



# The Limpkin Call

The newsletter of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society, a chapter of Audubon Florida and the National Audubon Society and a not-for-profit organization.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I know that summer is a busy time for all of us as we balance work, time away for friends and family, and of course nature. For Oklawaha Valley Audubon, work continues year-round. Over the summer your board will be finalizing our Strategic Plan, paying attention to conservation issues, like the Green Swamp, Jay Watch and Eagle Watch. They will also be working hard on the programs and field trips for the next year, and planning some additional exciting events. (Like the Festival of Flight and Flowers)

The new OVAS Strategic Plan is completed (see pgs. 7-8). It is structured on the National Audubon and Audubon Florida plans. When we come back together on September 8, the board will be putting it into action. The Festival of Flight and Flowers will be only a month away, and the holidays will be right around the corner. Time is going to fly. So, I wanted to take a moment and remind everyone how grateful the birds are for all of your support over the last year. Your donations and membership have helped us to support the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Avian Research and Conservation Institute, Avian Reconditioning Center, our new Local Plants for Birds program, Trout Lake Nature Center, our own operating costs, and the Festival of Flight and Flowers. All makes a positive difference in the environment and the lives of birds.

On a personal note, this past month I have started having a daily visitor. He is a beautiful bright red northern cardinal protecting his territory from his reflection in my back door. As he was stopping by several times a day, every day, I figured I would go ahead and feed him. So, I got some black sunflower seeds and put a handful on my back landing. Low and behold 2 days later, Mrs. Cardinal stopped by for a feast and now Mr. Cardinal still comes every day, Mrs. Cardinal only every so often. How great is it that wildlife comes right up to the back door?!

So, whether you're a returning member or new to our chapter please inform others on conservation issues important to you and invite a friend, relative or neighbor to a program, field trip or hike when we resume in the fall. I do so enjoy my visits from our feathered friends and want OVAS to be a huge part of the efforts to keep them around for years to come. Membership support is encouraged for \$15.00 per household each year.

I wish you all a wonderful summer. Don't forget to check the [website](#) for upcoming events and conservation news.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society's new fiscal year, 2019-2020, is just around the corner and it's time for local membership renewals. (OVAS Fiscal year is July 1 to June 30).

If you haven't done so already, please send in your annual membership support, or [click here](#) to pay online. You are what hope looks like to the birds.

It's all for the birds,  
Lori



Prothonotary Warbler (above) and Northern Cardinal (below). Photos by Dennis O'Neil.



## OVAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS effective July 1, 2019

Lori Patterson, President  
Lavon Silvernell, 1st Vice President  
vacant, 2nd Vice President  
Alex Chester, Treasurer  
Judy McAuley, Secretary  
Sherry Chester, Director-at-Large  
Stacey Kelly, Director-at-Large  
Judy Knizner, Director-at-Large  
Andrea League, Director-at-Large  
Peg Lindsay, Director-at-Large  
Lisa Sonietz, Director-at-Large

## COMING EVENTS - Programs

All Programs are at 2:00 pm on the first Sunday of the month, September through June, at Trout Lake Nature Center (520 East Country Road 44), Eustis, unless otherwise noted.

We suggest a \$2 donation when you attend.

A more complete listing of our programs will appear in the Sept/Oct newsletter.

**NOTE: Our September program will be held on the second Sunday of the month instead of our regular day, which falls on Labor Day Weekend.**



Chipping Sparrow at a feeder. Photo by Alex Vigh.

### Pampering Your Feathered Guest Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Judy Knizner and her husband David, of Wild Birds Unlimited in Eustis love birds and bird lovers. They understand the importance of having a yard with trees, shrubs and wildflowers that produce seeds, berries, bugs, and nesting sites for multiple species of birds.

But they also know the pleasure of coaxing their feathered friends in a little closer: providing treats that have the birds coming back for more and bringing their fledglings too. Or, supplying homes or nest boxes where tree cavities might be in short supply. The Knizner's enjoy helping people provide a little extra comfort for the birds in return for the pleasure that people receive from watching them.

