

# The Limpkin Call

is the newsletter of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society, a chapter of Audubon of Florida and the National Audubon Society and is a not-for-profit organization. Published four times a year. Circulation-850, PO Box 641, Eustis, Fl 32727-0641. [www.oklawaha-audubon.org](http://www.oklawaha-audubon.org)  
Volume XIX, No. 3. January-February 2004

---

## Coming Events

**January 17 Saturday- Field Trip to Silver River State Park (44 miles from Eustis) meet at 8:00AM Winn-Dixie parking lot Eustis. Leader- Mary Ellen Cannon, 735 2501. This is a new state park of 5000 acres with the Silver River flowing through it on the way to the Oklawaha River plus a history and environmental museum.**

**January 24 Saturday- Field Trip to Clay Island or nearby, depending on where the birds are; we will have a guide.( 6 miles from Mt Dora)meet at Golden Triangle parking lot Mt. Dora at 8:30AM. Leader- Margaret Carlyon, 735 2505. Picnic lunch will be at Trimble Park in Tangerine, a great spot on Lake Beauclair.**

**January 27 Tuesday- Regular Meeting- 2:00PM- *RACING PIGEONS*- History and Differences in Breeds- Dave Bacon, breeder**

**February 9-11, Monday-Wednesday Overnight Trip- Lake Kissimmee State Park. Dinner cruise on Lake Eloise Feb 9 and tour of the state park Feb 10, a great place to see wildlife. The total cost per couple for two nights at the Best Western Admirals Inn in Winter Haven, room and breakfast, is \$ 120 and dinner-cruise per couple \$44.; Checks PAYABLE to OVAS for both hotel and boat. Plan to arrive by 4:00pm on Feb 9 for the boat trip. Guided Visit to Bok Tower planned for morning Feb 11. If you have not yet signed up, there is still space; call Elizabeth Ballard, 735 2623.**

**February 15- Sunday- Regular Meeting 2:00PM- *WHOOPING CRANES*, Steve Nesbitt, Florida Fish & Wildlife Service.**

**February 21- Saturday- Field Trip to Lower Wekiva River State Preserve, (16 miles from Mt Dora) Meet at Golden Triangle parking lot Mt Dora 8:00AM. Leader- Bernie Yokel, 383 0501.**

**March 3- Wednesday- Heritage Boat Field Trip- Tavares (10 minute drive from Lake Sq Mall) Meet at 8:15AM at Lake Sq Mall front of JC Pennys. Please car pool as parking is limited at dock. Price- \$10. LIMIT- 38 persons. Leader- Joanne McDowell, 242 2704. SIGN UP at the January 27 meeting.**

**March 13- Saturday- Field Trip to Merritt Island (68 miles from Mt Dora) Meet 9:00AM at Golden Triangle parking lot Mt Dora. Leader- Bob Rogers, 357 3005**

---

#### **Amendment to the Bylaws**

Pursuant to Article XII-Amendments, the membership is notified that the board of directors recommends the increase in the number of directors-at-large from three to five. This is in line with the director levels of other even smaller Audubon chapters and will give a larger function to committee chairs who will also be directors. The amendment to Article VI will be presented to the membership for approval at the regular meeting on January 27.

#### **Fiddler on the Roof- Audubon Adventures**

We sold out the house of the Melon Patch Players on December 13 and close to 200 viewers were in the theater to see a first-rate performance of Fiddler on the Roof. Besides the cast, there were also some good performances by our members, particularly, Robert McDowell as parking valet, the ushers and bartender who prefer to remain anonymous, the benefit chair Peg Murphy and Darleen Hill who performed miracles with refreshments. Our grateful thanks to all of them as well as those who contributed the cookies and wine. This produces almost \$2000 for Audubon Adventures.

#### **Great Backyard Bird Count- February 13-16**

Every year in February, the Audubon Society together with Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology, asks people to count birds wherever they live in North America. The purpose is to answer questions about the health of bird populations in winter from Nome to Key West.

Last year more than four million birds were counted of 512 species. How to do it? Go to the website- [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) which explains how to count and how to report your results.

#### **Message from the President- Jerry Bohmann**

One of the fallacies that has always been current in Florida is that growth is not only good, but inevitable. Both are highly questionable premises.. Would your town be a better place to live if it had twice as many people? That is what some would have you believe and that you can't prevent it. Others will tell you that growth is good if it is "smart growth". Have you any examples of "smart growth" in Lake County?

Not all growth is bad, but it is not all good and it is not inevitable unless you let developers convince you that it is. The Everglades would have been drained and asphalted over into sub-divisions long ago, if no one took a stand against growth. You can participate in preventing wanton destruction of where you live as a member of Audubon by visiting and sending letters through - [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org), then click Advocacy Center/Take Action.

**An Introduction to Birds- January 23 & 30 February 6 & 13**

This is a new class offered by Trout Lake and OVAS as a beginning one for new birders or for those new to Florida. The initial class will be at TLNC and offer both classroom and field experience with trips to nearby sites. FREE but registration is needed. Call-Lavon 357-7536 who will answer all your questions too.

### **Birding with Elderhostel**

In recent years, Elderhostel has added Birding to its program of outdoor activities. There is a program in Florida based on Spring migration in the Western Everglades. A six day program using Naples as a base and titled Birding the Atlantic Flyway, April 17-22. For complete details contact- [www.elderhostel.org](http://www.elderhostel.org) or call (877 426 80560) toll-free. Program # 10056.

### **Natural History Workshops**

The Lake County Water Authority has begun presenting a series of workshops to help introduce residents, adults and children, to the natural world of Lake County.

*Florida's Other Snowbirds*- Saturday, February 28, 9:00am at Umatilla Community Center will provide information on beginning birding, in class and at Emerald Marsh  
*Designing and Living with Nature*- Saturday, March 6, 9:00am at Hickory Point Park, Tavares is a workshop on living as a friendly neighbor with nature.

These workshops are free and need reservations as numbers are limited. For more information and to reserve a place- call the Lake County Water Authority- 343 3777.

### **Audubon Membership**

The new year has begun but did you remember to RENEW your membership with OVAS? If not, send your check for \$10, **now, before you forget**, to :OVAS. Treasurer, PO Box 641, Eustis, Fl 32727-0641. Your check with name and address is sufficient.