

# Early History of the Waterbird Society

## Convergence of Two Groups or Great Minds Think Alike



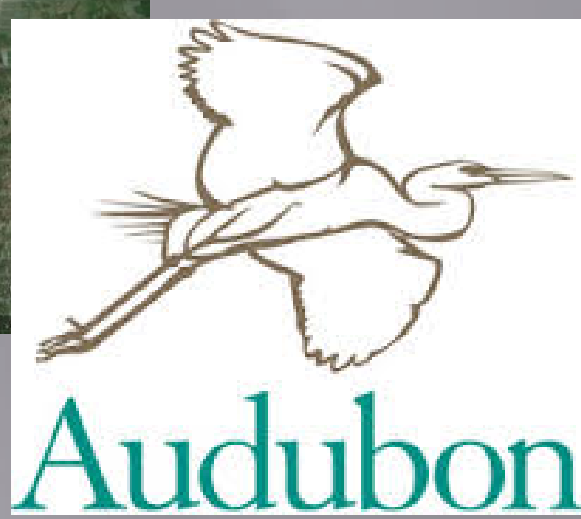
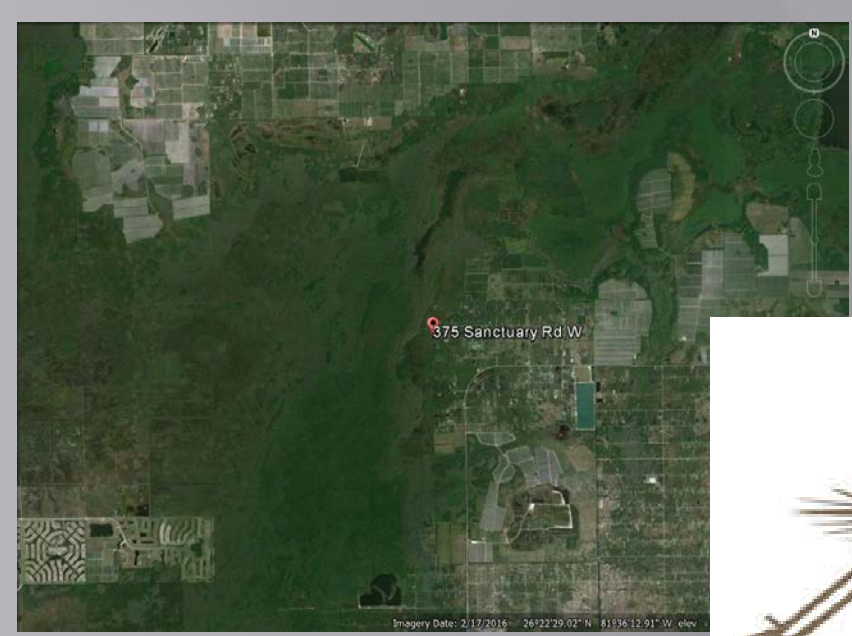
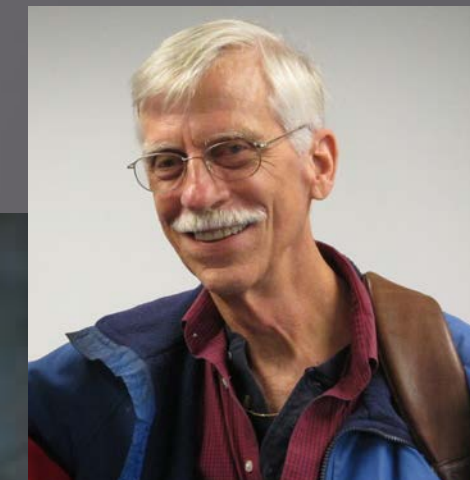
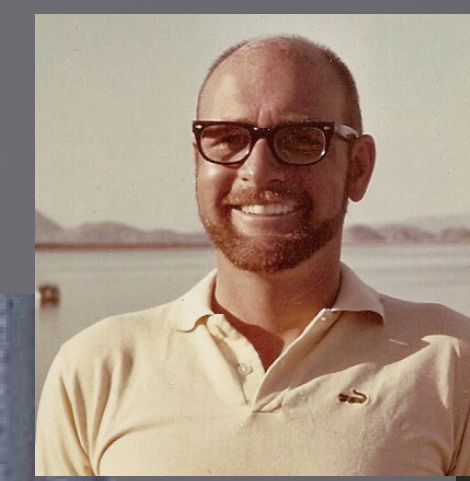
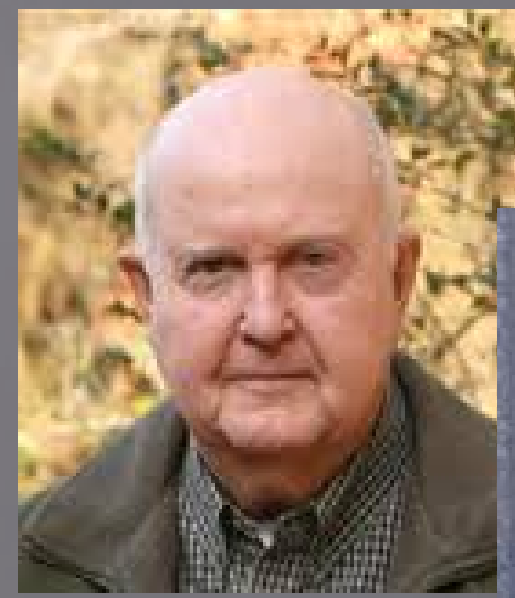
1975