Judy will join OVAS on the 2nd Sunday in September, the 8th, to share tips on how to make your birds happy and keep them safe. As well as some of those funny stories every birder has about the antics of her feathered friends. Judy has more tales to share from her customers too.

Anytime you get involved in another living things' life, there is some responsibility involved. But providing a few extras for birds more than pays you back in the funny, touching, and tender moments it adds to your life.

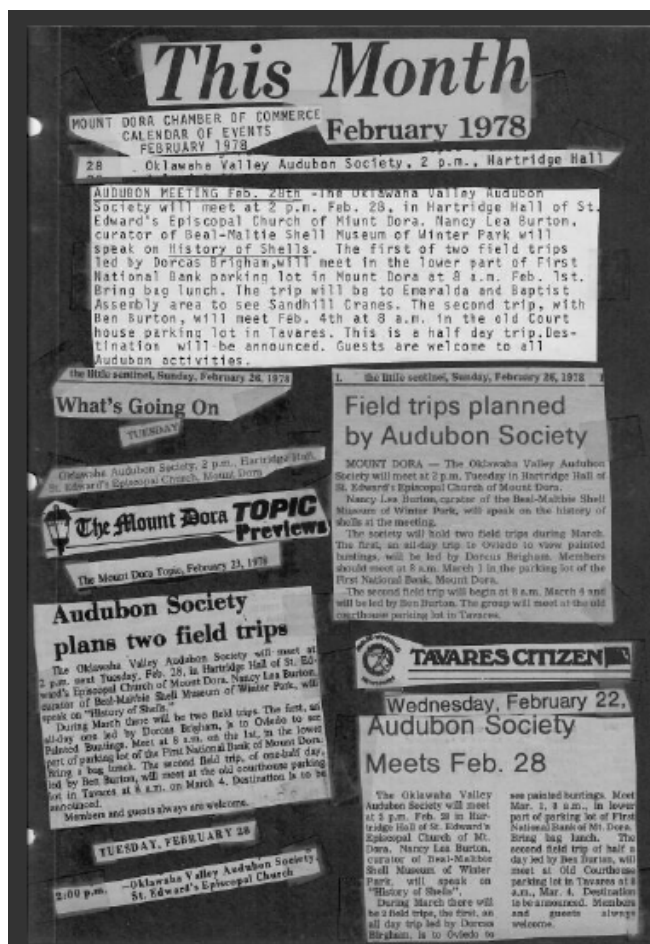
## Call for Missing History

We are compiling OVAS's history and digitizing it for safekeeping. Remarkably, we have archived nearly all the annual brochures (since 1970) and newsletters (since 1984), but we are missing a few. If you still possess any of the following, please allow us to borrow them to be scanned. Contact Sherry Chester (epperlychester@gmail.com) to arrange the loan.

OVAS Program/Field Trip brochures  
1997-1998  
2016-2017

Limpkin Call newsletters  
Vol. VII, No. 3 Oct 1990  
Vol. XXV, No. 3 Jan/Feb 2010  
Vol. XXV, No. 4 Mar/Apr 2010

In addition, we have scanned all our scrapbooks, but there were none after 2000. We've received some photos from 2008-present. If you have any photos of OVAS members doing anything OVAS-related 2001-present, or newspaper clippings about OVAS for 2001-present, please send them to Sherry.





## COMING EVENTS - Field Trips

Field Trips are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Please contact the trip leader to confirm a space and for more information, including carpooling instructions. For most trips you will need outdoor shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, raingear or jacket, binoculars (of course), water, and a snack or lunch. We suggest a donation of \$10/adult for each field trip for OVAS members and \$15/adult for non-members; children are free. Actual costs, such as entry fees, etc., are separate, and are noted in each write-up. Check our [website](#) for updated information and to register, and to view photos from recent field trips. A more complete listing of our field trips will appear in the Sept/Oct newsletter.

