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# Where To Find Birds

AND ENJOY NATURAL HISTORY

# In Florida



PUBLISHED BY  
**FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY**

EDITED BY MARGARET H. HUNDLEY  
HEADQUARTERS: MAITLAND, FLORIDA



RINGBILL GULL—PHOTO BY RALPH E. LAWRENCE

# Where To Find Birds

## AND ENJOY NATURAL HISTORY

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Edited by MARGARET H. HUNDLEY

### PREFACE

The number of people coming to Florida seasonally to visit and to attend conventions has increased the past few years. Many of them are interested in the natural history and especially the avifauna of the State. Florida is a large State some 600 miles long and of varying widths up to approximately 400 miles across the panhandle section from east to west. People living in one section, and familiar with the birds in their area, may not know what species to look for, or where to find them, in a far distant part of the State. As a result, the number of requests for information received by the Florida Audubon Society during the past year increased to the point where it became more and more difficult to find the time to answer adequately all of these letters. The need for a guide to specific areas especially rich in number of bird species, or near the larger centers of population, became evident.

Florida has abundant and unique bird life. It is the only State where all of the species of herons listed for the United States may be found. These beautiful birds can be seen wading along the shores of lakes and ocean, and in every stream and river, throughout the State. Nowhere in the United States is the Cattle Egret, that recent newcomer from the Old World, more numerous. Since Florida extends into the subtropics, and is close to the islands of the Caribbean, many West Indian species such as the White-crowned Pigeon, Gray Kingbird, and Black-whiskered

Vireo, extend their breeding range as far north as Florida. In the southern part of the State may be found the Short-tailed Hawk, a tropical species. Many people interested in birds visit Florida during the summer months in order to see these species. During migration many northern species of birds channel through the State on their way to and from the West Indies, and South and Central America, and many individuals spend the winter months here. Even western species, such as the Western Kingbird, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Bullock's Oriole, spend the winter in limited numbers in the State. There are interesting species such as the Limpkin and the Spotted-breasted Oriole found nowhere else in the United States.\*

Most of the contributors to this booklet live in the areas about which they write and thus know through close observation the status of the various species of birds in their area and where they are most likely to be found. The building of new subdivisions, highways, etc., is changing almost daily the face of Florida. Some of the places described here may in time no longer exist in the same form. Fortunately, however, many areas have been designated as parks and sanctuaries, or are contiguous to shores, bridges, or places where further construction and encroachment may be delayed for some time to come.

It is hoped that this booklet will help guide both visitors to, and residents of, the State to those specific areas which are outstanding for the type or abundance of bird life found in them.

Margaret H. Hundley

\* Field Checklists of Florida Birds may be obtained from the Florida Audubon Society for five cents each in lots of ten or more.

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# Part I

## North Florida Area



### JACKSONVILLE AREA

**GUANO RIVER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**—In St. Johns County; ten thousand acres owned and operated by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, with eleven miles of dammed lake on A1A, about 17 miles south of Jacksonville Beach. This is an impounded resting and feeding grounds for thousands of common and uncommon wintering waterfowl. There are viewing spots on the east and west sides and the north end. The river is dammed on the south end, at South Ponte Vedra Beach, by a causeway which connects both sides of the lake. On the causeway shoreline many shorebirds may be seen. A fairly good dirt road winds through the entire west-side woodland but permission to travel this road is necessary from the officer-in-charge, who lives in the very large, frame building on A1A at the south end of the lake. There are several eagle nests in these woods and also a Wood Stork rookery. This area may also be reached from St. Augustine by going over to Vilano Beach to A1A and continuing north for about nine miles. This is a prime hunting and fishing area, so birding should be done before the hunting season opens.

**LITTLE TALBOT STATE PARK**—On A1A just south of Sawpit Sanctuary, about eight miles from Jacksonville Beach.

**FT. GEORGE ISLAND HISTORIC MEMORIAL**—On A1A on north side of St. John's River, across from the town of Mayport. Entrance to the historic park is a little north of the Ft. George post office. The Purple Finch can be found here during the winter. This whole area on A1A, from Ft. Clinch State Park to Mayport, affords excellent year round birding. The Bobolink migrates through this area.

**MAYPORT AREA**—Take the St. John's River ferry on north side of river, on Ft. George Island, and cross to town of Mayport. Leaving Mayport, along the marsh on east side of the road, are nesting Black-necked Stilts (summer), and many other species of shorebirds can be seen in this area throughout the year.

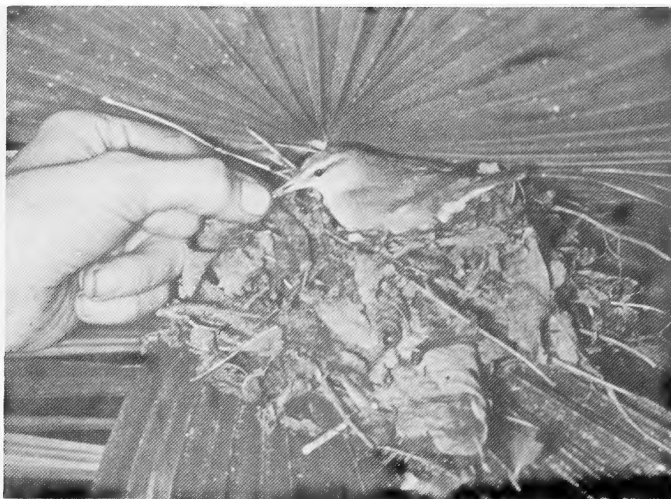
**SAWPIT CREEK SANCTUARY**—Posted and owned by Florida Audubon Society; about ten miles north of Jacksonville Beach, on east side of A1A, on north end of Big Talbot Island at Sawpit Creek Bridge; a 50 acre undeveloped tract which has a varied and rich birdlife. Habitat includes beach, dense woodland and features a fresh water pond at the road-side, where many species of ducks, wading and shore birds may be seen. To date 161 species of birds have been identified on this sanctuary.

Going north on A1A from Sawpit Sanctuary to the Nassau Sound Bridge, turn over to parking area at south end of bridge on west side of road. On the curved shoreline going out to a point of land, Oystercatchers feed. And

during spring migration the Hudsonian and Long-billed Curlews and Marbled Godwits have been seen.

**FT. CLINCH STATE PARK**—Three miles northeast of Fernandina Beach on A1A. This is the most northeasterly point in Florida, bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, the north by Cumberland Sound and jetties, and the west by Amelia River. There are all types of habitat in these 1,086 acres, including a ten-acre freshwater pond and rookery of wading birds. Well marked trails lead through the park, affording excellent birding opportunities. More than 150 species of birds have been seen in the park. Besides the fort and museum, facilities include camping and picnicking areas, refreshment building and boat ramp. The main park roads are paved and there are also useable forest roads. Mimeographed maps of the park area and a checklist of the birds seen in the park may be obtained from the park superintendent.

Samuel A. Grimes  
Stella Robinson



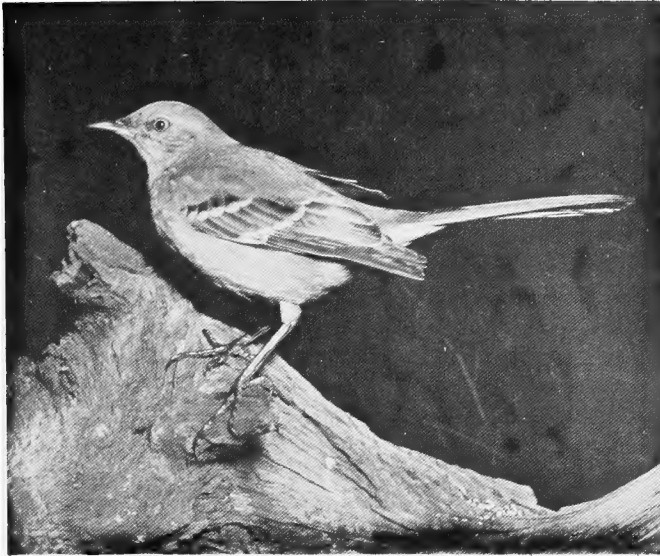
SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Swainson's Warbler nests in river swamps in northern Florida.

### PENSACOLA AREA

#### GOOD SPOTS NEAR PENSACOLA FOR WINTER BIRDS

**SANTA ROSA ISLAND**—Leave Pensacola on U. S. Route 98, cross the bridge over Pensacola Bay and go 2 miles farther to a road that branches off to the right near the overpass. Cross the bridge over Santa Rosa Sound (toll 25 cents) to Santa Rosa Island. Along both sides of the road from the bridge to the Casino building, the following birds can be expected: Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Lesser Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, and several species of gulls, terns and shorebirds. Just before reaching the Casino, a hard road turns off to the right. Immediately after taking this road, there is a parking area that affords a clear view out over the Gulf of



RALPH E. LAWRENCE

The Mockingbird is the official state bird of Florida.

Mexico. It is well worth spending 15 minutes here to scan the horizon for passing Gannets, which are common in some winters but scarce in others. The road continues westward for 10 miles to Fort Pickens (toll gate charge of 50 cents per car). There is a large marsh pond just south of the last gun battery where ducks, coots and Clapper Rails may be seen, but there is little probability of finding additional bird species of interest. The old brick fort is a point of much historic interest.

**EAST PASS**—Leave Pensacola on U. S. Route 98, cross the Bay bridge and proceed eastward for about 36 miles to the city of Fort Walton Beach, cross the bridge to Santa Rosa Island and continue eastward on the island to the bridge over East Pass. Just before reaching the bridge, park at the side of the road. On sand bars within reasonable distance will be seen large numbers of gulls and terns, Double-crested Cormorants, and sometimes Brown Pelicans. Walk south along the beach and look for Snowy Plovers, pale little birds that are hard to see on the white sand. Keep an eye to seaward for passing Gannets—far out toward the horizon. Then drive across the bridge to the town of Destin and turn left over some of the back streets for the probability of finding Ground Doves.

**GARCON POINT**—Drive eastward from Pensacola on U. S. Route 90 to the city of Milton (about 24 miles) and turn south on State Route 191 (a surfaced road). Drive about 12 miles to the end of the road on Garcon Point on the shore of Pensacola Bay. Walk east along the shore as far as the height of the tide will permit. Along the road, many of the common birds of the region will be found, especially several species of sparrows. In the heavy woods near the end of the road, the typical woodland birds may be seen. At the end of the road and along the shore, look for loons, grebes and some diving ducks. Marsh Hawks should be conspicuous. In the marsh, Short-billed Marsh Wrens, Seaside Sparrows and Sharp-tailed Sparrows are plentiful. At low tide, several species of shorebirds are always present on the mudflats. Just after leaving the hard surface near the end of Route 191, turn left on a dirt road for 100 yards, then right for another 100 yards. On the

left is a wiregrass area (very wet after rains) where Yellow Rails have been seen and LeConte's Sparrows can sometimes be found (if the observer is very lucky!).