Atlantic Coast wading bird biologists met at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD in Sept. 1975 and formulated the idea of a wading bird conference and organization to facilitate communication and research on long-legged waterbirds.



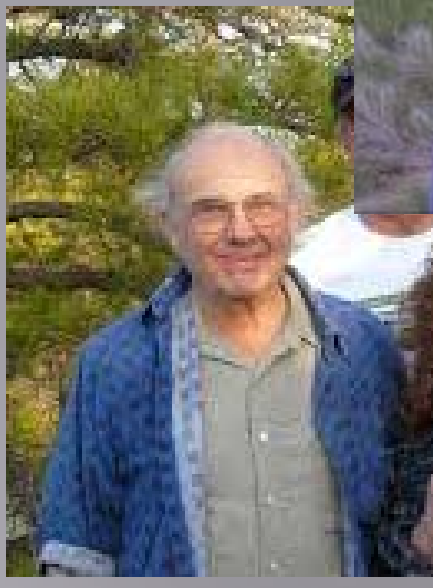
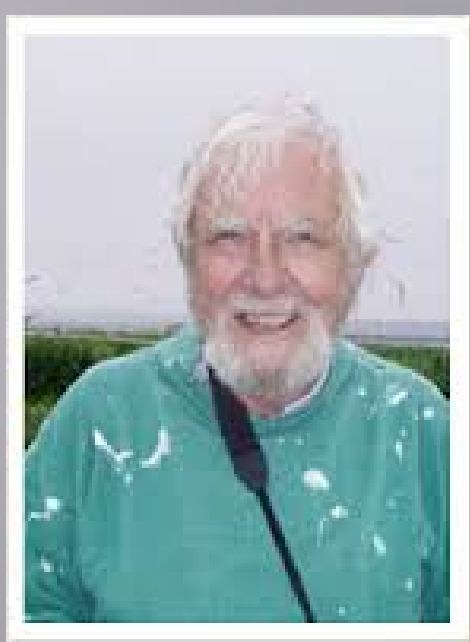
The Steering Committee formed included Mitchell Bird, Tom Custer, Kirke King, Don McCrimmon, Doug Mock, John Ogden, Sandy Sprunt and Don Woodard

They continued their planning at Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp in Dec. for the organization and for the first conference to be held the following year.



Atlantic Coast gull and tern biologists met in Lincoln, MA at Mass Audubon and were formulating the idea of forming a group to facilitate communication and research on seabirds/short-legged waterbirds. That group included, among others, Ian Nisbet, Paul and Francine Buckley, Joanna Burger, Michael Gochfeld, and Helen Hayes.

1975



1976

A meeting was held in Charlestown, South Carolina, in Oct. 1976, and the Colonial Waterbird Group was more formally established with input from both groups who had previously been organizing independently. The first publication resulted.



*North American Wading Bird Conference, Charleston, SC 14 - 17 Oct. 1976 A. Sprunt, IV, J.C. Ogden and S. Winckler (eds)*

While the program at the South Carolina meeting was all about long-legged waterbirds, inclusion of short-legged colonial waterbird papers were included on the program by the next meeting (DeKalb, IL). Further expansions of the Society's membership included the addition of scientists working on non-colonial waterbirds, notably shorebirds, and then waterfowl. The latest group added were (gasp) the aquatic passerines.

