



The Limpkin Call

Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society Volume XVII No. 1 September 2001

Welcome to a New Year

Welcome to another year of camaraderie, learning and sharing nature. We will continue to combine our meetings with and at the Trout Lake Nature Center, 3 on Tuesdays and 3 on Sundays. Please check your program and mark your calendar. We will also be serving refreshments at 1:00 PM prior to the 1:30 meetings. This is a great opportunity for us to enjoy the fellowship of our members and to convey comments to the members of the board. Remember to share nature, bring a guest.

Elizabeth Ballard
President OVAS

Birding 101

In a cooperative effort, OVAS and TLNC members will be offering the Birding 101 class again this fall. The class is free, but pre-registration is required. Classes are scheduled for Oct. 13, 20, 27 and Nov. 10 (Saturdays). The program will be a field trip from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, picnic lunch until 1:00 p.m. followed by lecture from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with field trips and lectures. To register or to volunteer, please contact Tammera Race at 357-7536 or 319-4003 (message line).



Limpkin Call Looks Different

The new look of The Limpkin Call is due to our new editor, Frank Miller. He solicits your suggestions and input. Email at fmiller@eos.net or send to OVAS.

Audubon Assembly 2001

Nov. 1-4 Orlando Marriott

Creating a Culture of Conservation You Make the Difference

Our state Audubon organization is holding an Assembly on Nov. 1 thru 4 at the Orlando Marriott Hotel. The Assembly will celebrate the conservation victories in the 2001 Legislature and set priorities for the coming years. There will be 24 workshops and 13 field trips. Gov. Jeb Bush and State Senator Bob Graham will speak at dinners at Sea World and Disney's Animal Kingdom. You are part of this planning process and are invited to attend. Contact Erin Petra at 305-371-6399 or register at the state web site: www.audubonofflorida.org

WaterFest 2001

September 22 – 9:00 AM to 3 PM

Come join the free fun at WaterFest 2001 sponsored by the Lake County Water Authority. The event celebrating our water, lakes and environment will be held at Hickory Point in Tavares. Enjoy music, games, food and fun. OVAS will have a table promoting our activities and membership.

Conservation News

Yvonne Rice

Major Battles Fought Over the Environment in 2001 Legislature

During the last Florida Legislative session, Jan to Apr. 2001, several bills addressed conservation issues. Here is a recap of these bills. (ed: For additional information see the special edition of the Limpkin Call located on the Conservation page of the OVAS web site)

The *Public Records/Agricultural Records* bill exempts agricultural polluters from having to reveal the degree of pollution they are generating. Unfortunately this bill passed.

The *Administrative Procedures Act Amendment*, which we opposed with letters and calls, would have imposed procedural roadblocks to citizens and other groups opposing wetlands permits. This amendment failed, but may reappear next session.

The *Environmental Control/Organic Deterial Material* bill (the Muck bill) would have allowed waterfront landowners to dredge and relocate muck from their properties without state oversight or permitting. Because of potential negative effects on aquatic vegetation and habitat, we were happy that this bill failed.

The *Aquifer Storage and Recovery* bill would have provided water quality exemptions for wells discharging partially treated water into the aquifer. Because of the tremendous public outcry, Governor Bush had this bill pulled. Although both chambers had approved the bill, thanks to the governor's intervention it failed. There will be further study and this bill may reappear next year.



The *Rural and Family Lands Protection Act* provides for the State purchase of rural land easements and agricultural protection agreements. This allows the land-

owners to keep their land and continue farming while protecting habitat and wildlife. The act passed but a funding source was not designated.

The financial raid on *Preservation 2000* elicited much public outcry, but the fund lost \$75 million, much of which was committed for land purchase.

The *Global Risk-Based Corrective Action* bill would have expanded the number of contaminated sites in the state that do not have to meet applicable water quality standards. Opposed by a coalition of environmental organizations, this bill died in the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

The *Florida Forever* bill which revised goals and performance measures for Florida Forever projects of DEP and the water management districts passed.

The *Comprehensive Everglades Restoration* bill to provide for expedited permits, funds and conditions on the 5-year Florida Forever work plan passed.

Audubon Adventures

Nature Education

Many thanks to you, the membership, for making this our most successful year ever. Combining the financial success of the benefit, *Cabaret*, and your generosity, OVAS will be able to distribute Audubon Adventures nature education kits to all 5th Grade classrooms in Lake County this Fall. We reached our goal. Thanks.

Coming Events

See the Annual Program or Web Site for details

- Sept 22 WaterFest 2001 Hickory Point, Tavares
- Oct 6 FL Black Bear Festival, Cadwell Pk, Umitilla
- Oct. 21 Regular Mtg: "A Rare Bird: Fla. Scrub Jay"
- Nov. 7 Birding at Forester Haven
- Nov. 17 Deleon Spgs: Pancake Breakfast & Boat Trip
- Nov 27 Regular Mtg: "Great Florida Birding Trail"

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New Web Site

www.oklawaha-audubon.org

The OVAS has a new web site with many new features. See all the great resources your Audubon chapter web site has to offer. New items this year include:

- The Great Florida Birding Trail page. It describes the trail, the sections within our area and the Emeralda section that OVAS is helping to open.
- The Audubon Web Ring – a new way to visit other progressive Audubon chapters around the country.
- The Limpkin Call page, where the newest issues in full color will be posted even before mailing. Archived newsletter issues are available.
- New links, especially the link to Dr. Peter May's web site where his gorgeous bird and animal photographs include Emeralda Marsh. Dr. May is a biology professor at Stetson University in Deland Florida.



SJRWMD Bird Survey Report

John Stenberg, Environmental Scientist SJRWMD

Each 4th Saturday SJRWMD and OVAS join together in a bird survey at Emeralda Marsh. Recent results:

	May 25	June 23
Species	46	42
Total Bird Count	880	942
Specials: Blue Grosbeaks and Yellow-Billed Cuckoos		

In Memoriam

John Bygrave

1916 – 2001

John was a long-time member, supporter and past president of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society.

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