Francis M. Weston

## GULF COUNTY AREA

**INDIAN PASS** separates the mainland from St. Vincent Island and is located in the southeast corner of Gulf County, Florida, about fourteen miles east of Port St. Joe. To reach it take State Road 30 about two miles east of Port St. Joe, travel about ten miles to McNeils, then turn right on State Road 308 which terminates in about two miles at Indian Pass. When leaving McNeils, one is in Indian Pass area, which comprises salt and brackish marshes, the open water of Indian Lagoon, muddy shores, grass flats and some woods on both sides of State Road 308.

At the Pass one will find sandy beaches a short distance from the Gulf of Mexico. Feeding frequently in the marshes are Great Blue, Little Blue, Green, and Louisiana, Herons, also American and Snowy, Egrets. In the late summer and early fall Wood Ibises may be seen in the brackish marshes. Clapper Rails are found at all times. In the fall, early winter and spring, Sora and Virginia Rails are at the Pass, in addition to Seaside Sparrows and Long-billed Marsh Wrens.

Along the muddy shores of Indian Lagoon and the Gulf Beaches, shore birds, such as Killdeer, Black-bellied, Snowy, Wilson's, and Semipalmated Plovers, in addition to Least, Baird's, Western, Semipalmated, and Spotted, Sandpipers, Dunlin, and Black-necked Stilt. Sanderlings and Dowitchers are sometimes seen.

In the grass flats, Buff-breasted Sandpipers have been found on two occasions. Along the muddy shores at low tide American Oystercatchers are occasionally observed.

In the open waters of the lagoon, Herring, Laughing and Bonaparte's Gulls can be seen at the right season. Least, Common, Gull-billed, Sandwich, Black, Royal, and Caspian, Terns are frequently seen. Grebes, Loons, and Brown Pelicans are sometimes found in the area.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Anhinga is widely distributed throughout Florida.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Yellow-throated Warbler breeds in central and northern Florida and is a common winter visitor on the Florida Keys.

In the winter migratory waterfowl are common. Native and migratory passerine birds such as Cardinal, Bluejay, Vireos, Flycatchers, Towhee, Blackbirds, Mockingbird, Catbird, Thrushes, Brown Thrashers, Warblers, Wrens, both Grackles, Crows and Sparrows are at times seen in the woods. Ground Doves are abundant, Mourning Doves are sometimes present. Hawks are seldom seen but should be watched for.

Roy C. Hallman

## TALLAHASSEE AREA

The better birding areas in the Tallahassee region are south of the city, primarily along the coast of Wakulla and Franklin Counties. By taking U. S. 319 south out of Tallahassee and turning east at its junction with U. S. 98, then turning south again on the first paved road after crossing the St. Marks River at Newport, the best parts of the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge can be reached. This paved road goes directly into the Refuge and terminates at the St. Marks Lighthouse. There are many good birding areas all along this road after entering the Refuge. Bald Eagles and many species of waterfowl can be seen here in the winter; Gray Kingbirds and Wood Ibis in the summer; and herons, egrets, Brown-headed Nuthatches (in

the pine flatwoods), and Seaside Sparrows (in the salt marshes around the lighthouse) are present the year around.

One of the best coastal areas is Alligator Point, southwest of St. Marks and at the eastern end of Franklin County. It can be reached by going west on U. S. 98 and turning off to the left on the first paved road after crossing Ochlockonee Bay (long bridge). It is about four miles on this road out to the coast where the left fork goes to Bald Point. This is an area of large, exposed flats at low tide, where many shore birds, terns and gulls, herons and egrets, and possibly Black Skimmers congregate regularly the year around. The right fork of the road goes to Peninsula Point, where there is a small grove of pines at the road's end which affords good birding throughout the year. During the winter large numbers of ducks, loons, gulls, etc., can be seen on the Gulf side between the two points. This is a good place to look for scoters and an occasional Gannet out on the horizon.

The most likely place for Oystercatchers is St. George Island, which can be reached by taking the ferry out of East Point (Franklin County), farther west on U. S. 98. They can be seen on the sand or oyster bars outside the harbor of the island or on the beaches on the Gulf side. Snowy Plovers are also permanent residents on the island.

One other area of interesting bird life is Wakulla Springs, which can be reached by taking state highway 369 south from Tallahassee for about six miles, then turning left onto state 61. This latter highway passes Wakulla Springs, where Limpkins can easily be seen. Several other species of water birds (herons, egrets, White Ibises, Anhingas, etc.) can be seen at times, and the surrounding woods are also good areas for birds.

John C. Ogden and Henry M. Stevenson



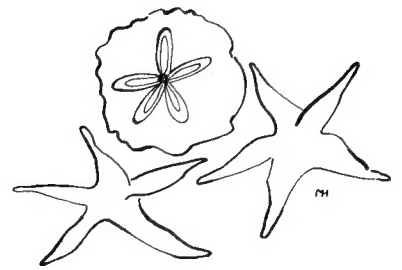
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

The Turkey is well distributed through north and central Florida and has thrived under careful management in certain parts of the Panhandle.



# Part II

## Gulf Coast Area



### BRADENTON AREA

Good birding in the Bradenton area (and there are many more good bird spots than can be enumerated here):

Causeways to, and shores, of Anna Maria Island (Highway 64 west), Terra Ceia Island (west of Highway 19), Sunshine Skyway, Highway 19, and other causeways and shores. Pelicans, gulls, terns, skimmers, oystercatchers, Anhingas, and cormorants. Egrets, herons, ibises, Wood Storks, peeps, plovers, and numerous other shore birds. Ducks, coots, and gallinules in river and bays. Eagles, hawks, owls, woodpeckers, and perching birds in land areas.

Allen S. Hitch

### CLEARWATER AREA

**ALLIGATOR LAKE**—On Bayshore Drive between U. S. Route 60 and Safety Harbor. This fresh water lake that is just across the road from Tampa Bay is ideal for water birds both summer and winter. Besides the regular shore birds, there are Anhingas, Least Bitterns, and gallinules nesting in the summer. In winter there are ducks, Bald Eagles, Osprey, coots, rails, Tree Swallows and many warblers.

Route 60 (Courtney Campbell Causeway), Tampa to Clearwater, is well worth visiting for shore birds of all kinds. In winter, Horned Grebes and Common Loons may be found here.

**RANCH AREA - ONE**—East of Lake Tarpon along East Lake Road from Boot Ranch to north end. Follow this road from the large "Boot," marking Boot Ranch on S. R. 584, to its junction with S. R. 582. White Ibises, Cattle Egrets, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks can be seen regularly. Turkeys, Barred Owls, Pileated Woodpeckers, Bluebirds and warblers may also be seen here, as well as two eagle nests.

**RANCH AREA - TWO**—S. R. 54 from Odessa, east to U. S. 41, south to Lutz and west on Vernon Road to Lake Fern. This contains ranch country where in winter Wood Ibises, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed and Marsh Hawks, Sandhill Cranes, bluebirds, pipits, and Chipping and other sparrows may be found. Glossy Ibises have been seen here.

Col. Frank M. Child

### FORT MYERS AREA

Drive to far south end and eastern corner of Pine Island (north and mostly west of Fort Myers) for Bald Eagles and Ospreys and their nests. Just as you approach St. James City, turn left on "8th Ave." and keep going east and south to desolate tidewater area where eagle nests (one very large one) can be seen bordering bay area. On the way, in the Matlacha area, one can see a variety of water birds, such as Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Green

Heron, and Anhinga. Sometimes wheeling flocks of White Pelicans can be seen over Pine Island. South and east of Fort Myers, about 54 miles, is the famed Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary (north and east of Naples) where a variety of species may be found. The Wood Storks (several thousands of them) nest in the area. You can nearly always see alligators here if they have eluded you elsewhere. You are likely to see White Ibis, Limpkin, Pileated Woodpecker, Barred Owl, and in the breeding season the Chuck-will's-widow. Admission to the sanctuary, \$1.00. It is owned and operated by the National Audubon Society.

The Southwest Florida Audubon Society has compiled for local use by the Chamber of Commerce a list of Regional Birds of Special Interest, and where they are found. It is available on request.

Bradford Patten (Southwest Florida Audubon Society)

**FORT MYERS BEACH AREA**—November to April. Shore birds and land birds.

**PUNTA RASSA - BUNCH BEACH**—November to April. Shore birds and long-legged waders. (This is on Route 867.)

**PINE ISLAND - PINELAND - ST. JAMES CITY**—Ave. 8th. Route 78 from 41-767 south, 183 north. November to April. Shore birds, long-legged waders, eagles and their nests, a few land birds.

**BURNT SHORE ROAD**—From Route 78, Sandhill Cranes.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Wilson's Plover quickly feigns injury when one approaches the nest, which is only a depression in the earth. The eggs are well camouflaged.



RALPH E. LAWRENCE

In Florida, the Prairie Warbler is commonly found in mangroves, although transient birds may be seen in other types of habitat.

**ROUTE 82**—Long-legged waders, shore birds, Sandhill Cranes.

**ROUTE 78**—East of 31 from 80. October to May. Scrub (Florida) Jays.

The First National Bank's Lee County map would be very useful. Contact Caloosa Bird Club for whereabouts of Painted Buntings and special birds in Ft. Myers.

The Caloosa Bird Club Field Trip Schedule is available to anyone interested.

William K. Widger (Caloosa Bird Club)

## ST. PETERSBURG AREA

**MIRROR LAKE** in downtown St. Petersburg is noted for the Ringed Turtle Dove.

**LAKE MAGGIORE AND NATURE TRAIL**—9th St. So. noted for herons, egrets, ibises, Anhingas, cormorants, roosting on small island on north end of Lake Maggiore, land birds in picnic area and Nature Trail. 161 birds have been recorded around the lake and nature trail.

**LOSSING PARK**—Waterfront north of 22nd Ave., So. Many shore birds, a variety of terns, Bonaparte's Gulls, and Marbled Godwits may be found here.

**SUNSHINE SKYWAY**—Route 19. This is the best place for Oystercatchers and Marbled Godwits. Shore birds of many species are found here.

**BAYWAY TO FORT DESOTA PARK** (Mullet Key) for shore birds such as Long-billed Curlews, Whimbrels, Piping, and Snowy, Plovers.

**GULFPORT**—Both shore and land birds can be found here.

Mrs. Frank G. Smith

## SANIBEL-CAPTIVA AREA

Sanibel and Captiva Islands, located in the Gulf of Mexico some 15 miles west of Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, have long been called a "Mecca" for naturalists in general. Since the establishment of the Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge in 1945, the lovely islands have become increasingly a haven for both birds and their students. The islands are reached by a bridge-causeway (as of May 26, 1963) which connects Sanibel Island with the fishing settlement of Punta Rassa on the mainland. The area boasts over 200 species of birds, including many rare or unusual forms, which can be observed at extremely close range, and most intimately. Such birds as Roseate Spoonbills, Bald Eagles, Black-necked Stilts, Knots, Oystercatchers, Snowy Plovers, and the smaller migratory birds, an excellent assortment of shore birds, and a diversity of bird habitats make the islands an important stop-over for those who hope to improve their observation techniques and bird lists. The Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society meets the second Thursday in each month, November through April, the special programs taking place throughout that period. For further information on the birdlife of the islands write: Refuge Manager, Sanibel National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island, Florida.

Charles R. Le Buff, Jr.

