



## ***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.

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### **COMING EVENTS**

**March 7 Sunday Special Benefit Program 2:00pm**

Michigan-based author and film maker, Bill Jamerson will present a music and story-telling program about the Civilian Conservation Corps, the 1933-42 program which gave employment to 3.5 million young men and built needed US infrastructure. Donation of \$15 includes refreshments including wine and cheese from 1:00pm until program start 2:00pm Contact the Treasurer, Billie Argenziano, 357 8270 or any board member.

**March 16 Tuesday 6:00pm**

This is the OVAS Annual Meeting with election of board members and Potluck Dinner. Please sign up with Lynn Plant for the dinner advising what type of food you will bring. Please provide a quantity that will serve ten people and bring your own place setting and cutlery to avoid using plastic. Cups and beverages will be provided. Contact is Lynn Plant 735 5195.

Presentation by Diane Brannon, who is our own Lake County wildlife photographer. Since moving to Florida she has become a full-time photographer specializing in Lake County water birds.

**March 19 Friday Field Trip Chinsegut Environmental Area**

This area forms part of the Chinsegut Hill property near Brooksville and contains a number of good walking trails in both dry long-leaf pine forest and wetlands, with an array of cranes, ducks, herons, egrets, ibis. The Nature Center offers exhibits and tables for picnic. Meet at Winn-Dixie Eustis parking lot at 8:00am. Leader- Dennis O'Neil 383 6309.

**March 23-25 Tuesday-Thursday Overnight Trip to Lake Wales Area**

OVERNIGHT TRIP ITINERARY T – W - Th March 23 – 25, 2010

Ocklawaha Valley Audubon Society & Lake Beautyberry Chapter FNPS, Sponsors

Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Morning check-in at FFA Facility

12:00 BYO Brown bag lunch at Catfish Creek Preserve SP

6:00 Dinner and social. Buffet dinner provided, homemade desserts welcome

7:30 Campfire by lantern light. Bring songs to sing and ghost stories to share

Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

7:00 Breakfast

8:30 Bok Tower tour

12:00 Lunch at Bok Tower cafeteria. BYO brown bag or purchase there.

1:30 Tiger Creek Preserve tour

6:00 Formal dinner at FFA Facility

7:30 Storytelling – room provided in lodge

Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Pontoon boat tour of Lake Pierce, optional \$15 pp

9:00 Canoe, optional \$25 pp half day

10:00 (Primarily for the FNPS folks) Nancy Bissett & tour of The Natives, Davenport FL

**Per Person Package Rates:**

**Single Occupancy: \$63.36 meals + \$135.00 lodging = \$198.36 per person**

**Double Occupancy: \$63.36 meals + \$72.00 lodging = \$135.36 per person**

Sign up and complete package of program from Peg Lindsay- 326 3868

APRIL 11 SUNDAY 2:00PM

**Regular Meeting. Florida's Earliest Birds and Wildlife. Presenters are Russell & Bonnie**

**Cronin, members of the Florida Fossil Hunters, a group of amateur paleontologists who are interested in learning about the past. They have done school and museum displays over the past fifteen years. They continue to hunt for fossils in Florida and elsewhere.**

**APRIL 13 TUESDAY**

**Gemini Springs. This a Volusia County park of some 210 acres containing two springs flowing into the St Johns River and Lake Monroe. Located near the city of DeBary it is equipped with a hiking trail for water bird viewing. Picnic in the park. Meet at Winn-Dixie parking lot Eustis 8:00am. Leader- Dennis O'Neil 383 6309**

**MAY 4 TUESDAY**

**Juniper Springs in the Ocala National Forest. This area offers a variety of activity, such as canoeing and kayaking, which can be done after the nature hike. Entry is \$ 4. Per person. Meet at Winn-Dixie parking lot Eustis at 8:00am. Leader- Linda Bystrak 357 2207**

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Kenneth Powley

Deanne Lockwin

Fran Hudec

Deborah Bayles

Charles Dougherty

Ilene Stanescki

Jayne Amos

Physician Health

Beverly Knox

Ronald Nowak

John & Billie Stiles

William & Judy McAuley

Louise B. Franzen

Amy Shamrock

John Herman

Roberta G. Houseman

Peggy Condon

Mary E. Drager

William H. Byrd Jr

Sheryl S. Cornell

Bert Snyder

Charles L. Trovinger

Martin Campbell

James Figgatt Jr

Nancy Degre

Lee Lefaivre

Gene McConkey

Dick Costello

Charles Kegley

Edward Rutkowski

Jean Doyle

James Read

Frank Kuncir

Elmer & Loral Wolford

Alyce Houskamp

John Hartsfield  
Sarah Collop  
Mr. Lucy Abraham  
Merry Hendel  
Earl Smith  
Sharon Kuester  
Carl I. Jackson  
Dr. June M. Atkinson  
Nancy Baxter  
Joan Hammond  
Andrea Sewell  
Leigh Skeens  
Tim O'Connor  
Patricia Moore  
John W. Campbell  
Walter Morris  
Marilyn Cimmerer  
James Graham  
Lake-Sumter C. College  
Linda Delorey  
Robert Breckelbaum

#### FLORIDA SCRUB JAY CONFERENCE

The Florida Scrub Jay Conference sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, was held at Bok Tower in Lake Wales. Several OVAS members attended the day-long meeting. Because the Lake County unit used a different pilot project to count the jays and the results are not complete, we were not able to see the results of our labor.

However, we learned many things about Jay Watch. In 2009 there were 63 sites observed by 321 volunteers. They found 60% fewer groups of jays, 8 % of the same groups and 32% more groups than in the areas first surveyed in 1992-1993. Twelve sites no longer had Scrub Jays with an overall decrease from 529 to 384 groups representing a 27% decline in bird group numbers.

Some Florida Scrub Jays are trying to adapt to new surroundings as they continue to lose their very specific desired habitat. Many try living in abandoned orange groves because the low-growing trees are in sandy soil. The groves do not provide the food needed to raise healthy young. Other birds live in poor habitats and rely on bird feeders for food. This sustains the adults while the food is available but again, it is not good for the young.

The Jay Watch program is beneficial because it provides information on what needs to be done to save the jays from extinction. Mostly that means Florida needs to continue to provide more habitat for the jays, as is being done in the Ocala National Forest. We need to advocate for controlled burning and support the Jay Watch program.

Mary Remer

## **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

[Here you go](#)

The total species count was 147 and total bird count 36114. If you include only the count day birds, then 145 species and 36112 birds. A Barn Swallow and an American Wigeon were count week only observations

I accounted for 77 participants (matches the number you submitted to CBC) with 23 parties. Most parties (20 of 23) spent the entire day counting. John Stenberg and Peg Lindsay

## **PAYNES PRAIRIE FIELD TRIP**

Paynes Prairie birds - 61 species. It was an EXTREMELY COLD and windy day, so we didn't go after the little birds - they wouldn't come out for us and it would be unreasonable to ask them to. We did see the Whooping Cranes but not either of the geese species (Canada nor White-fronted.) Dennis O'Neil got 2 life birds. The Visitor Center has a nice display, and we all watched the movie about the history of Paynes Prairie.  
Peg Lindsay

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

A few words about the most important thing to life on Earth—Water. Drink it from the Tap. Americans spent \$ 12 billion on bottled water or thousands of times the cost of tap water, thinking it is safer or better, but it is not. Besides the enormous waste of your money, it takes millions of barrels of oil to produce and ship plastic water bottles, 90 percent of which end up in garbage instead of being re-cycled.. For more on how you can help from wasting resources, go to-  
[www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org).