



## **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**

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### **COMING EVENTS**

#### **MARCH 17 TUESDAY**

This is the ever popular trip on Lake Eustis, Dora Canal and Dead River with Heritage Tours and Captain Reg Bale bringing us to the many wading bird rookeries. Price is \$ 14 and we have already sold out the 32 seats available, but you can place your name on the wait list. Meet at 9:00 am at the Tavares Recreational Park, north side on Route 441, a boat landing park on Lake Eustis. Trip is about 90 minutes and we can meet for lunch at Angelo's Restaurant close by on Route 441. Leader- Bruce Phillips, 315 0593.

#### **MARCH 24 TUESDAY 6:00PM**

This is the OVAS Annual Meeting, Election of Officers and Directors and the Potluck Dinner. The subject "Population-Habitat Under Pressure" is a major Audubon theme and for 25 years Audubon has been committed to support international family planning. Maggie DeVane, our speaker, has been active in this area, especially in the Philippines. She is also a board member of Orange Audubon. Please sign-up with Lynn Plant for the Potluck Dinner, advising her what you will bring, a main course, salad/vegetable or dessert. Please provide a quantity that will serve ten people. As usual, please bring your own place settings and cutlery to avoid using plastic. Cups for beverages will be provided. Contact is Lynn Plant 735 5195

#### **APRIL 4 SATURDAY**

**Lake Norris Conservation Area. TRIP CANCELED DUE TO LACK OF BIRDS IN ROOKERIES**

## **APRIL 16-17 THURSDAY-FRIDAY OVERNIGHT TRIP**

This will be definite for one night only, with a second night optional, to avoid conflict with the Lake County Earth Day Program at PEAR on Saturday April 18. We will stay at the Microtel Inn and Suites of Brooksville, a very new motel with rooms equipped with microwave, fridge. We will visit a state fish hatchery, Weeki Wachee Springs State Park as well as Chinsegut Hill Lodge and three or four sites in the Great Florida Birding Trail Brochure West. Cost at the motel is \$ 54 including continental breakfast double per night, and entrance fee at Weeki Wachee, including a boat ride is \$ 14. Guided activities will be held on Thursday afternoon and Friday through lunch. Please reserve space by signing up now. Leader is Linda Bystrak 357 2207 Meet at Publix parking lot junction Routes 27 and 46 Leesburg April 16 9:00am. Travel time to Brooksville 65-70 miles less than two hours.

## **APRIL 19 SUNDAY**

Regular Meeting- 2:00pm. "Priorities in Florida Bird Conservation Issues: Challenges and Opportunities". This is the subject, and the speaker is John Ogden, Director of Bird Conservation at Audubon of Florida and a specialist in Everglades wetland ecology.

## **2009 FUND RAISER BENEFIT MARCH 29 SUNDAY**

As we did last year with the William Bartram performance, we have organized a special production to raise funds to support the activities of your chapter. We have arranged for the well-known nature writer and film producer, Bill Belleville, to come to TLNC to present his production of "In Marjorie's Wake", a tribute to Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, and how she was influenced by Florida's nature. The presentation will be held at Trout Lake Nature Center at 2:00pm on Sunday March 29.

Complimentary food and wine provided from 1:15pm A donation of \$15 is requested. Seating is limited and tickets are available from the Treasurer, Billie Argenziano at the March meeting or anytime by phone 357-8270 or e-mail- [ireneziano@aol.com](mailto:ireneziano@aol.com)., or from any officer or director of OVAS.

## **Apopka Field Trip**

On the chilly morning of January 17, twenty three hardy souls traveled to the Clay Island parking lot where they met with Pam Bowen, an environmental scientist with the St. Johns River Water Management District, for a guided tour of the Lake Apopka Restoration Area. The area, largely closed to the public, encompasses over 19,000 acres and includes a wide variety of habitats with excellent birding.

Pam not only explained the restoration strategies being used on the property but took the caravan of cars on elevated dikes to several stops with exceptional birding. In the relatively short time of approximately three hours a collective list of 68 species of birds were observed. Some of the more interesting and notable sightings included Peregrine Falcons, a flock of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, Wilson's Snipes, Say's Phoebe, Sedge Wren, Loggerhead Shrike, and Scrub Jay.