### Lunch on the Lawn at Lavon's Friday, September 20, 2019 9:00 a.m. to noon

Lavon Silvernell owns a 5-acre property in Astatula, near Clay Island. She generously has agreed to host Audubon birders at one of our Lunch on the Lawn series of outings.

The habitat around Lavon's homestead is primarily Florida scrub, an inviting habitat for a variety of songbirds. Peg Lindsay and Bob Putman, who have frequently birded in the Clay Island area, will do some scouting of the property to get an idea of which species may be there. Early migrants may be traveling through the property at that time.

Here are the details of what promises to be a fun outing:

**DATE:** Friday, September 20, 2019

**TIME:** Coffee and donuts at 8:30 to 9 a.m., followed by birding with Peg or Lavon or on your own. Following birding, we'll eat lunch (bring your own) and then bird along the roadsides before departing for home.

**BYO:** In addition to your lunch, a lawn chair, bug repellent, sunscreen and water are advisable.

**LOCATION:** 23547 Robbins Road, Astatula FL 34705

**RESERVATIONS:** Reservations are required. Register and pay online at <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/> If you have questions, Email, text (preferred) or phone Peg at 352-348-9258.

**DONATION:** \$10 (members) or \$15 (non-members) suggested.



## Florida Museum of Natural History Saturday, September 21, 2019 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Located on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville, the Museum of Natural History will help adults and children alike gain a deeper understanding of the history of Florida through outstanding exhibits of animals, plants and cultural artifacts. The one-hour tour highlights selected sections of the museum's world-renowned permanent exhibitions and includes hands-on learning activities for kids.

Additionally, the group will visit the Butterfly Rainforest, getting up close and personal with an amazing collection of butterflies on a tour led by the Exhibit Manager of the Rainforest. Learn about butterfly identification, lifecycle, nectar plants, and end the one-hour tour with a behind-the-scenes look at the Butterfly Rearing Lab.

The Museum has an excellent gift shop and, near the entrance, sells butterfly-friendly plants for visitors who want to attract butterflies to their gardens.

**DATE:** Saturday, September 21, 2019

**TIME:** Meet trip leader Sherry Chester at the Winn-Dixie parking lot at routes 19 and 44 in Eustis at 8 a.m. for the 90-minute trip to Gainesville. The tour of the Museum and Butterfly Rainforest will begin at 10 a.m. and last till approximately 3 p.m. Bring a lunch or buy lunch at the Museum's Camelia Court Café.

**RESERVATIONS:** Advance reservations are required.

Register and pay online at <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/> If you have questions, contact Sherry at epperlychester@gmail.com or 352-409-7444. Let her know if you are interested in carpooling.

**COST:** \$30 per person includes the tour of the Museum and the Butterfly Rainforest.\* A \$10 donation (\$15 for non-members) to OVAS would be appreciated.

\*For those who may be interested, an optional tour of the CROC—Ancient Predators in the Modern World exhibit is available at a cost of \$6.50 (self-guided) or \$8.50 (guided).



Monarch Butterflies overwintering on Oyamel Fir trees in the mountains of Mexico. Florida Museum of Natural History-sponsored trip, February 2019. Photo by Alex Chester.

## COMING EVENTS - Field Trips

Field Trips are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Please contact the trip leader to confirm a space and for more information, including carpooling instructions. For most trips you will need outdoor shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, raingear or jacket, binoculars (of course), water, and a snack or lunch. We suggest a donation of \$10/adult for each field trip for OVAS members and \$15/adult for non-members; children are free. Actual costs, such as entry fees, etc., are separate, and are noted in each write-up. Hope you can make them! Check our [website](#) for updated information and to register, and to view photos from recent field trips. A more complete listing of our field trips will appear in the Sep/Oct newsletter.

