



THE LIMPKIN CALL

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COMING EVENTS

November 10 Tuesday- Promise Ranch

Field Trip to Promise Ranch, Umatilla. This 1500 acres under conservation easement, of upland forest and wet prairie and wetlands, managed for the last eight years for wildlife with emphasis on bob white, quail and turkey. Meet at Winn-Dixie parking lot Eustis 8:30am. Leader- Dennis O'Neil 383 6309.

November 22 Sunday Regular Members Meeting 2:00pm

Challenges in Florida Bird Conservation- Red Knots, Red-Headed Woodpeckers and Redstarts. Our speaker is John C. Ogden currently (2009) is Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon of Florida. Previously, he was a research scientist at Everglades National Park for 16 years, Director of the Ornithological Research Unit and co-Director of the California Condor recovery program during his 14 years with the National Audubon Society's Research Department, and served 10 years as Chief Scientist for the South Florida Water Management District on the Everglades restoration program. John is a native Tennessean, who came to Florida to do graduate study at Florida State University. His introduction to the birds of Florida included field surveys of birds in all counties of the State

December 5 Saturday Christmas Lunch 11:30am

This is our Christmas get together held jointly with TLNC and is our only time together at the holidays. Please bring enough food to share with others who attend and OVAS/TLNC will provide table settings, decoration and drinks. There will be music and presentation of our Annual Conservation Award. Leader- Jerry Bohmann 735 5922.

December 12 Saturday- Paisley Bike Trail

This is a new property under conservation easement with funds voted in the 2004 referendum. We are walking, not biking, this new trail and it is a short distance in eastern Lake County. Meet at Winn-Dixie parking lot 8:00am Eustis. Leader- Gallus Quigley 516 8512.

December 14 Monday- Christmas Bird Count

As always, all the volunteers who can count birds, are needed for this event. This is the 111th Christmas Bird Count and thousands of people across the US take part during December-January. Meet at 7:00am at Emerald Marsh, Wood Duck Parking Lot. Contact is Peg Lindsay-pegcondor@embarqmail.com. Leader- Peg Urban 326 3868. Refreshments at the Blue House Sunnyhill Farm at the conclusion. Contribution of \$5 goes to National Audubon to cover costs of administration for the CBC.

HAPPENINGS AT PEAR PARK

PEAR Park is a Lake County park which was at one time an agricultural research area of the State of Florida. The research was moved to a Lake Apopka station and the nearly 300 acres was taken over by the County. Most of the property is designated as restoration area but fifty acres fronting on U.S. 27 is recreational with a very nice dog park.

Because many OVAS members have visited PEAR Park and several others are still active volunteers at PEAR, it is time for an update on happenings there. Of great interest is the fact that bird numbers and bird species continue to increase.

Over the past eight years PEAR volunteers have planted thousands of native trees, shrubs and wildflowers. The greatest concentration of the plantings has been in the fifty-acre Scrub-jay Restoration Area. The work has been coordinated by Ron Plakke and Peg Urban. The last planting of about 900 additional plants took place in July and August of this summer. The new plants need to be kept watered for several months and in the past few years the watering was all done by hand. This summer PEAR has been greatly blessed by frequent rain showers, not always the same amount as other places but sufficient to decrease the hand watering hours.

Of course, the rain also benefits the weeds so the volunteers work hard to keep the weeds away from the plants so they will flourish. On one recent work day a Scrub-jay was seen flying over the newly planted area headed towards Plantation. It is known that there is a family of at least six jays living in Plantation. PEAR volunteers hope that soon

the new jays will be ready to start a family so they can take advantage of the acorns being produced by some of the earlier plantings.

This summer a Mockingbird took control of the Xeriscape garden while it raised a family in the coral honeysuckle. When allowed, Jean Morse and her crew kept the area weeded and pruned. It's a good place to see native plants that one can put in their own home landscape.

Another good place to visit is the meadowland area which is coordinated by Peter Moeller. The butterflies love to visit the beautiful flowers there while Peter and David keep planting and weeding. Recently, when in this area, Peg saw a Blue grosbeak, the first one recorded in PEAR Park.

Bob Putman keeps up the Bluebird nest box trail which produced some 58 new birds this summer. Bob and Peg Lindsay take regular birding hikes around the park and were happy to note recently that Pied-billed grebes have nested and produced young on the big pond just to the right of the PEAR entrance. The river nature trail is well marked and kept cleared for anyone wanting to get out early to see migrating birds.

PEAR Park has a large area set aside for the Heritage Memorial Garden. Anyone purchasing one of the recommended trees for \$150 will also receive an engraved marker to be placed near the tree. Interested persons should call Mary Remer at 365-0934

There is still a lot of work for volunteers to do at PEAR even as the Scrub-jay restoration area is completed and Ron and his wife, Barb, prepare to depart for Montana to join their family in their "Golden years". Contact any of the aforementioned people if you are interested in becoming a PEAR Park volunteer. The County has made many changes to the park including adding two pavilions. Please come and visit.