The most commonly heard complaint was "I wish we had more time here!" Hopefully the future will bring more complete restoration and eventually a larger portion of the property being opened to the public. - Ron Boddicker

## **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.

Richard E. Clinton

Linda Felker

John T. Rieman

P. M. Paoletti

Roger Langill

Mary Lou Miller

Marianna Church

Lola Fritz

Kevin Jenness

Bernice Walker

Karen Schmitt

Janette Williams

Kim Bradford

Anita Herpst

Patricia Bond

William

John Borst

Corinne W. Merwarth

Frances M. Gorrell

Dale Thrasher

Barbara Thompson

Pat Lewis Ruth

Mary Lou Sorg

Harry C. Sebastian

James A. Rowan

Evelyn T. Shepherd

Lisa Huston

Helen Grefe

Martin P. Kilroy

Chip Davis

Luis Salvat

G Curtis Duffield

Ron White

Nettie Eiler

William Weber

John Yohn

George Hodges

Mel & Marge Beatty

George T. Kunz

Mark J. Vocci

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

My message this issue focuses on the theme of our March speaker and on Audubon's policy committed to international family planning. This is best stated in an article in *The Christian Science Monitor*, Boston, January 28, 2009, and I include it below.

1. Population soars toward 9 billion in 2050. Changes may slow that growth.

By [David R. Francis](#)

President Barack Obama's inauguration prompted a huge sigh of relief among the nation's family-planning advocates. As they see it, his policies could help slow the swelling world population while improving economic prosperity and political stability.

Since Obama's birth in 1961, the world's population has more than doubled to 6.7 billion, notes David Paxson, head of World Population Balance, an advocacy organization in Minneapolis. Despite low birthrates in many industrial nations, the world's population is growing an estimated 75-80 million a year.

When Mr. Paxson talks on the issue, he employs a metronome-like device that makes 140 ticks a minute. That's the number of people added to the world every minute, that is, births exceeding deaths. That amounts to about 200,000 people a day, with the world population headed toward 9 billion by 2050.

There's no way in the long run that the Earth can sustain even the present population because of limited amounts of safe water, oil, arable topsoil, ocean resources, and metals, Paxson argues. And he gets an "amen" from many other groups urging more attention to family planning.

On Friday, Obama repealed what critics call the "global gag rule," a US policy requiring all nongovernmental organizations that receive federal funds to refrain from performing abortions or citing abortion services offered by others. The policy was instituted by President Reagan in 1984, rescinded by President Clinton in 1993, and reinstated by President Bush in 2001. The rule has become a political flash point in the abortion debate.

Tod Preston, vice president of Population Action International in Washington, hopes repeal will let the US make a contribution once again to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the major

international organization funding family planning. Last year, the House voted \$60 million for UNFPA, the Senate voted \$45 million. But the White House blocked any contribution.

By now, Mr. Preston notes, the US is behind \$230 million in its dues to the UNFPA. Last year, that UN organization had \$430 million to spend.

Five former directors of the US Agency for International Development earlier this month advocated raising American contributions to foreign family-planning and reproductive-health institutions to \$1.2 billion.

Obama himself last July signed a letter with a dozen other senators, including Hillary Rodham Clinton, calling for raising US family-planning foreign aid to \$1 billion.

Some 43 countries now have populations that are either essentially stable or declining slowly, notes Lester Brown, of the Earth Policy Institute in Washington.

But the UNFPA estimates that some 200 million women worldwide would like to delay or prevent pregnancy, but are not using effective contraception. They cannot afford it or are not knowledgeable about it. Universal access to family planning could save the lives of 175,000 women each year and prevent the deaths of 1.8 million children under age 5, the organization maintains. It would also dramatically reduce the number of abortions.

John Feeney, an environmental writer, charges that many well-known environmental groups are reluctant to talk about world population growth for fear of offending members and donors concerned about the abortion issue or even opposed to contraceptive measures.