### Fall Blooms and Birds at PEAR Saturday, September 28, 2019 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Palatklakaha Environmental and Agricultural Reserve (PEAR) is one of the most diverse natural areas in Lake County. Its 314 acres includes wetlands, xeric landscape, butterfly garden, Florida Scrub Jay habitat restoration and meadow restoration.

Bounded on the North and West by the Palatklakaha River, the property is home to a wide variety of fauna and flora—including 180 species of birds and 40 species of butterflies. Among the bird species are Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Bluebird and Eastern Towhee. Butterfly species include Red-spotted Purple, Zebra Swallowtail and Gulf Fritillary. Gopher Tortoises, Bobcat, Coyote and River Otters also have been observed on the property, along with an impressive number of dragonflies and damselflies.

The trail along the river and through the meadow will put our group in touch with lots of nature at a time of year when early bird migrants will be moving through.

Leading the group will be Peg Urban and Peg Lindsay, both longtime PEAR volunteers, members of OVAS and the Beautyberry Chapter of the Native Plant Society and two of the most experienced and expert observers of plant and animal wildlife in our area.

Bring water and a lunch or snacks, insect spray, sunscreen, binoculars and camera. Closed-toe shoes are recommended.

**DATE:** Saturday, September 28, 2019

**TIME:** 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** 4800 University Avenue, Leesburg. Traveling on Route 27 from Leesburg, proceed two miles south of the County Road 48 intersection. Watch for the entrance to PEAR at University Avenue on the right (west) side of the road. (There is no turn lane.) Proceed to the building with the mural. Carpoolers should meet at Winn-Dixie at routes 19 and 44 in Eustis at 7:45 a.m.

**RESERVATIONS:** Reservations are required. Register and pay online at <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/events/> If you have questions contact Peg Urban at [pegpixfl@gmail.com](mailto:pegpixfl@gmail.com) or Peg Lindsay at [pegcondor@embarqmail.com](mailto:pegcondor@embarqmail.com)

**DONATIONS:** Two donations are suggested: PEAR (\$5) and OVAS (\$10 for members; \$15 for nonmembers).

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OVAS Birders on  
field trip to the Little  
Big Econ State  
Forest, June 8, 2019

PEAR





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Field Trips are subject to change due to weather or other circumstances. Please contact the trip leader to confirm a space and for more information, including carpooling instructions. For most trips you will need outdoor shoes, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, raingear or jacket, binoculars (of course), water, and a snack or lunch. We suggest a donation of \$10/adult for each field trip for OVAS members and \$15/adult for non-members; children are free. Actual costs, such as entry fees, etc., are separate, and are noted in each write-up. Hope you can make them! Check our [website](#) for updated information and to register, and to view photos from recent field trips. A more complete listing of our field trips will appear in the Sept/Oct newsletter.



## OVAS Overnight Trip to the Everglades February 12, 13, 14, 2020

The annual overnight trip long has been the highlight of the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society's field trips program. Clyde Stephens, who over the years has taken us to some of Florida's most scenic, educational and adventurous spots, has assembled a three-day, two-night excursion that will preserve that tradition.

On Day One, the group will carpool to Fisheating Creek Outpost for a picnic lunch, birdwatching, a visit to the former wilderness home of Naturalist Tom Gaskins, and a look at Lake Okeechobee from atop the levee.

The trip then will continue through wild lands with ponds, marshes and almost no human habitation to the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation in the Everglades. The group will spend two nights in cabins on the Reservation.

Day Two: Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation is the home of Native Americans whose ancestors were hunted like wild animals by the white man in the 1800s. A few Seminole survivors barely escaped to the swamps of the Everglades and learned to live off the land. They ate native plants and animals and grew pumpkins, bananas and corn on hidden hammocks just above water levels. Their survival is a remarkable example of how man can be compatible in a harsh environment by respecting and conserving nature.