## SARASOTA AREA

**OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK**—Oscar Scherer State Park is approximately 10 miles south of Sarasota on Route 41. Entrance road to park, a quarter mile long, leaves the highway 2½ miles south of Osprey, on the east side of the road just north of South Creek.

Oscar Scherer State Park is the best place for Scrub Jays, and several other land birds, many of which are very tame and will feed at your feet or from your hand. Across the creek may be seen a Bald Eagle's nest with eagles present during the winter and at the picnic area an old eagle's nest occupied by the Great Horned Owl.

**MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK**—Myakka River State Park is 17 miles east of Sarasota. Take Route 41 south, 3 miles to Route 72, and turn east on Route 72.

On the way to the park, in the ranch area, Sandhill Cranes may often be seen. Wading birds, including both species of yellowlegs, may be seen in the pools on the ranches along the way and in Cowpen Slough canal. Bluebirds frequently are seen on the wires, and Red-shouldered Hawks on posts or in trees along the way.

Myakka River State Park is the best location in the Sarasota region for wintering ducks, wading birds including Wood Ibis, White Ibis, and Limpkin, also Anhinga, Red-shouldered Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker. This park is probably the best place in the State to see the Wild Turkey, more likely to be seen in early morning and late afternoon. The Sandhill Crane is present in the wilder areas of the park and sometimes may be seen. In summer the Purple Gallinule nests in the park, as well as many large wading birds.

There are also numerous animals present in the park such as deer, raccoon and wild pig.



RICHARD P. KLEIN

The White-eyed Vireo is an abundant summer resident, and common throughout the year in wooded areas.

**LAKE SARASOTA**—Lake Sarasota, a tidal estuary at the southwest corner of the Venice airport, at the headquarters of the Lake Sarasota Golf Club, is a good spot in the southern part of the county for winter ducks and water birds. This estuary is about a half mile west of the winter quarters of the Ringling, Barnum and Bailey Circus.

**FRUITVILLE CELERY FARM AREA**—Fruitville Celery Farm Area, located on the south side of Fruitville Road, Route 780, 5½ miles east of Sarasota, is the best location in winter to find the Sandhill Crane and the Water Pipit.

**ANNA MARIA CAUSEWAY**—Just north of Longboat Pass and the Longboat-Anna Maria Bridge, on the east or bay side, is an excellent place to find shore birds, gulls and terns, including Whimbrel and Marbled Godwit. In the distance toward the east, just south of Cortez, may be seen the largest pelican rookery in the general region.

**SIESTA, LIDO, LONGBOAT KEYS**—Shore birds, gulls, and terns, may be found in limited numbers along the beaches. However, the best places for these birds are just outside of Sarasota County.

**PERICO ISLAND AND PERICOU BAYOU**—Located on the extension of Manatee Avenue 4½ miles west of Bradenton, at low tide is an excellent spot for shore and wading birds. In the summer this is the best place in the region for seeing the Roseate Spoonbill.

**SUNSHINE SKYWAY**—Beginning approximately 5 miles north of Palmetto on Route 19, is an excellent place for shore and water birds over most of the causeway on either side. An occasional Long-billed Curlew may be seen in this Pinellas County area along the causeway. From the Pinellas County picnic area on the west side of

the Skyway, oystercatchers may be seen on the offshore oyster bars during autumn, winter and spring.

**NOTE**—To visit other birding areas in the Sarasota region which are either remote or on private property, it may be feasible for arrangements to be made through members of the Sarasota Bird Club.

Charles Preston

## TAMPA AREA

The Tampa Bay Area is one of the best birding areas in the state, especially for water and shore birds.

The Courtney Campbell and Howard Franklin Causeways are especially good for ducks down from the north for the winter, also many loons and grebes are observed from these vantage points. Most of the Howard Franklin Causeway is restricted from parking, but the Courtney Campbell Causeway has ample room for parking as long as desired. In the tidal areas adjoining these causeways are the favorite resting places for thousands of shore birds, gulls and terns throughout the winter. Most members of the heron, egret, and ibis, families are represented.

Hillsborough River State Park is located approximately twenty-five miles north of Tampa on Route 301, and is a fine place for land birds. Most of the resident warblers are found here, also most of the woodpeckers including the Pileated.

Charles C. Norris



JACK MERRITT

The Smooth-billed Ani, an abundant West Indian species, is increasing in numbers in Florida.

# Part III.

## East Coast Area



### CENTRAL BREVARD COUNTY COCOA - MERRITT ISLAND

For the past eight years this area has led the country in species recorded on the Audubon Christmas Bird Counts. Anyone with only a short time in the district can hope to visit only the places where there are concentrations of birds. Such places are listed here and cover mostly water birds but many land birds will also be seen on these trips.

**CANAVERAL HARBOR**—From Cocoa take Route 520 to Cocoa Beach; turn north at traffic light onto Route 401 for 3.8 miles to unpaved road east along south side of harbor; turn north almost at once from that road on a sand road running out on fill in harbor. Diving birds are found in the ship slip and wading birds, shore birds, gulls and terns on the mud flats to the north. Even in summer Whimbrels and Great Black-backed Gulls are there.

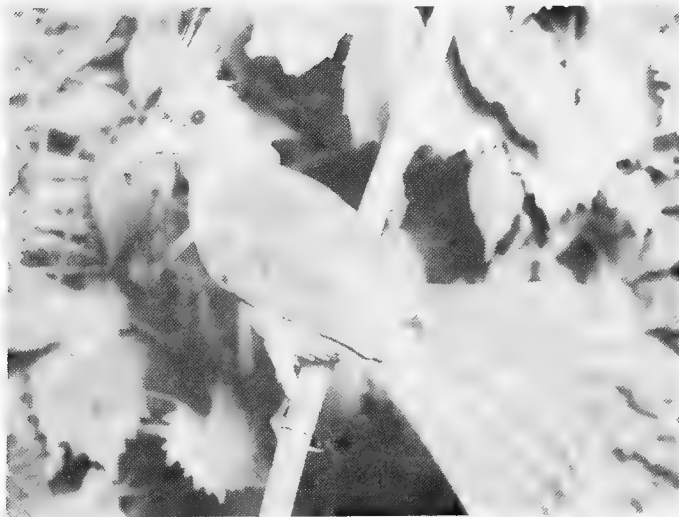
**ENTRANCE TO CANAVERAL HARBOR:** About 200 yards before reaching the harbor, turn east on paved road from Route 401; follow this where it swings north past the citrus processing plant and back around the Coast Guard Station to the south jetty of the entrance to the harbor. In winter when the shrimping fleet is here hundreds of pelicans, gulls and terns follow the boats in from the ocean. With them may be gannets, jaegers, etc. Examine the rocks of the jetties for shore birds.

**CANAVERAL BANANA RIVER CAUSEWAY**—West from the road from Route 401 to the harbor entrance is the road to the new causeway and bridges across the Banana River to Merritt Island. The shores and shallow water on each side of the causeway are frequented by many kinds of water birds. When the bridge is opened to

traffic in the fall of 1963 the entire three miles width of the river will be available to birders for a small toll. Those wishing to check only the east shore of the river can walk out along the edge of the causeway.

**SYKES CREEK, MERRITT ISLAND**—From Cocoa cross the Indian River to the second traffic light on Merritt Island; take road going *northeast* (back of the Texaco station) 1¼ miles to bridge over Sykes Creek; continue for a quarter mile to a flowing well and dike on the right. This dike encloses a marsh, ponds and mangrove swamp and returns to the highway; the round trip is about 1¼ miles. Wading birds, such as herons, bitterns, rails and gallinules may be seen as well as Anhingas and Mottled Ducks. Continue along the road checking the ponds on both sides of the road.

Where road forks take left one north along the Banana River to the Island end of the Canaveral Causeway, checking the birds on the river and along the causeway.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

A favorite visitor to feeding stations in Florida is the attractive Cardinal.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Barred Owl, the only eastern owl (except Barn Owl) with brown eyes, is a common resident of the deep woodlands.

**FORMER MERRITT ISLAND DUMP**—From Cocoa cross to Merritt Island on Route 520 past second traffic light a half mile to Plumosa St.; turn south 0.4 mile to sand drive going east just before reaching a row of buildings on east side of street; go east 0.4 mile to ponds and marsh for White and Glossy Ibises, ducks, etc. The weed field north of drive is good for sparrows in winter.

**SOUTH BANANA RIVER, MERRITT ISLAND**—From Cocoa cross to first traffic light on Merritt Island; turn south on Route 3 for about 5½ miles to where road runs near the Banana River; at about 6 miles an artesian well and dike are on the east side of road; walk out dike about 200 yards to river, watching marsh and pond on left, then check the river and bank; returning to car to continue south watching river for White Pelicans, ducks, etc., for about 4 miles.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The only place that the Scrub Jay is found in eastern United States is Florida.

**DUDA & SONS CATTLEPENS**—From intersection of Routes 1 and 520, go west on Route 520 about 0.7 mile to Fiske Blvd. traffic light; turn south on Fiske for about 4½ miles to where road runs into ranch; continue on ranch road, taking right fork, 0.5 mile to barn and cattlepens for concentration of blackbirds and other birds. In winter, Brewer's Blackbirds may be found and perhaps a Yellow-headed Blackbird. During July and early August, turn off Fiske about 0.6 mile from Route 520 on Pluckebaum Road for about 3 miles. Over the casuarina trees surrounding groves or open fields are likely to be Swallow-tailed Kites. In the pastures beyond may be many egrets and possibly Sandhill Cranes.

**ST. JOHN'S RIVER**—Go west on Route 520 from the intersection with Route 1 about 8.8 miles to the St. John's River; if water is high, ibises and marsh birds and ducks are apt to be in the marsh east of the river; continue over the bridge about one-half mile to where road passes over Taylor Creek and check on both sides of road.

W. Foster White

## DAYTONA BEACH AREA

(1) Drive on Daytona Beach from Coquina Hotel to Ponce de Leon Inlet.

(2) Junction of South Beach St. and Bellevue Ave.—turn left to Bethune Point, pass Filtration Plant to South Beach St. to WROD to Route 1 to Reed Canal to second bridge on left to McDonald's Farm on left, ponds to south 200 feet plus.

(3) Start Route 1 (S. Ridgewood 800 block, Howard Johnson's) turn west on Bellevue Ave. to pond to D. B. Airport to Tomoka Farm Road (near Junction 92), turn south (left) work slowly south to Pioneer Trail (40A), left to road west of ball park and right on first dirt road, check open water (both sides), continue on Route 2 then right to Main St., Harbor Oaks, to North on Riverside Road—Route 2—Daytona Beach. Along the beach one may see 5 species of gulls, five or six species of terns, turn-

stones, Willets, knots, Brown Pelicans, Black-bellied, Piping and Semipalmated Plovers, Fish Crows and Dunlins. Returning from the Inlet on roads near Halifax River. Common and Snowy Egrets, Great Blue, Little Blue, and Louisiana Herons may be spotted as well as kingfishers, Red-wings, both Horned and Pied-billed Grebes, shrikes, Black Skimmers, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Bluebird. If one crosses the Port Orange (toll) Bridge, and parks first west of it, Oystercatchers may be seen on oyster bars or gravel spits. Five or more species of shorebirds may be seen at Bethune Point, and at low tide in the river all four species of rails have been seen on mud flats east of WROD Radio Station. Leaving that as one turns right from Route 1 before one comes to Reed Canal Bridge is a small pond where Anhingas, coots, Red-wings, and gallinules, are seen. On the country road to McDonald's Farm usually one sees Cattle Egrets. Ponds just south of the buildings may hold Common Snipe, Killdeer, both yellowlegs, White Ibises and Brown-headed Cowbirds. Bluebirds, Mourning Doves, Starlings, shrikes are seen on wires, while one may also see Red-shouldered Hawks on telephone poles and Brown-headed Nuthatches in pine woods. While a telescope is not of primary importance, it helps when birds are far away. In the summer, many of the birds present in the winter go north.