Mary Remer

ACTION PLAN FOR OVAS CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Since Conservation is the major purpose of Audubon and its chapters, you might like to know the priorities of your chapter's Conservation Committee:

Support AOF conservation efforts thru e-mails, letters of support, and requests of legislators.

Support Audubon's Central Florida Regional conservation goals and activities.

Continue to monitor the non-migratory whooping crane population in Lake/ Sumter counties, and be advocates on their behalf when ever possible.

Continue to monitor and support the Hometown Democracy initiative which will be on the 2010 ballot

Encourage more OVAS member participation in conservation activities by sending them conservation news thru our own e-mail list, and asking for support at meetings and in the newsletter.

Work with local governments and other organizations to promote more water conservation, and to only irrigate lawns 1x a week.

Continue to monitor and participate in the regional Alternative Water Supply issues, and CUP permits for lakes and Niagara.

Support the NAS effort to educate our membership about the impact of world overpopulation and its effects on the environment.

Ask SJRWMD for more wildlife viewing days for the public at Emerald Marsh.

Monitor the Lake Norris colonial nesting waterbird rookery and look for ways to protect it from vultures.

Assist in local habitat restoration efforts.

Oppose off-shore oil drilling and encourage more solar energy use.

Award a "Conservationist of the Year Award" at the December meeting. Tailor the award to the contributions of the recipient. Linda Bystrak.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just about everyone, even in places like Oklahoma, has reached the conclusion that global warming exists and is perhaps the major threat to the planet. What is not yet agreed is what human activity produces the most damage to the earth's environment. Many feel that it is the transportation sector with car, trucks and aircraft producing carbon dioxide. In fact, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization, factory farming of animals for food, has made this the prime contributor to global warming. In addition, industrial production of animals for food creates even further negative effects on the planet including air pollution, water pollution, deforestation and more. Short of a vegetarian diet, the only other solution is to buy and consume real Organic meat products, which has the additional benefit that you no longer eat food produced with antibiotics and pesticides.

EVERYTHING IS GREEN!

In Florida most of the year everything is green, but now everyone is rushing to be green. The detergent producer, Clorox, actually has gone green, to the extent that The Sierra Club allows it to use its logo on the product line- Green Works, a Clorox trade-mark. In return, Clorox states on its Green Works packaging that it is a supporter "of The Sierra

Club's efforts to preserve and protect the planet". It is worthwhile to support Clorox's Green Works products for their efforts to eliminate chemicals from their laundry, dish washing and other detergents.

NEW MEMBERS

T. Brinkley
William Baker
Harold Wehling
Anne M. Runyan
Jack Warren
Eric Pearson
Peter Bejte
Robert L. Wexler
Caleb Marvin
Richard Rife
Roy Ward
Iona Hageman
Jean Fewlass
Patricia Ewing
Marion A. Condon

Jonathan L. Brainard
T. Brinkley
William Baker
Harold Wehling
Anne M. Runyan
Jack Warren
Eric Pearson

TRIP TO MERRITT ISLAND

YIELDS 35 SPECIES

Even an "off" day at the Black Point Wildlife Drive in the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge can be productive, as a group of 11 birders discovered during OVAS's first field trip of the season on October 15.

The group, caravanning in three cars through the seven-mile drive, chalked up 35 species on a hot, windless day. Most of the usual suspects were present, along with Caspian terns, short-billed dowichers, least sandpipers, greater and lesser yellowlegs, palm warblers, common yellowthroats, loggerhead shrikes, reddish egrets and a bald eagle.

Although there were small, scattered flocks of blue-winged teal in the refuge, and a few mottled ducks, it appeared that many of the waterfowl species had yet to arrive at Merritt Island. Pied-billed grebes were evident, including one group of 14.

Even though water levels are low in the refuge, there is plenty of water for foraging birds. The number of bird species and individuals is expected to increase significantly in coming weeks, according to refuge personnel. Dennis O'Neil

Audubon Magazine Raises the Bar for Recycling

As the leading authority on environmental issues, you might think *Audubon* magazine couldn't be any Greener. The venerable voice for bird conservation since 1899 is taking its environmental commitment to new heights with the September-October issue. Like our LEED Platinum headquarters, Audubon is again setting an example to follow. Despite the many glossies that talk a good game on Green issues, fewer than one percent of the 17,000 magazines published in the United States contain any recycled paper. With this issue, *Audubon's* body stock is tripling from 30 percent post-consumer recycled paper to 90 percent. Recycled paper uses less water and energy, emits fewer greenhouse gases, and preserves carbon dioxide-absorbing trees. This paper is also certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and produced without any chlorine. The initiative slashes CO2 emissions from printing by 608 metric tons annually, (a full 7 per cent of Audubon's carbon footprint). The change saves Audubon \$18,000 a year, and saves trees, particularly in Canada's boreal forest, home to 300 species of birds.