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Report on the 1980 Fall Meeting

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Establishment of Gulf Islands National Seashore in 1971 has given a degree of protection to species within its borders. A 1200 acre private sanctuary established in 1973 and operated by Air Products and Chemicals at Pace has provided additional fresh-water habitat and protection for waterfowl and new information on the status of some ducks. In addition, the past 15 years has seen a dramatic surge in birdwatching as documented by participation in the Pensacola CBC. In 1944, 7 observers in 2 parties counted 85 species and 2124 individuals. In 1964, it had increased to 12 observers in 4 parties, and by 1974 it had burgeoned to 44 observers in 10 parties who counted 119 species and 13,835 individuals. Greater accessibility to outer beaches and migrant traps such as Ft. Pickens has no doubt also accounted for some of the records noted above. However, regular observations of such easily identified species such as Reddish Egret, American Avocet, Groove-billed Ani and Great Black-backed Gull indicate a real increase in occurrence as these species could hardly have been overlooked in the past.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Report on the 1980 fall meeting.—Scenic white beaches, balmy weather, a luau under the stars—it sounds like a travel poster but the Halifax Audubon Society gave us all that at the FOS meeting they hosted in Daytona Beach on 10-12 October 1980. We thank Carlton Smith and all who helped him for a fine weekend and for their generosity in assuming all local expenses. The field trips were adequately supplied with migrants and the pelagic trip highlight was a Black-capped Petrel. Papers presented Saturday afternoon included "Nursery nest behavior of the Limpkin" by David Stock and Michael Brothers, "Plot size as a factor in avian community studies" by Todd Engstrom, "A Florida kestrel nest box project" by Robert W. Loftin, and "The behavior and ecology of the Limpkin" by Dana C. Bryan. The skin quiz, entirely on warblers, was provided by Walter K. Taylor, and produced a three-way tie between Lyn Atherton, J. William Hardy, and Gery Niemi. Lee Snyder provided copies of a crossword puzzle he composed. Saturday's evening luau was followed by Doris Mager and her two adult Bald Eagles. It was an informative and memorable talk.

Lenore McCullagh was elected to the board to fill the vacancy created by Robert Barber's move to New Jersey. In April 1981, a records committee will be appointed to deal with reports of unusual birds in Florida. A FOS research fund, supported by contributions, has been established to award research grants eventually. A letter will be sent to the State Cabinet opposing the opening of Tosahatchee preserve to hunting.—BARBARA C. KITTLESON, *Secretary*.