There are other areas where a guide is a great help. A phone call or card may be sent to George L. Williams, trip director, 136 Salvador Place, Ormond Beach, Florida (phone OR 7-0907) for guide service to local or east central Florida.

George L. Williams



JEROME BURGMAN

The first wildlife refuge in the United States was established for the Brown Pelican in 1903 on Pelican Island near Sebastian.

## FORT PIERCE AREA

A drive across South Bridge to the inlet and ocean, with stops en route, will usually produce a variety of the larger waders, shore birds, gulls, and terns. Common Loons and Horned Grebes are fairly regular in winter. Magnificent Frigatebirds can frequently be seen, especially when fish are running, and thousands of pelicans, cormorants, and other birds, are feeding. A similar short trip over North Bridge is recommended. In bad weather, when few people are about, North Beach is a favorite resting place for gulls and terns. Watch for a few Sandwich Terns among the large numbers of commoner species.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Carolina Wren is one of the most vociferous of its family, and nests regularly about buildings and in unexpected places.

In the southwestern part of Fort Pierce, north of Virginia Avenue, and between South 23rd and South 25th Streets, there is an open woods, the home of the Hairy Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Pine Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, and other birds.

Indian River Drive, south of Fort Pierce, overlooks the Indian River from the top of a rather high bank. Watch for places to park safely in order to scan the shore, sand bars, and mud flats for waders, large and small. The brushy banks and wooded lots harbor many land birds.

Five miles south of the center of town, Midway Road runs inland. About three-fourths of a mile west of the river, just before Midway Road angles left, there is a place to stop while you walk a short distance to the top of a dike overlooking the savannah. Look for Pied-billed Grebes, large waders (including both bitterns), King Rails, and an occasional Limpkin.

Because many of the best localities are under private ownership, the visiting birder should also consult the telephone book and get in touch with the following "Audubonites" and like-minded people: Mrs. Sawyer Lennard, Mrs. Horace Vick, Sam Hardwick, Mrs. Nick Pantelidis, and the undersigned.

Lyle S. Hubbard

## ST. AUGUSTINE

**BEST BIRDING AREAS**—Travelers coming into St. Augustine locale will find such birds as gulls, terns, curlews, plovers, and turnstones by driving along Highway A1A into the Vilano Beach area where the ocean is readily seen from the road. Passing through St. Augustine over the Bridge of Lions, Highway A1A continues on south to Anastasia State Park where many species of land and shore birds are seen. Some are: Red-winged Blackbird, Blue Jay, Cardinal, several sparrow species, Ground Dove, Little Blue Heron, American Egret, pelicans, sandpipers, and loons. Continue on the road to the site of Fort Matanzas—numerous birds here—and then drive on south to Marineland area. Just south of the site, on the west side of the highway one can usually find Scrub Jays perched on low shrubs.

J. Evelyn Braddock

## STUART AREA

Driving south from Ft. Pierce, Route A1A runs along the Indian River and one may catch sight of various water birds. At the edge of the town of Jensen Beach, near the old bridge, are mud and sand flats and low islands where there are many shore birds, including Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, and Spotted Sandpiper. There are also Red-breasted Mergansers in this area. Both shore birds and mergansers are absent in summer.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Black Skimmer has an unusual bill in which the maxilla is only two-thirds the length of the mandible. This enables the bird to feed by skimming over the water and dipping the mandible.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Ground Dove with its chestnut wing patches is not much larger than a House Sparrow.

The Double-crested Cormorant, Brown Pelican, Ring-billed Gull, and Great Blue Heron are abundant throughout the entire area. Also commonly seen are the Ground Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Palm Warbler. Painted Buntings are found at many feeders.

Continuing south on A1A, through Jensen Beach and south of the Outrigger Restaurant, one comes to St. Joseph's Academy on the east side of the road. There is an area of water and swamp here that has become a roost for Anhingas. Many birds can be seen from A1A and more by turning into the School driveway. Eighteen species were seen here on one visit. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron can often be seen within 30 feet, and as many as 20 to 30 Anhingas at a distance of 100 to 150 feet.

Continuing south on A1A leads to the two bridges to Point Sewall and on to Hutchinson's Island. The first bridge is known locally as the "ten-cent bridge" and the second one as the "twenty-five cent bridge." The tolls are to be discontinued in the fall of 1963. On both bridges, Ruddy Turnstones, Ring-billed Gulls and Royal Terns compete for snacks from the fishermen on the bridge. One Common Egret, "Joe," adroitly evades auto traffic from both sides very gracefully.

Above Hutchinson Island, one may sometimes see a Magnificent Frigatebird and an occasional Gannet over the ocean. The beach road east is productive of both land and water birds.

Return over the bridges, to A1A east and then continue through Port Salerno. Bald Eagles nest in this area. The Inland Waterway east of the St. Lucie River has Wood Stork, White Ibis, and the Louisiana Heron. One or more Common Loons winter in the river.

In Port Salerno, Cattle Egrets are common along the highway, and in the first mile or two south of the town limits Scrub Jays are numerous in the scrubby brush on the right side of the road.

"O.O." or "Oscar" is the Oystercatcher that has spent the last seven winters on Singer Island opposite Riviera Beach.

If anyone is interested in visiting some off-the-highway spots, call Charles Batchellor, Port Salerno, for information.  
Genevieve Trinter

## WEST PALM BEACH AREA

LAKE OSBORNE in John Prince Park is a large lake in a residential area bordering the western boundary of the city of Lake Worth. Limpkins, ducks, gallinules, coots, and various water birds are easily recorded here.

LOXAHATCHEE WILDLIFE REFUGE is a large impoundment area which borders highway 441 on the west, and the entrance lies one mile south of Boynton Road on 441. Sandhill Cranes and in certain conditions, hundreds of ducks can be seen, including Fulvous Tree Ducks. A bird list is available from the manager of the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge.

H. P. Langridge

PINE JOG SANCTUARY AND NATURE CENTER, Dillman Road, West Palm Beach, is located on typical flatwoods land of pine and scrub palmetto, and is most interesting from the angle of its plant life. Under the direction of Rex Conyers, director of the Nature Center, and also Conservation Education Director for Florida Audubon Society, the bird population is being built up through a bird attraction program of food, water, and increased variety of plant life. The Center is well worth a visit from those who are interested not only in finding birds, and observing other phases of natural history, but also in seeing the manifestly keen interest of boys and girls, their parents and teachers, in the problems of conservation of all natural resources when the right ecological approach is made.

C. R. M.

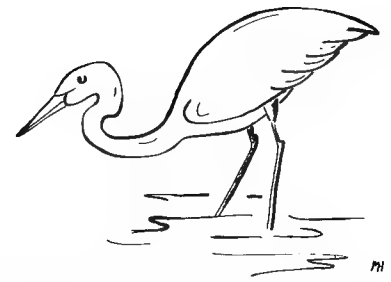


CLARENCE R. BERGQUIST

The Black-necked Stilt is resident in Florida through the summer months.

# Part IV

## Central Florida Area



### BROOKSVILLE AREA

**STAGE POND**—Leave Brooksville on U. S. Route 41, travel north 5 miles to S. R. 581, turn left on S. R. 581 and continue north for 6.5 miles to S. R. 480, turn left on S. R. 480 and continue west for 3.1 miles to the Stage Pond Gate on the left side of the road. (Small cemetery is just west.) Follow the dirt road down to the pond and park. A trail completely encircles the pond and you will find yourself in an area of large live oak, hickory, magnolia, and holly trees. This area is part of the Citrus Wildlife Management Area of the Withlacoochee State Forest and is well known for the large number of deer which are found in the area. This pond was once on a stage coach route, and the stages stopped here to water their horses.

On a walk around the pond during the winter months you may expect to see herons, egrets, ibises, snipe and Anhingas. The pond is a favorite wintering ground for Ring-necked Ducks and Wood Ducks; Hooded Mergansers, Blue and Green-winged Teal, Mallards, scaup, Gadwalls, Ruddy Ducks, and American Widgeons are often observed. Most of the common song birds of the region may be found in the hammock area bordering the pond; warblers, vireos, thrushes, titmice, chickadees and nuthatches. During the summer months Chuck-will's-widows, Common Nighthawks, and Barred Owls, are commonly heard in the area.

**McKETHAN LAKE**—Leave Brooksville on U. S. Route 41, drive north approximately 7.5 miles to the McKethan Lake Recreational Area. The entrance lies west of U. S. Route 41 just beyond the Forest Service Headquarters and is indicated by a rock structure supporting the entrance sign. A picnic shelter, drinking water, and parking space, are located on the west side of the lake. A good woods-road completely encircles the lake and the combination of hardwood hammock, marshy area and water, afford good habitat for a variety of birds during the winter season. Here you may see herons, egrets, ibises, ducks and gallinules along the lake shore and warblers, vireos, titmice, hawks, owls, as well as other birds typical of hardwood hammocks and fresh water marshes. The Osprey, Mottled (Florida) Duck, Bobwhite, Turkey, and Wood Ibises are occasionally observed in this area.

**SILVER LAKE**—Drive southeast from Brooksville on U. S. Route 98 for 10.7 miles to S. R. 39 (unmarked route just west of the railroad overpass), turn left onto S. R. 39 and continue for 4.2 miles to a dirt road; turn right and follow the dirt road (keeping to the right) across the railroad track for approximately .7 mile to Silver Lake Camp and parking area. Silver Lake is in the Croom Wildlife Management Area and is actually a wide portion of the Withlacoochee River. The combination of hammock, turkey oak ridge and cypress areas bordering the river

afford good habitat for birds, particularly during the winter months. Following the trail along the river you may expect to see herons, egrets, ibises and Anhingas. This is a favorite area to observe Limpkins as they search the shallow water for snails and freshwater mussels. The bright yellow of the male Prothonotary Warbler is often seen flitting back and forth between the cypress and gums which grow along the river bank. Wild Turkeys are sometimes observed feeding along the river, or in the hammock searching for acorns. Most of the song birds found in this region may be observed in this area. The call of the Limpkin, Red-shouldered Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Chuck-will's-widow, Common Nighthawk, and Barred Owl are familiar sounds in the Silver Lake area.

