

NOTES AND NEWS

Helen Gere Cruickshank (Mrs. Allan D. Cruickshank), elected Honorary Member of the Florida Ornithological Society.—Helen Cruickshank, author and photographer, was elected the second honorary member of the society at the 1980 Spring meeting. She is the author of 12 books, including *Bird Islands Down East* (1941), *Flight Into Sunshine* (1948), *Wonders of the Bird World* (1956), *Wonders of the Reptile World* (1959), *Water Birds* (1955), *John and William Bartram's America* (1957), *1001 Questions Answered About Birds* (with Allan Cruickshank) (1958), *Thoreau on Birds* (1964), *A Paradise of Birds* (1968), *Cruickshank's Photographs of Birds of America* (edited) (1977), *The Nesting Season* (1979), and *The Birds of Brevard County, Florida* (edited from records by A. Cruickshank) (1980).

In addition, Helen has done two full length motion pictures, *Pastures of the Sea* and *Bird Islands Down East*, and her still photographs have appeared in numerous publications and educational film strips. *Flight Into Sunshine* won the annual John Burroughs Award for the best outdoor book, presented by the John Burroughs Memorial Association of the American Museum of Natural History. *Bird Islands Down East* won the medal of the Societe Provancher d'Histoire Naturelle du Canada, and *A Paradise of Birds* won the annual Oppenheimer Award for the best outdoor book about Texas.

Helen's career as a field ornithologist is perhaps best illustrated by her intimate association with the Cocoa Christmas Bird Count (CBC). On the first count ("Audubon, Florida"), December 27, 1951, Helen and Allan and Joseph Howell, in 2 parties, tallied 128 species: the second highest CBC in Florida that year. The next year the Cruickshanks counted alone in one party. By 1955, the Cocoa CBC was the highest in Florida and second in the nation; in 1956 it was first in the nation with 184 species; and in 1960 it first reached 200 species. The 1973 total of 210 species is the high for Florida, and many think that mark will never be surpassed. Few of those who took part in that great socio-scientific ritual will ever forget it, for it set the national standards for accuracy, thorough organization, and good birding fun. Helen has participated in every Cocoa CBC. She has been a party leader on all except the very early ones, and she continues in that capacity today.

Helen, a charter member of FOS, has been a faithful and supportive participant in the activities of the society. She is a deeply committed conservationist, working through many organizations, especially the Garden Club. She was Bird Chairman for the Federated Garden Clubs of Florida from 1959 to 1961, and she has received the Blanche Covington Award for Conservation, the highest award of the Federation. Her articles about birds and natural history have appeared in many national periodicals including *Colliers*, *Woman's Day*, *Audubon*, and *Natural History*, and she is a popular lecturer and tour leader, having led tours to 3 continents.

Helen is not only a great naturalist, but a great lady. She is both rich and beautiful—rich in the only things that really count and beautiful in the only ways that really matter. She has been and continues to be an inspiration to us all.—ROBERT W. LOFTIN.

Spring 1981 meeting.—Tallahassee, Florida, 24-26 April 1981; Meeting headquarters, Holiday Inn, 1302 Apalachee Pkwy.; Robert L. Crawford, Tall Timbers Res. Sta., local committee chairman. This will be a joint meeting with the Alabama and Georgia ornithological societies.