procedure fishermen should follow to release brown pelicans entangled in their lines. This information is applicable to all the larger wading and shore birds. We have promised to distribute pamphlets through all of Alachua County and in Cedar Key. We plan to distribute a reprinting of the eagle report (above) at the same time. If you could help, please call Jack Connor, 378-2027. We particularly need volunteers from outside Gainesville and Cedar Key.

BIRDWATCHING



First of all, we apologize to anyone who got lost trying to find the burrowing owls following the directions in last month's newsletter. Here are the correct directions: Go to High Springs; turn left on Highway 41 towards Newberry; go 1.4 miles past intersection with 25B until you are opposite the second white farm house. Stop before mailboxes on right. Check the white mound and fenceposts on the right-hand side of road. Please stay in your car.

The month of June is not the best month of the year for birding in Alachua County, but you can still see some interesting birds with a little effort. Mississippi kites can be seen hunting dragonflies in many parts of N.W. Gainesville. (Jim Horner saw 17 at once on a recent afternoon.) One good place to look for them is near Buchholz High School. Another good place is between Maguire Village and the Publix Supermarket on S.W. 34th St. just south of University Ave. The red-cockaded woodpeckers have not been seen in Morningside Park since March. You can look for them, however, out on Waldo Road near the industrial park. They are nesting in a long leaf pine just off the first base side of the baseball diamond near Penn Chemical. Eastern wood peewees can be found in the county fairgrounds parking lot. Drive in and park as far back on the right as you can. The pee-wees can be heard calling, "pee-oo-wee, pee-oo," and one individual hunts from the barbed wire above the cyclone fence. If you stand still, he will fly-catch right at your feet. Out towards Brooker in the north-central section above the Gainesville city limits on Rt. 231 blue grosbeaks and indigo buntings can be seen along the fence rows. An orchard oriole has nested for the last three years in a large, solitary sweetgum two miles past the intersection of 121 and 231 (on 231).

Arrangements can be made for those interested in birding on Kanapaha Ranch by calling John Hintermister (462-1109) after 6:30 p.m.

There have been some exciting sightings around the state in the past few weeks. A Nashville Warbler and a Brewster's Warbler were found on Mullet Key. A Stripe-headed Tanager and 8 (!) Connecticut Warblers were on Virginia Key. A Manx Shearwater was resting on the water when first seen by a boat-load of pelagic birders off Miami. It flew away quickly but not before being identified by several of the best birdwatchers in Florida. On Dry Tortugas the second Bahama Mockingbird ever recorded in the U.S. was found. John Edscorn, "Florida Birds" columnist in the Florida Naturalist, flew down to Tortugas to see it and also found there a Tawny-shouldered Blackbird!

In Gainesville Ann Little's yard came through again. This time with a male Painted Bunting. White-crowned Sparrows were spotted on Payne's Prairie on May 4, a very late date. A Black-necked Stilt was seen on the 23rd St. Pond; a Black Skimmer flew over Newnan's Lake one morning; a pair of Tree Swallows were still on the lake on May 17; and, Jim Horner saw a Cliff Swallow near Buchholz High.

NATURE STUDY DAY CAMPS

For the third summer, Morningside Nature Center will offer a series of Nature Study Day Camps, designed to help young naturalists explore their environment and develop a first-hand understanding of the natural world. The fun includes nature walks, special projects, nature crafts and games, field trips, and, for older girls and boys, a camp-out. Each camp will meet weekdays from 8:30 until noon at Morningside Nature Center, 3540 East University Ave. Call 377-1665 for information.

COLCLOUGH POND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

We're almost ready for the grand opening of this beautiful 26-acre sanctuary owned by Florida Audubon with Alachua Audubon acting as trustees. Under the direction of Bob Simons, our sanctuary committee head, nature trails have been blazed and the fence has been mended. We hope to finish our work by mid-June, but in order to do so we need someone who can lend us a router, or, even better, someone who can help make two signs. (Call Bob, 372-7646). Watch for news of our opening in the Sun. We'll also publicize it on WRUF, so you will be able to come out and join the fun.

RARE BIRD ALERT

Some Audubon members would like to set up a rare bird alert so that we could quickly learn of unusual sightings in Alachua County. We are planning a phone-call chain which would make each participant responsible for alerting one other participant. If you are interested in being part of the chain, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Jack Connor; 105 S.E. 74th St.; Gainesville, 32601. (378-2027 for questions.)

GUY COHELEACH

The Guy Coheleach exhibit of original paintings and prints at the Atlantic Bank was marvelous. We hope many of you had a chance to see Mr. Coheleach's work. Our favorites were the snowy owls and the long-billed marsh wren.

Mr. Coheleach was generous enough to contribute a portion of the proceeds from the sale to National Audubon and Alachua Audubon. The First Sun Gallery and Frame Shop is also donating 15% of the price of framing prints purchased from this exhibit to the Audubon Society.

We appreciate their thoughtful support.

ANNOUNCING: THE BIRTH OF THE CRANE

On Wednesday evening, May 12, members of Alachua Audubon present at the Board Meeting christened our newsletter The Crane.

The Crane will be published monthly with the exception of June and July. Articles, correspondence, and suggestions are most welcome. Write to: Jesse Connor, 105 S.E. 74th St., Gainesville, 32601; or call: 378-2027.

CLIP OUT AND PASS ON TO A FRIEND



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY and ALACHUA AUDUBON SOCIETY. Enclosed is my check for \$ _____.

() Individual \$15

() Sustaining \$30.

() Family \$18

() Student \$8.50

Name

Phone

Street Address

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