**PINE ISLAND**—Leave Brooksville on S. R. 50, drive west 13 miles to U. S. Route 19, continue west on S. R. 50 five miles to S. R. 595. Turn right on S. R. 595 and continue 3 miles to Pine Island. Between S. R. 595 and Pine Island, look for herons, egrets, ibises, rails, grebes, ducks and sparrows in and close to the water-filled ditches found on both sides of the road. Seven-tenths of a mile from the junction of S. R. 50 and S. R. 595 you may see a large, active eagle nest in a tall pine on the east side of the road. Parking space, picnic shelters, and comfort stations, are available at Pine Island. At low tide you may expect to see herons, egrets, ibises, yellowlegs, sandpipers,



RALPH E. LAWRENCE

The tremulous call of the Screech Owl can be heard on summer nights in many parts of the State.





SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Bachman's is one of the few sparrows that nest in Florida.

plovers, Black Skimmers, and numerous gulls and terns. In the hardwood hammocks bordering S. R. 50 between Bayport and U. S. Route 19, you may observe Pileated Woodpeckers, flycatchers, warblers, vireos, and other more common species usually associated with a hammock-type habitat.

**COON KEY**—Leave Brooksville on U. S. Route 98, travel northwest 16 miles to U. S. Route 19, turn north on Route 19, proceed 7 miles to Homosassa Springs. Take S. R. 490 at Homosassa Springs and travel approximately 4 miles west to the Homosassa River. Coon Key must be reached by boat. Boats and guides are available at MacRae's Boat House on the river. In the past a charge of \$12.00 per boat (four people per boat) has been made for a round-trip to the Key. Coon Key is approximately six miles by water from MacRae's Boat House and is located approximately 3 miles northwest of the mouth of the Homosassa River. It is mangrove island where, during the nesting season, you may observe Brown Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants and numerous herons and egrets on the nests. The sight of 200 to 300 Frigatebirds circling over the Key is one of the highlights of the trip. During the winter large flocks of White Pelicans are found in the area. The area borders on the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, an area which is noted for its winter waterfowl population. En route by water down the Homosassa River you may see ducks, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Limpkins, and most of the song birds found in the region if you will stop and investigate the coastal hammock. A trip to Coon Key by way of the beautiful Homosassa River is a very pleasant and rewarding experience.

Steve B. Fickett

## CLEWISTON AREA

The city of Clewiston on the south edge of Lake Okeechobee would be the best center for birding visitors to start.

Traveling northwest from Clewiston on Route 720 to Moore Haven, thence on Route 78 to Lake Port and Fish-eating Creek, the visitors would be well rewarded. A three mile side road west of Lake Port at the new gas station is also worthwhile.

The outstanding birds on the west side of the lake are Sandhill Cranes, Caracaras, Bald Eagles, Burrowing Owls, and various hawks. The water birds of interest are Glossy Ibises, White Ibises, Wood Ibises, Limpkins, Black-necked Stilts, and nearly all of the herons and egrets.

An interesting trip in this area is by use of special swamp buggy. These tours will produce a wide variety of birds, and can be arranged in advance by individual or private parties. This service is conducted from my headquarters at Clewiston from September through May.

George L. Espenlaub



THE CATTLE EGRET SINCE ITS ARRIVAL IN FLORIDA A LITTLE OVER A DECADE AGO HAS BECOME A COMMON SPECIES IN THE STATE.

BILL HARDY

## DELAND AREA

The best areas for birding in our territory are:

1. Eagles' nests—(Note: Please keep away from eagles' nests until after young are well fledged. Otherwise parents may desert nest and young. Local inquiry suggested.)

Buena Vista Avenue in DeBary. Has been occupied lately.

2. Many Florida (Scrub) Jays and Rufous-sided Towhees may be seen at Enterprise Cemetery on Orange City-Enterprise Road. The jays are friendly and can be fed from hand.

3. Swallow-tailed Kites—Alexander Springs—Take road west from Barberville towards Astor Bridge and follow signs to springs. It is better to call before going since on many days birds are not there. Late spring and summer only.

4. Osteen Swamps—Many wading birds can be seen here. Go east from Sanford on road to New Smyrna Beach and park car just after crossing bridge over St. John's River.

5. Ponce de Leon Inlet—A variety of shore birds can be seen at inlet, particularly at low tide. Take Route 44 to New Smyrna Beach, pass over North Bridge and go to Life Guard Station a few miles north of Flagler Ave. Park car at station and walk along beach to inlet.

PONCE DE LEON SPRINGS—Eight miles north of DeLand just off U. S. Highway 17 is a delightful place to visit. There is a small admission charge. Historically, the Spring was discovered by Ponce de Leon in 1513. The Indians considered the healing spring a gift of the Great Spirit and brought their sick and wounded here for treatment. It is one of the finest natural beauty spots in Florida. Here one may swim in the "Fountain of Youth," observe birds and other natural history features along the Audubon Trail through a central Florida jungle, visit a 1570 sugar mill and an ancient Indian Burial Mound and see a 2700 year old Bald Cypress. Thousands of Azaleas reach their peak of bloom in March and April.

Paul E. Harris

## GAINESVILLE AREA

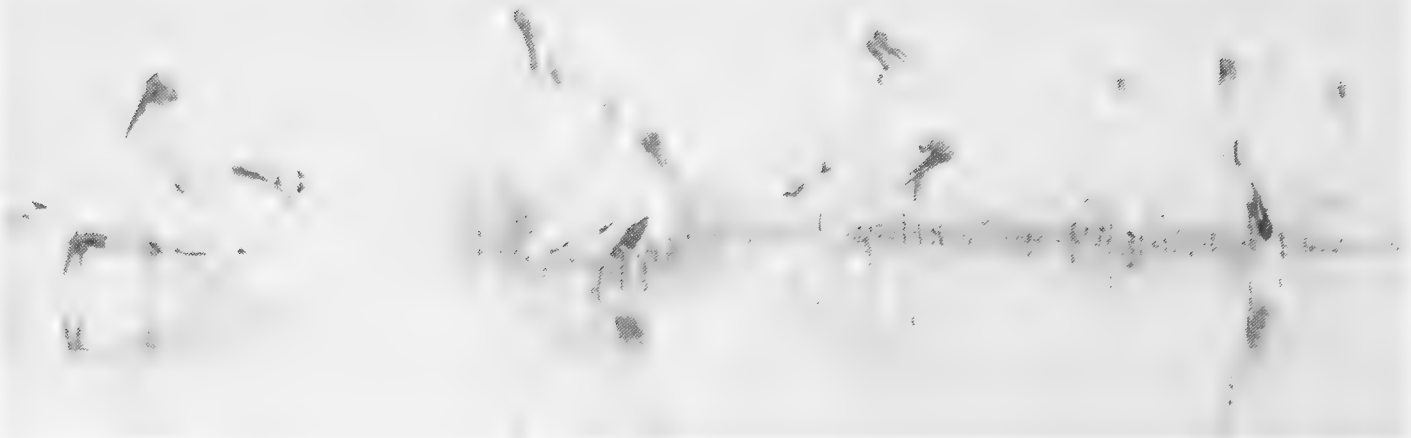
The Gainesville region is fortunate in the number of swamps, marshes, lakes and wet prairies, that occur within its limits and which, as either feeding or nesting grounds, attract spectacularly beautiful wading birds. There follows an annotated list of the more important of these localities.

LAKE ALICE—This unique locality supports what is probably the only many-species rookery of water birds located within the campus limits of any university anywhere. It comprises ninety acres of water and swamp just west of Stadium Road at the University of Florida. It is surrounded by fields of the University farms and the dormitory grounds. Lake Alice has been a wildlife sanctuary since the 1930's and since 1962 cooperative between the Florida Audubon Society and the University.

There are broad expanses of marsh plants in the shallower parts of the lake, while thickets of willow, maple and Buttonbush provide cover. Alligators are present too.

A total of more than 200 species of birds has been recorded at Lake Alice. During the breeding season the small swamp at the northeastern end of the lake becomes fantastically colorful and noisy. In good seasons, thousands of pairs of White and Glossy Ibises, Snowy and Cattle Egrets, Little Blue, Louisiana, and Green, Herons, build their nests of sticks in the low trees. Others of the more conspicuous birds comprise rails, coots, gallinules, ducks, Anhingas, Boat-tailed Grackles, hawks, and the Bald Eagle. Alligators of many sizes, and several species of snakes, frogs, and turtles, are also found here. The Swamp Rabbit is a conspicuous mammal. Since shooting has been prohibited for some 25 years, and since the activities of the University farms are carried on in lands surrounding the lake, the birds have become accustomed to man, and it is possible to stand a few feet away from a tree in which several pairs are nesting, and observe the whole process of courtship, nest construction, and feeding of the young.

PAYNES PRAIRIE—This is the Great Alachua Savanna of colonial days. It is a broad marsh, roughly two miles wide and seven miles long, located four miles south of Gainesville. A vivid description of the Prairie in 1774 is given in Bartram's *Travels*. Then, as now, Maiden Cane or Panic Grass furnished the main forage for great numbers



CLARENCE R. BERGQUIST

The Wood Ibis, an endangered species, is being helped toward recovery by the establishment of suitable sanctuaries.

of grazing animals—deer and Seminole stock. In summer Pickerel Weed (*Pontederia*) occurs as purple seas of flowers in solid expanses of many acres' extent. Cattails and the lavender-flowered Water Hyacinths are conspicuous in the prairie vegetation, and in many scattered ponds the great round leaves and huge, long-stemmed, yellow blossoms of the American Lotus form aquatic gardens of rare beauty.

This big, wet savanna, rich in insects, fish, frogs, reptiles, and small mammals, provides an important feeding ground for thousands of aquatic birds, including resident and migratory ducks, rails, coots, gallinules, and the hosts of showy, long-legged wading birds. It is also the home of small bands of the magnificent Sandhill Crane.

The Prairie, like other shallow lakes of the area, has had a varied history. It was once an Indian pasture. In Civil War days corn was grown on it. Twenty years later a steamboat was making regular runs from Rocky Point to Bivin's Arm.

In 1961, the owners, Camp Ranch, Inc., in cooperation with the Gainesville Garden Club and the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission designated a strip on either side of the right-of-way of U. S. Highway 441 as a wildlife sanctuary. The remainder of the prairie is closed to hunting, fishing and visiting.

**LAKE TUSCAWILLA** (or Cuscowilla) — A two-square mile marsh, at times becoming a shallow lake, a mile south of Micanopy. The Cuscowilla Indians, visited by

Bartram, had their town on the shore of the lake. In 1959, the owners of the lands adjacent to Tuscowilla co-operated with the Florida Audubon Society in making it a wildlife sanctuary. It is an important feeding ground for a colony of Wood Ibises. American, Snowy, and Cattle Egrets are usually to be seen feeding among the grazing Black Angus cattle on the broad pastures around the lake.

**MICANOPY WOOD IBIS ROOKERY**—This is located in cypress swamp in the lower reaches of the River Styx. It was designated a sanctuary by the owner, Ben Franklin, in cooperation with the Florida Audubon Society. Several hundred Wood Ibises nest in the tall trees of this sanctuary. Prothonotary Warblers, Barred Owls, and Pileated Woodpeckers, are typical residents. It is not open to the public, and the only access to the locality is either by boat or along a railroad track that bisects the area.