So Mr. Feeney has organized a "Global Population Speak Out" in February to weaken "a decades-long taboo against open discussion of population issues." About 150 scientists, environmentalists, and others, some prominent, have promised to deal with the issue in talks, articles, lectures, interviews, and conferences during that month.

Paxson is one of the 150. In a telephone interview, he notes that already a billion people live in abject poverty on \$1 a day or less. That 1 billion was the population of the world in the 1800s, he says.

The world faces incredible over-consumption and depletion of resources, he says. Paxson hopes that with widespread birth control the world could, over 150 years, reach not just a stable population, but a subreplacement rate of births that would bring the population down to maybe 5 billion. That would still be more than the level the Earth's resources can manage in the long term, he maintains.

"If Obama wants to go down in history as a great president, he should help bring people to an awareness of this population problem," Paxson says.

If population growth is not restrained humanely, by birth control, "it will happen inhumanely," he warns. Crowding will lead to wars, disease, starvation, and other catastrophes that will shrink the population drastically. Population growth is one factor behind the troubles in Darfur, the Congo, Gaza, and even Pakistan.

Population growth, Paxson says, is "the No. 1 issue of our time on the planet."

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIRD BEHAVIOUR**

A new report issued today by the National Audubon Society shows that nearly 60% of the 305 species found in North America in winter are shifting their ranges northward by an average of 35 miles. Audubon scientists analyzed 40 years of citizen-science Christmas Bird Count data, and found evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems. Northward movement was detected among bird species of every type, including more than 70 percent of highly adaptable forest and feeder birds.

Examples of these changes in Florida can be seen with the Eastern Bluebird and the American Goldfinch. The center of wintering distribution for Eastern Bluebirds moved north by 114.5 miles in the last 40 years. This decline in wintering bluebirds in Florida likely is due to milder winter temperatures allowing the birds to stay further north. The center of wintering distribution for the American Goldfinch, a popular winter feeder bird, moved north more than 219 miles in the last 40 years. Warmer winters and food availability at feeders has made it possible for these birds to winter farther north, which may put them at increased risk from unusually cold winters or harsh storms.

The 305 bird species of the study are clear indicators for climate change, sending us a compelling signal that we must act now to curb the impacts of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and implementing energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy strategies. We also must help wildlife and ecosystems adapt to unavoidable habitat changes, even as we work to curb climate change itself.

Please visit [www.audubonoffloridanews.org](http://www.audubonoffloridanews.org) for a copy of our Florida fact sheet and the National Audubon Society report.

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### The Peregrine Falcon

The peregrine falcon is an amazing member of the raptor family which is capable of diving speeds of around 100 mph. The falcon mates for life and usually returns to the same area annually to nest. Peregrines are found on every continent except Antarctica. They feed on small to medium size birds, including pigeons, some ducks and starlings, they make their nest on ledges of mountains or buildings and migrate long distances twice a year.

Between 1950 and 1970 the population of peregrines declined greatly until they were extirpated in the Eastern U.S. They were placed on the Endangered Species List, ESL. With the ban of DDT and with the help of the Peregrine Fund, peregrine numbers have increased steadily until now there are approximately 1,650 breeding pairs in the U.S., including the Eastern portion. In 1999 they were removed from the ESL. In Florida they have remained on the Imperiled Species List. Peregrines are still captured or harvested for the purpose of falconry, a long recognized sport.

In June of this year an advisory committee of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FWC, recommended that the peregrine be removed from the Imperiled list. Now falconers in this state have asked that they be allowed to take more of the young falcons as they migrate along our coast. OVAS has written a letter to FWC asking that they not increase the number of peregrines harvested. A response from FWC indicates that the recommendations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be followed. Comments will be taken from the public and a final decision made in June of 2009 after completion of the peregrine management plan.

If you are concerned about maintaining or increasing the number of peregrine falcons in North America you may want to e-mail or write the FWC. The address is: peregrine@MyFWC.com or Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 S Meridian St., Tallahassee, FL 32301