



# THE LIMPKIN CALL

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## COMING EVENTS

### **January 25-27 Thursday-Saturday**

Overnight Trip. We will join the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival for two days for this trip and stay in Titusville. It will include field trips, workshops, seminars and speakers and we stay two nights at the Best Western Titusville. There is time to register with the festival until Jan 20. Cost is \$ 15 for one day or \$ 25 for all week. Space can still be found at convenient hotels. Trip leader is Peg Lindsay 326 2045.

### **February 10 Saturday**

Field trip to Lake Louisa State Park which is on a corner of the Green Swamp and is one of the 13 lakes in the chain connected by the Palatlkaha River.

Meet at the Golden Triangle parking lot Mt Dora at 8:30am. Leader is Bernie Yokel 383 0501. State park fee for vehicle up to 5 occupants.

### **February 11 Sunday**

Regular meeting- 200pm. A presentation on the Audubon Birds of Prey Center in Maitland and its Eagle Watch program, with Lynda Brown of the Center. In September 2006, the center released the 300<sup>th</sup> bald eagle since the program began in 1979

### **February 21 Wednesday**

Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge, Deland. This is a great site where we have not visited for some time but it is winter birding at its best. Meet 8:00am at Golden Triangle parking lot Mt Dora. Leader- Peg Lindsay 326 2045.

## **March 7 Wednesday**

Avian Re-Conditioning Center Apopka. This is a new location for us and is a wildlife education and rehabilitation center. It includes a falconry demonstration and depending on the number of participants, will cost between \$ 5-\$10 per person.

Meet at Golden Triangle parking lot Mt Dora 8:30am. Leader- Peg Urban 326 3868.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

We welcome the following new members to Audubon, and hope that you will join in as active participants at our meetings, field trips and especially as volunteers at our chapter.

Rita Bamonti  
Sharon Brown  
Paul Deeley  
Barbara Dowling  
George Hanson  
Dianne Kerlin  
Nancy Knox  
Bill Sprinkle  
Nancy Triplett  
Linda Tusa  
Mary Vendzules  
Johny Wilbanks

## **ABA- American Birding Association**

Birds go north, birds go south, but some birders go west and that is what Peg Lindsay and Bob Putman did in October; went to southern California to attend the conference of the ABA. Here are the highlights of their trip.

October 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2006

Bob and I were both first-time attendees. First, let me say that the Conference exceeded all of our expectations. The accommodations (hotel, food, transportation) were all excellent. We enjoyed the people we ate and birded with, made new friends and saw wonderful birds. The ABA staff did an outstanding job organizing this conference.

Every day started with all of us loading on a bus around 5:30 a.m. and driving ½ to 2 hours to the field trip locations

The bus would return us to the hotel around 3:30 every day. There was a social hour before dinner at 6 p.m. Guest speakers talked to us about local topics related to birding and wildlife management in Ventura County and in California. The most memorable was the presentation about eradication of the introduced/exotic rat species on one of the islands in the Channel Islands National Park.

I sometimes had a hard time staying awake through these presentations, because of the schedule (wake at 4:30 a.m. to be on the bus by 5:30 a.m.), the intensity of the birding while we were in the field, and the time zone thing. We're Eastern Time Zone people – 8 p.m. Pacific Time is 11 p.m Eastern Time

My favorite bird was the acorn woodpecker. Similar to our Florida Scrub Jay, the acorn woodpecker is a gregarious bird, storing food for the winter, and whose babies hang around for another season to help raise the next year's brood. I have photographs of a huge oak tree with acorns stuffed into every crevice in the bark. Bob's favorite bird was the wren-tit. This was the first time he had "up close and personal" looks at them.

Bob saw 143 total species, I saw 145. He had 2 life birds (1 by ABA standards): the Island Scrub Jay and California Condor. I saw 145 species with 66 life birds (65 by ABA standards). Bob obviously had prior experiences birding in California

The post-conference trip to see the condors was spectacular. We saw condors in flight, along with golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, western scrub jay, lark sparrows, sage sparrows, horned lark, LeConte's thrasher and more. There were all levels of experience and expertise represented by Conference attendees. Everyone was helpful and shared their knowledge with those of us who have less time in this sport. I would definitely sign up to do this again.