**ORANGE LAKE**—This large lake, just at the southern border of Alachua County, was at one time one of the most famous localities in the State for observing birds. Vicissitudes in its levels have at times greatly reduced the once tremendous bird colonies that nested on the floating islands. Normally, there are good numbers of White Ibises nesting on the sixty acres owned by the Florida Audubon Society, as well as many herons, Least Bitterns, Boat-tailed Grackles, and gallinules. Access by boat only, for which contact Don McKay at Orange Lake.

Marjorie Carr

## HIGHLANDS HAMMOCK STATE PARK AND VICINITY

Birders who camp will find Highlands Hammock State Park near Sebring a good base for operations, since Highlands Hammock State Park itself has good birding and is so located that it affords a base for trips north through the phosphate pits of Polk County, and south to Lake Okeechobee.

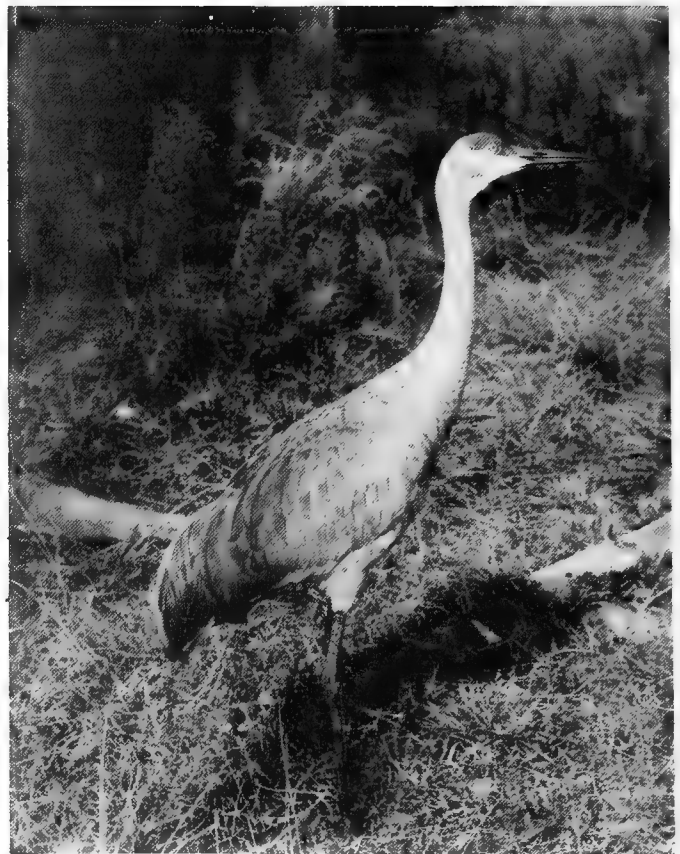
The birds actually welcome the campers to Highlands Hammock State Park for they swarm over the camping area begging, and (believe it or not) the Yellow-throated Warbler is one of the most persistent beggars here. He is accompanied by Bobwhites, Red-headed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Cardinals, Red-winged Blackbirds, Meadow-larks, Bluejays, and Mockingbirds.

The hammock (hard woods) section of the park is always full of small birds such as wood warblers, vireos, flycatchers. In the cypress swamp and marsh areas, water birds such as ibises, storks, and herons come and go. Anhingas are always here and occasionally the Limpkin and the Prothonotary Warbler.

The pinewoods has Bluebirds, woodpeckers including the Red-cockaded, and Brown-headed Nuthatch. The pine scrub adds the saucy Scrub Jay.

On the entrance road to Highlands Hammock State Park is Lake Jackson where Black Skimmers, Ring-billed and Bonaparte's Gulls, Forster's Terns, as well as coots, gallinules, and cormorants may be found in season.

If for any reason the water birds are not visiting the park, the birder is sure to find them on a trip to the



TOM ROYAL  
The Sandhill Crane is a resident in peninsular Florida, with the center of its population the Kissimmee Prairie region.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Caracara, a resident of central Florida, is the national bird of Mexico.

Brighton Indian Reservation. This trip should add the Sandhill Crane and the Caracara to the birder's list.

Highlands Hammock State Park is particularly proud of the following birds: Swallow-tailed Kite (March-August), Anhingas (all year), turkeys (occasionally), Limpkin (occasionally), bluebirds, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Short-tailed Hawk (winter) bitterns (winter), Florida Scrub Jay, Prothonotary Warbler, and others.

If this does not satisfy our birder, he might take a night stroll to find owls, Whip-poor-wills (winter), Chuck-will's-widow (summer), Common Nighthawk (summer), and night herons. On a moonlight night, the Great Blue Heron will go fishing too. Good birding to you.

Carol H. Beck

## LAKE WALES AREA

**MOUNTAIN LAKE SANCTUARY**—Site of the Singing Tower, 3 miles north of Lake Wales. Nature trails wind through the 100-acre sanctuary. Many of the plants are marked. The best birding, generally, is in the north half of the area. Main attraction is the colony of more than 200 wild Wood Ducks, many of which nest in the sanctuary and spend the entire year there. Ninety-six species of birds have been identified since 1956, most of them upland species. Barn Owls nest on the Tower. Warblers are abundant in migration. A photo blind has been set up near a feeding station. Ask for a checklist at the information booth. Only charge is 50 cents per car parking fee.

**TIMBERLANE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**—On Lake Pierce about 1½ miles north of the Great Masterpiece. Follow Timberlane Road signs to the sanctuary. Then follow "Information" signs to Gordon Male residence and secure permission before going on the nature trails. Limpkins are often seen along the canals, Pileated Woodpeckers in the forest. A big attraction is "George," a Sand-

hill Crane that was shot and now makes Timberlane his home. This residential development in a sanctuary is a fine example of how man can live in harmony with nature, setting his home in the midst of natural beauty instead of bulldozing it away. No charge.

**COOPER WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**—A small sanctuary, posted by the Ridge Audubon Society, within the city limits of Lake Wales. Follow Park Avenue toward the west until it dead-ends at lake. Park there and walk south along the shore of Lake Weaver. Many warblers and other small birds frequent the tangled growth of the sanctuary. A few short trails have been cut. Usually a variety of wading birds can be seen around the lake margins. No charge.

**BABSON PARK AUDUBON CENTER AND NATURE TRAIL**—On U. S. Alt. 27 just north of Webber College. The Center is scheduled to open late in 1963. It will contain displays and exhibits about the natural history and conservation needs of central Florida. The nature trail is now open. It starts behind the Center and winds down to Lake Caloosa, thence along the lakeshore and back through the pine woods to the Center. A very scenic walk, with most birds being seen in the lake area. A nature trail leaflet will be available when the Center opens. Owned by the Florida Audubon Society, operated by the Ridge Audubon Society. No charge.

**LAKE REEDY IN FROSTPROOF**—Traveling south on U. S. Alt. 27 from Babson Park, you enter Frostproof. Lake Reedy is the large lake east of town. The drive circling the lake usually produces a good list of birds, including ducks, Anhingas, and sometimes an Osprey or a Bald Eagle. On the southeast side of the lake a sign points to the "Lake Arbuckle Boat Landing." Scrub Jays are almost always seen along this hard-surfaced dead-end road.

Kenneth D. Morrison

## LAKELAND AREA

The most spectacular birding for those visiting Lakeland or vicinity is in the late spring or early summer. This is the nesting season for the wading birds with rookeries located in phosphate settling basins. Unfortunately these sanctuaries are not open to the public due to active mining operations nearby. The visitor is always welcome, however, to join in regularly scheduled field trips of the Lake Region Audubon Society which are held on the third Saturday of each month, September through May (none in December). The group meets at 1 p. m. in the parking lot of the Civic Center in downtown Lakeland.

Two of the wildlife sanctuaries in the Lake Region area that are open to the public include the new Saddle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary on State Road 542, three miles east of Lakeland, and Peace River Park on route 60, one mile east of Bartow.

During the winter season, the tourist will enjoy observing the great numbers of waterfowl on Lakeland's lakes, particularly Lake Morton. Also, Lake Mirror in downtown Lakeland, which has a resident population of alligators and turtles as well as water birds. Various forms of wildlife may also be seen around Lake Parker during most of the year.

Lake Region Audubon highly recommends a day's excursion to Bush Gardens in Tampa, Bok Tower and Mountain Lake Sanctuary in Lake Wales, Highlands Hammock State Park in Sebring, Hillsboro River State Park on highway 301 south of Zephyrhills, Myakka River State Park near Sarasota, and the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary near Immokolee.

Jeanne Niswonger

## ZELLWOOD, SANFORD, AND WINTER PARK AREA

**ZELLWOOD MUCKLAND FARMS**—(Permission should be secured before driving on private farm roads.) Take Route 441 to Zellwood, turn left at Apopka Road one-half mile to the farms. When the farms are flooded in the winter season, you may find many species of waterfowl (including the migratory ducks), hawks, eagles, Sandhill Cranes, pipits, blackbirds, sparrows, phoebes, robins and warblers.

**HENRY LEVY PARK**—At Sanford turn east on Route 46 for 6 miles, then turn left at sign directing way to this public park. Park is located on Mullet Lake which is part of the St. John's River system. Good spot for water species such as: ducks, terns, gulls, Black Skimmers, Wood Ibises, White Ibises, Anhingas, Limpkins, Great Blue, Little Blue and Green Herons, Snowy, and Cattle, Egrets, and many small waders. Eagles are always present, as are the hawks and Barred Owls. In the wooded areas look for woodpeckers, gnatcatchers, kinglets, phoebes, Pine, Palm, Black-and-white, Warblers, and vireos.

**WINTER PARK**—Mead Gardens, at intersection of Maitland Avenue and Garden Drive. Picnic tables. A fine botanical garden, plus many species of winter birds. At the far end of the park, around Lake Lillian look for roosting herons and egrets, including Black-crowned Night Herons. Other birds to look for are: Red-shouldered Hawks, Barred Owls, Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-bellied, and Downy Woodpeckers. Follow the woodland trails and search for Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Tufted Titmice, House and Carolina Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, Cedar Waxwings, robins, gnatcatchers, kinglets, White-eyed, and Solitary, Vireos, Myrtle, Black-and-white and Palm Warblers, Baltimore Orioles, and Cardinals. The Limpkin is also found in the Park.

**WINTER PARK**—Rollins College Campus: Dinky Dock located on the shores of Lake Virginia. Start at the intersection of Holt Avenue and Interlachen Avenue, proceed to the lake area, then east on the railroad to the music conservatory, which is a part of the college grounds. I have found 100 species of birds in this area in the course of one year. On the lake and shores: Pied-billed Grebe, cormorants, Anhingas, Great Blue, and Green, Herons; Common, and Snowy, Egrets, American, and Least, Bitterns; Ring-necked Ducks; Wood Ducks, Lesser Scaup; Purple, and Common, Gallinules, Ring-billed, and Bonaparte's Gulls; Forster's Terns. Along the roadside trees look for: woodpeckers, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Tufted Titmice, Cedar Waxwings, robins, shrikes, vireos, warblers, Baltimore Orioles, Cardinals, Indigo and Painted, Buntings; Savannah, Chipping, and White-throated, Sparrows.

Ira J. Weigley



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

Around Lake Okechobee has been the best area to find the Glossy Ibis, also known as Black Curlew, but it may be seen in any part of Florida.

## OTHER CENTRAL FLORIDA AREAS

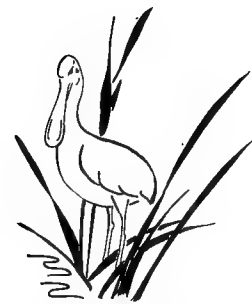
**KELLY AND ROCK SPRINGS PARK**—Drive 18 miles northwest of Orlando on Route 441 to Apopka, then north on Route 435 and follow signs to the Park. This is an Orange County Public Park with swimming and picnic takes available. Oak, Hickory, and Slash Pines are the predominant forest trees and the woodland birds to look for are: hawks, eagles, Barred Owls, woodpeckers, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Carolina Wrens, mockingbirds, Brown Thrashers, Hermit Thrushes, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Cedar Waxwings, Loggerhead Shrikes, White-eyed, and Solitary, Vireos, Pine, Palm, Black-and-white, Myrtle, and Yellow-throated Warblers. Look for the Limpkin and otters in the spring-fed stream.

**TRIMBLE PARK**—Located on Lake Carlton. Take Route 441 to Tangerine, then south 1 mile to Park. Picnic and sandy beach area. Winter birds are a variety of ducks, herons, gulls and terns. In the park look for woodpeckers, thrushes, gnatcatchers, kinglets, vireos and warblers (Pine, Prairie, Black-and-white, Myrtle, Palm, Warblers, Ovenbird). Robins and Cedar Waxwings are common throughout central Florida in winter.

**MOSS PARK ON BEAR ISLAND**—From Orlando drive 25 miles southeast on Route 15, then left on Wewa-hoote and Bear Island Road for 10 miles to Park. Beach and picnic grounds available. Look for hawks, eagles, Sandhill Cranes, and on the lake shores search for the egrets, herons, and ducks and small wading birds. Woodland species to look for in the winter are: woodpeckers, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Pine, Prairie, Black-and-white, Yellow-throated, and Palm, Warblers, White-eyed, and Solitary, Vireos. Robins and bluebirds may be common along the roadsides.

Ira J. Weigley

# Section V. South Florida and Grand Bahama



## DRY TORTUGAS

While the islands 70 miles west of Key West, in the Gulf of Mexico, known as the Dry Tortugas, are in general inaccessible, it is possible that some bird watching enthusiasts may find a way of reaching this area. The Tropical Audubon Society of Miami makes a two-day excursion there each May. Banding expeditions are carried out in May and July by the Florida Audubon Society, the National Park Service, and the Florida State Museum, cooperating, but these trips are limited to an invited group of ten to fifteen bird banders, who stay on the islands from a week to ten days each trip. Those with their own seaworthy boats or who have friends travelling by boat in this section, might have opportunity to visit the Dry Tortugas. No accommodations are provided either for lodging or meals, and all parties visiting there have to carry their own food, water, and equipment, with them.

Fort Jefferson is interesting historically. An account of the Dry Tortugas, now the Fort Jefferson National Monument, under the administration of Everglades National Park, may be secured from the Park Service in Homestead, Florida.

The islands are the site of the only nesting colonies of Sooty and Brown Noddy Terns in North America, and the only extensive nesting colony of Roseate Terns between Virginia and Texas. The colonies are active only from May to September. On Garden Key, where the Fort is located, and on the other Keys as well, numbers of migrating birds pause briefly both spring and fall. There are other species of interest, hundreds of Magnificent Frigatebirds are present in summer, and occasionally Brown and Blue-faced Boobies may be sighted. A complete roster of the birds, written by Alexander Sprunt, Jr., was published in serial form in the *Florida Naturalist* in 1962 and 1963.

Margaret H. Hundley

## EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

Everglades National Park is one of America's most fascinating birding areas. During the winter, large numbers of wading birds, shore birds, ducks, gulls, and terns, are present. Many land birds winter here, and large numbers pass through in migration. Summer offers many of the West Indian species typical of South Florida. The park is reached by driving south on U. S. 1 to Florida City, then west on State 27 to the park. After entering the park, drive about three miles, turn left at sign, and drive to Royal Palm Ranger Station. From here walk to the end of the Anhinga Trail. Watch for many wading birds, including White Ibis, Wood Ibis, American Bittern (winter), Least Bittern, and Limpkin. Anhingas are common. At the end of the

board walk look for the Purple Gallinule on the lily pads. This is the best area in the park to see them. While at Royal, watch overhead for the rare Short-tailed Hawk. Gumbo Limbo Trail and all of the surrounding hammock offer good land birding. Return to the main road and continue toward Flamingo.

A stop at Mahogany Hammock often produces such birds as Pileated Woodpecker and Barred Owl. When you reach West Lake, if during winter, look for large numbers of coots and ducks. From here to Flamingo in spring and summer watch for Swallow-tailed Kites. Also, from West Lake to Flamingo, watch for the Short-tailed Hawk. One of the outstanding bird attractions in the park in late winter and spring is Mrazek Pond, east of the road and just north of Coot Bay pond. Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal, Pintail, and American Widgeon are often seen, along with many species of herons, egrets, ibises, and Roseate Spoonbills. Just before crossing the bridge to Flamingo, turn left at the road marked "Utility Area." Search the mudflats for shore birds, including the Long-billed Curlew and Marbled Godwit. Also, look for the White Pelican, Great White Heron, Reddish Egret, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Wilson's Plover, Caspian Tern, and Black Skimmer.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The only breeding colony of Sooty Terns in North America is in the Dry Tortugas.



SAMUEL A. GRIMES

In summer one may see the Gray Kingbird in Florida, and only rarely does one of this species get as far north as South Carolina.

At Flamingo, good land birding can often be found in the mangroves at the campgrounds. Two excellent birding areas are closed to the general public, but birders may obtain permission and directions to reach them from a park ranger. These are Snake Bight and Bear Lake. The roads to both these areas have good land birding, and the White-crowned Pigeon and Mangrove Cuckoo can often be seen. Snake Bight is an excellent place for shore birds and water birds. Flamingos are occasionally found at Snake Bight but are seldom seen from the end of the road. Bear Lake offers good water birding, with many species of ducks and wading birds present in the winter. The evening flight seen from the end of the Bear Lake Road is an impressive sight. A stop at Paurotis Pond often produces water birds, including the Mottled Duck and the Caspian Tern (winter). (Pages 12-13 of "A Field List of South Florida Birds," 1961).

Richard L. Cunningham

## FLORIDA KEYS AREA

In travelling along the Florida Keys to Key West via U. S. 1, the bird watcher can see many species from the highway, especially the Cattle Egret, the wintering Broad-winged, and Sparrow, Hawks, as well as an occasional Red-shouldered, and Short-tailed, Hawk may be observed on wires above the roadsides. Many other birds, doves, kingfishers, flycatchers, blackbirds, etc., may also be seen there. Look for Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, and Anis, in Islamorada. Take old highway through town. Look for an Osprey's nest on top of a high winch in the stone quarry on Windley's Key. This nest has been occupied for several years.

Shore birds will be observed on either side of the road wherever tide conditions are right to produce flats for them to feed on. At a large marl pile, where a lot of digging has been done on the ocean side of Lower Maticumbe Key, there has been a big concentration of skimmers, terns, gulls, herons, plovers, sandpipers, etc. Feeding in the shallow ponds on Long Key at Layton's and other points, watch for spoonbills, herons, egrets, including Reddish Egret, ibises and yellowlegs.

Burrowing Owls have nested on the golf course at Marathon beyond the Sombrero Yacht Club House. Wilson's Plovers and Least Terns nest there, too. At the Marathon High School in the mangrove area Clapper Rails may be heard.

The wooded area at the Indian Museum in Marathon has nesting Black-whiskered, and White-eyed, Vireos, Cardinals and Ground Doves, as well as many wintering land birds. Permission to enter these private grounds may be secured at the Museum.

Don't miss Little Duck Key at the west end of the 7 mile bridge. There are Savannah Sparrows in the grass, Painted Buntings, and a Mangrove Cuckoo might be located in the mangrove area. For shore birds of many kinds, look in the shallow pond on the Gulf side and on the sand bars off shore.

In the inlet on the ocean side of Bahia Honda Key, shore birds can always be seen, herons, including the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, as well as the Great White Heron, and maybe a Wuerdemann's (hybrid). Sandwich Terns may often be seen here, also Reddish Egrets.

On Big Pine Key, look for Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Red-shouldered Hawks.

At Key West, the best spot for birdwatching is the Municipal Gardens on Stock Island by the golf course. White-crowned Pigeons can always be seen here. In the Key West cemetery you might find Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, and Bullock's Orioles. Over the Gulf may be seen Frigatebirds, and sometimes hawk migrations. Along Rest Beach by the ocean, if there is any water in the old salt ponds, look for rails, ducks, herons, coots, gallinules, Common Snipe, and sometimes Avocets.

Christine Bonney

(Note: Herb Alley, at the Key Haven Motel, in Tavernier, runs boat trips into Florida Bay during some of the winter months. Write him for information.)



DONNA N. SPRUNT

The White-crowned Pigeon is a West Indian species that includes the Florida Keys in its range.

## GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND

Since Grand Bahama Island is less than a half hour by air from West Palm Beach International Airport, it seems worth while to include this area in "Where to Find Birds in Florida." Since 1959 the Florida Audubon Society has conducted four-day tours in November to Grand Bahama, and members of the Society visit the island frequently during the year.

Grand Bahama is a narrow reef, running east and west, at the northwest corner of the Bahama chain. It is eighty-three miles long. The main towns are West End, and Freeport, thirty miles to the east of West End.

The Grand Bahama Hotel of the Jack Tar chain has dedicated its 2000 acres as a wildlife sanctuary in cooperation with the Florida Audubon Society. The Grand Bahama Hotel grounds, which include the airport at West End, have a fine golf course, bordered with native trees and shrubs, this growth forming barriers between some of the fairways. There are several artificial ponds on the course. A large marsh extends along the south edge of the property next to the sea. A tremendous quantity and variety of flowering trees and shrubs have been introduced to the hotel grounds, thus providing habitat for many species of birds.

Along the shores of the hotel grounds, Brown Pelicans, Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls, and Royal Terns are found. Frigatebirds sail overhead. On the beaches, edges of ponds, and flooded parts of the golf course, in season many species of shore birds, including Upland Plover, Stilt, Golden and Black-bellied Plovers, Stilt Sandpipers, and an occasional White-rumped Sandpiper, are seen. Herons of several species, ibises, grebes, American and Least Bitterns, Common and Purple Gallinules, rails, and ducks, including the White-cheeked Pintail, can be observed about the golf course ponds, as well as Least and Gull-billed Terns.

The nectar-bearing trees and shrubs attract the Cuban Emerald Hummingbird by the dozens, and even greater numbers of the Bahama Bananaquit. A variety of migrating and wintering warblers is found in season. Thickets of native shrubbery near the hotel provide habitat for Thick-billed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Red-legged Thrush, Bahama Yellowthroat, Stripe-headed Tanager, and Greater Antillean Bullfinch. Thousands of Palm and Myrtle Warblers feed on the golf course during migration and in winter. Lark Sparrows and Water Pipits have also been found in such location, mingling with Ground and Zenaida Doves, and Black-faced Grassquits. Painted and Indigo Buntings winter here, and Goldfinches were reported here for the first time in the winter of 1962-63. Ninety per cent of the birds listed for Grand Bahama have been found on the hotel premises. The local flycatchers, Loggerhead and Stolid, and the Greater Antillean Pewee, are present throughout the year but the Grey Kingbird usually disappears in winter. One discovers occasionally a vagrant Western Kingbird, or flocks of Eastern Kingbirds in migration.