Peg Lindsay

## **GRAVLAKS- GRAVLACHS**

What is this delicious food which appears often at Xmas picnics and pot-luck dinners?

It is a traditional Nordic dish which has some variations depending on which country you choose but is fairly generally agreed to be salmon cured with salt and flavored with dill.

Tradition has it, but perhaps not so accurately, that originally the salmon was buried for some time, hence the name grav or grave.

No need for this today. Just take a side of fresh salmon filet, about one pound; mix equal parts of coarse ground salt (sea or kosher, no matter), and sugar, in this case about 3 tablespoons, add half that quantity of coarse ground black pepper; mix well and coat the salmon. Cover the salmon completely with chopped fresh dill and that's it!

Cover with plastic, place a plate on top and weigh down the plate with a heavy object, a can of anything. The whole concept is to remove water from the fish and weight helps this process. It is ready to eat after 36 or better 48 hours in the refrigerator. Slice thinly with a ham slicer or similar knife. Any questions? Ask the Swedish or Norwegian embassy!

## **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT- FEB 16-19 2007**

If you want to help birds, count for them! This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Great Backyard Bird Count, which helps determine where birds spend their winters. Count them in your backyard or a park or anywhere. Do it on any of the four days for any amount of time.

Before you count, go to the website- [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) to learn the simple instructions and get local checklists and to avoid counting the same birds twice.

No need to register, no fees, anyone can participate. If you need further information beyond what is on the website, ask Mary Remer 365 0934. This event is sponsored by National Audubon and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

## **CHRISTMAS PICNIC**

This event on Saturday Dec 9 was again a well-attended event, with almost sixty members and guests, sharing wonderful food as well as bird song, music and a raffle provided by Peg Lindsay and great photo cards by Peg and Peg. In addition, we had as guest, Jacqui Sulek, Chapter Coordinator of Audubon of Florida from Tallahassee who offered her help in expanding chapter activities. All our thanks to those who contributed food and especially to Fran Yokel who did most of the work organizing the logistics.

## **THE MUSIC MAN**

Tickets are now available for this benefit musical to be held Saturday March 24 at the Melon Patch Leesburg. They will be on sale at the January meeting Tuesday, Jan 16. They cost \$ 20 and include pre-performance food and drink, offered by OVAS volunteers. Contact Fawn Vocci also to purchase- 360 0507.

## **REGIONAL CONSERVATION PRIORITIES**

Audubon of Florida has regional goals and for our area the protection of Central Florida's ecosystems is the priority. This area provides habitat for the largest concentration of bald eagles outside of Alaska in the US. The Green Swamp, the Wekiva, the Upper St Johns River and the Kissimmee River watershed are all under tremendous growth pressure.

Audubon is working with regional governments and business leaders to map a plan to protect major components of these systems through purchase or to offset new development. The result will be permanent protection of large habitat areas to ensure the sustainability of Florida's eagle populations. The plan will provide additional emphasis on protecting habitat for other critical species including Florida scrub jays.

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The National Audubon Society, Audubon of Florida and its now 43 chapters, rely for most of their activities on volunteers. People join Audubon, or The Nature Conservancy, Earth Justice, Friends of the Environment and so many others, because they want to volunteer their funds and/or their services.

We at Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society, have some of the membership funds of about 550 members, but we have almost nothing of the time of those members.

Our chapter just won an award for community education in Lake County. The chair of this committee which won this has retired after six successful years.

One would hope and believe that someone of those 550 members would be interested enough to come forward and volunteer to become Education Chair.

Volunteers are what make Audubon function, or not! So my message as president is a request for someone to volunteer time and effort, not just for this position, but in general.

Surely with more than 500 members, someone is motivated enough to come forward?

### **FLORIDA HOMETOWN DEMOCRACY AMENDMENT**

A reminder to sign a petition to have this amendment, obliging developers to obtain voter approval before proceeding . We have a supply of petitions at our meetings and if you sign it then, we will pay to mail it