The Bahama Swallow is a common summer resident, and during migration thousands of North American Swallows will be "hawking" over the golf course. During the winter the ubiquitous Northern Mockingbird is joined by many Catbirds and often by thrushes. Bobolinks are abundant migrants. The Pigeon Hawk is a common winter resident.



RALPH E. LAWRENCE

The Kirtland's Warbler which breeds only in a limited region in Michigan spends the winter in the Bahamas, where it has been observed on Florida Audubon tours.

Many of the birds already mentioned are found in shrubbery bordering the main road from West End to Freeport, and beyond. A careful watch should be kept for the Kirtland's Warbler, State Bird of Michigan, which winters on Grand Bahama, and has been found near the West End Airport and in pinewoods about five miles east of Freeport.

Twenty-five miles from West End is the Pinelands Wildlife Sanctuary under the three-way sponsorship of the Colonial Research Institute, the Garden Club of Freeport, and the Florida Audubon Society. This sanctuary contains some of the largest pines (*Pinus caribaea*) on the island and is designated by large, rustic signs along the main road. This is the place to look for the Olive-capped Warbler as well as the local races of the Yellow-throated and Pine Warblers. Watch here also for the Brown-headed Nuthatch, found in the Bahamas only on this island, and for the Bahaman race of the Hairy Woodpecker. Flycatchers, such as the Wood Pewee, like this Pinewoods, as does the Stripe-headed Tanager, one of the most beautiful birds of the Caribbean. Near Freeport, and beyond to the east, watch for the Bahama Woodstar, one of our most attractive and interesting hummingbirds. One might also find a West Indian Red-bellied Woodpecker, a rare bird on this island.

Since the Florida Audubon members, chiefly on their November Tours, have added in four years more than fifty species to the birds listed for Grand Bahama, there is always the adventurous thrill of adding perhaps still another new species on a brief visit to this enchanting island.

C. Russell Mason





SAMUEL A. GRIMES

The Reddish Egret is one of the most amusing of the herons to watch.

## HOMESTEAD

While many visitors head quickly for Everglades National Park to enjoy the bird and plant life of the sub-tropics, there are many country roads about Homestead and nearby towns such as Naranja where interesting species of birds may be found in the proper season.

Common resident birds of the region include Mockingbirds, Cardinals, Ground and Mourning Doves, Meadowlarks, Quail, Screech and Barred Owls. Smooth-billed Anis have increased in recent years and may be found in many localities, including the area about the Country Club on Route 27 just north of Homestead. Nighthawks and Chuckwill's-widows are commonly heard in summer, and some "Chucks" stay through the winter. The Spotted-breasted Oriole has spread from Miami south to Homestead. Painted and Indigo Buntings are plentiful at feeding stations through the winter. The observer should keep careful watch for wintering Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Western Kingbirds.

In migration season, the ficus trees may be well filled with warblers and vireos. A few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds spend the winter feeding about Hibiscus and Malvaviscus. Bobolinks pass through the area spring and fall in large flocks.

This is the farthest south in Florida to find Purple Martins nesting. There are two colony houses in Homestead proper, one erected by the South Dade Audubon

Society at 8th Street and Krome Avenue, another on Hood's Department Store

Because of the variation in the seasons, it is recommended that visitors get in touch with some of the active members of the South Dade Audubon Society, who will be glad to furnish up to the minute reports on birds to be found around Homestead.

Joseph N. Grant

## MIAMI AREA

**MIAMI BAYFRONT PARK**—East of Biscayne Boulevard between N.E. 5th and S.E. 2nd Sts. Any visitor at any of the Miami downtown hotels might enjoy an early morning walk through the park. Besides the ever present Rock Doves and House Sparrows, other species might be observed, such as Spotted-breasted Oriole, Boat-tailed Grackle, Gray Kingbird, and migrating species in spring and fall. The sunken gardens are interesting.

**RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY, VIRGINIA AND BISCAYNE KEYS.** The 25 cent round trip toll entrance lies on the east side of U. S. 1 (Brickell Ave.) at S.W. 26th Road. Shore birds and other species frequent the water's edge on both sides. On Virginia Key, a little west of the Seaquarium, a paved road goes north to the Miami Sewage Disposal Plant. The grass plots and ponds inside the fence are productive. If the gate along the north fence line is open, one can walk out to the adjoining area. Back at the main gate, take the road north along the fence and the canal to end. Walk up the path, and west through the mangroves to the bay shore. At low tide extensive mud or sand flat is good for shore birds and water or wading birds. Return to causeway and continue to Crandon Park. Turn into the first parking area (No. 3) and park. From the rest houses a walking road leads through the woods to the north end of Key Biscayne. One can return down the beach. The Zoo at the south end of the park is worth a visit. On down the Key in the residential district a jungle-like hammock back of the vicinity of the Jamaica Inn is often full of migrants in the spring, and off Mashta Point at the southwest corner of the district water birds may be seen.

**MATHESON HAMMOCK COUNTY PARK AND FAIRCHILD TROPICAL GARDENS.** Best reached by using U. S. 1 south to LeJeune Road (S.W. 42nd Ave.), turning south (left) to Cocoplum Plaza (Friendship Boots), then two miles down Old Cutler Road (second road on right around the Plaza). At the blinker light a road to the left (east) goes to the Swimming Beach, with a side road to the South Wading Beach. Both places at low tide have extensive flats. Back near the blinking light, cars may be parked opposite the picnic pavilion. West of light a main trail leads through the dense jungle, with many side trails, to the open county nurseries and to Snapper Creek. On down Old Cutler Road beyond the small parking area on right, and opposite the gate to the main picnic area parking lot, a trail runs down along a pipe line also to the nursery area. To the east of Old Cutler Road lies the picnic area and a series of small lakes. Fairchild Tropical Garden adjoins Matheson Hammock on the southeast of old Cutler Road. Egyptian Geese have been recently intro-

duced at the pond in front of the Bailey Palm Glade. A four or five mile stroll from sunrise to noon throughout this whole area can be quite productive. In addition to the list of 180 bird species published in 1954 (*The Florida Naturalist*, XXXVII (No. 2): 51-56) the following have been added: Cattle Egret, Wood Duck, Limpkin, Sora, Knot, Smooth-billed Ani, Western Kingbird; Swainson's, Yellow, Magnolia, and Bay-breasted Warblers; and Spotted-breasted Oriole. Military Macaws from Parrot Jungle often fly over, and other exotic escapees have been seen.

**SOUTH ALLAPATTAH FARMLANDS**—From Matheson Hammock continue southerly on Old Cutler Road. At the village of Cutler, a side trip to left (east) into the pine areas outside the Charles Deering Estate and to the pier around the south end of the Deering wall may be worthwhile. At the north edge of Franjo, turn left on the road by the old gate posts out into the farmlands. Go to pump house and turn right, back to Old Cutler Road. Watch canal banks and fields for bird life in season. Continue on Old Cutler Road to broad Allapattah Drive, turn left (south) and proceed to Gould Canal, at Coconut Palm Drive, turn left (east) on road along south side of canal. A series of short roads lead off to the south through a farming community. Western Kingbirds, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Smooth-billed Anis, and many other species, are often found in this area. Coconut Palm Drive leads back west to U. S. 1 at Princeton, or one may continue south on Allapattah Drive, swing to the east around the Air Base and south to Maury Drive, thence west to Homestead.

**THE TAMIAMI TRAIL AND LOOP ROAD**—S.W. 8th Street from Miami, west. Birdlife varies greatly with seasons and water levels. West of intersection with Florida No. 27, watch for birds. About 30 miles west of Miami, the highway turns onto the new dike with very wide, hard shoulders for stopping in case birds are sighted. (Eventually the dike may be utilized west of Florida No. 27). About 40 miles from Miami, take road to left (south), which beyond the picnic tables swings west into the Loop Road (Florida No. 94), a rock or gravel road. Make frequent stops at likely looking places for birds. After 24 miles this road rejoins the Tamiami Trail at Monroe Station. Just west of Ochopee, the marshes to the south are the most accessible habitat of the Cape Sable Sparrow. A side trip to Everglades (the western gateway to the Everglades National Park) and over the causeway to Chokoloskee (with picnic tables west of the bridge) might be of interest. Sixteen miles west of Everglades the Collier-Seminole State Park invites a stop, and just beyond, Florida No. 92 leads to Marco Island Beach. Just beyond the causeway and bridge, a road to the left (south) leads to Goodland, where arrangements might be made for a boat to go to the beaches at Cape Romano. Marco Island Beach has been somewhat spoiled by humans. At the far north end of the beach and across the inlet on the northern sandpit, large flocks of gulls, terns, and shore birds, are often found, including the Cuban Snowy Plover. This requires walking up the beach and wading the ankle deep to shoulder deep inlet, depending on the tide.

Louis A. Stimson



FLORIDA STATE NEWS BUREAU  
The Roseate Spoonbill is the most colorful of Florida's wading birds.

**RICKENBACKER CAUSEWAY**—(Reached by taking U. S. 1 south from downtown Miami, toll 25 cents). Shore birds, gulls, terns, pelicans, cormorants; waders, including Great Blue, and Great White, Herons, smaller herons, White Ibises, and often Roseate Spoonbills, and white-phase Reddish Egrets. Best at low tide. Proceed on to Virginia Key and Biscayne Key for eagles, hawks, and small birds, and to Crandon Park Zoo for free exhibit of exotics.

**GREYNOLDS PARK** (Turn west off U. S. 1 at N.E. 171st St.) Rookery of wading birds. Can be seen all day during nesting from March-September. Evenings and very early mornings only, fall and winter. Look to the left as you enter park from U. S. 1. White, and Scarlet, Ibises; Cattle, Snowy and American, Egrets; Little Blue, Louisiana, Great Blue, and Green Herons; Anhingas, and cormorants; coots, Florida Gallinule, and Egyptian Geese. Often, Spotted-breasted Orioles. Wooded areas of park are good song bird cover.

Carter Bundy

**HIALEAH PARK AND RACE COURSE** is well worth a visit at any time of year. A snack-bar restaurant makes a convenient lunching spot. The feature is the colony of free-flying Flamingos established and nesting within the racing oval. Fifty to seventy-five young are produced annually in this flock of 350 Flamingos. To the same ponds in winter come flocks of ducks including Shoveller, Blue-winged Teal, and Ring-neck, as well as numbers of cormorants and gulls. The plantings of trees and shrubs on the considerable acreage prove attractive to many resident and wintering song birds. There have also been introduced some colorful birds of the tropics, some caged, some free to range about the property. An artistic aquarium housing tropical fish is located in a rustic building which simulates the hold of a wrecked Clipper ship. Hialeah Park is a Wildlife Sanctuary established cooperatively with the Florida Audubon Society.

C. Russell Mason



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