To understand the historic Seminole community, the group will visit one of the most outstanding, modern museums of its kind. Birdwatching and nature watching will continue on a mile-long boardwalk through a cypress dome and wetlands. Following lunch in the Seminole Indian Village Restaurant, the group will go on a guided safari in the Everglades.

On Day Three, the group will travel to Moore Haven, then through the Brighton Seminole Indian Reservation for a brief visit. Crested Caracaras are a common sighting along SR 721 from Brighton to Fort Basinger. At historic Fort Basinger, the group can see where the Kissimmee River was channelized into a drainage canal. At Riverwoods Field Lab, the group will see programs on the restoration of the river, which resulted in the return of many bird species to the area, including Snail Kites. Pontoon boat tours can be arranged at Riverwoods.

COST: About \$250 per person plus the cost of food.

RESERVATIONS FOR THIS TRIP ARE REQUIRED. Those seeking reservations should contact Clyde Stephens at 352-343-6468 or at [bananabyte@aol.com](mailto:bananabyte@aol.com).

For those attending, additional trip details will be issued later.

*This trip will be a sellout, so make your reservation soon! As of press time, there is one room remaining (for two people; twin beds).*

Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation (top), Crested Caracara (middle), and Snail Kite (bottom).



### The Second Annual Festival of Flight and Flowers October 11-13, 2019 Eustis

If you are interested in helping the environment, conserving what we have and helping the birds, then we could use your help.

Returning again this year, the Festival of Flight and Flowers will be focusing on the need to conserve and restore natural ecosystems in and around Lake County Florida, and we, the Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society, will be energizing and engaging all generations by bringing more awareness of Real Florida.

Our vision, as you know, is to help the world be a place in which people and wildlife thrive. We are doing this by doing our part to protect birds, wildlife, and the places they need throughout Lake County and the region using science, advocacy, and conservation. The Festival of Flight and Flowers is part of our plan to make this a reality!

We can use your help if you ...

- have high resolution images we can display on our website and marketing materials
- have ideas for expert presentation topics
- are able to spend a couple of hours with us on October 12, 2019
- know fellow conservationists, birders, nature lovers
- can help spread the word about the festival to your network of friends and colleagues
- know experts who love to share their expertise
- know journalists who could write about the festival

This is your event! Please contact someone on your OVAS board (352-432-8866) and let us know any ideas you have.

*Editor's Note: We welcome a new, regular column on Plants for Birds to our bimonthly newsletters. Thanks to the Lake Beautyberry Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society for providing this column.*

### Make Your Hummer Happy, Plant a Coral Honeysuckle or Two

By Lavon Silvernell

People often ask if we have hummingbirds in Florida. We do, I have had four use my yard this Summer. I think they notice my yard because I have a vine with red tubular flowers, coral honeysuckle or *Lonicera sempervirens*: one growing on the top of a fence and the other up into a small sand-live oak. Hummers like their food high, though they do buzz down closer to the ground for tropical sage, *Salvia coccinea*, an easy to grow perennial.

Coral honeysuckle will grow in moist to dry conditions and grows faster with a little organic material in the soil. I have sugar-sand but a little leaf litter has built up under the trees. My plants are growing in my very dry scrub, with supplemental watering only during a long dry spell. I have seen the vine growing on the trail at the Green Mountain Scenic Overlook where it receives just rainwater. It does not need pampering.

*Lonicera* blooms on new growth so it would benefit from cutting back over the summer, if it's not so twined back on itself that you can't tell where one vine starts and another stops. It is evergreen and so attractive year-round and it's well behaved - it doesn't go crazy and canopy my trees. The vine also makes pretty clusters of red berries which fruit eating birds like cardinals will use. And, I'll bet that some bird would like to nest in a nice tangle of honeysuckle vine.





# Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS) Strategic Plan for FY2019-2020

## **Vision/Impact Statement:**

A world in which people and wildlife thrive.

## **Mission Statement:**

The Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society leads the community in protecting birds, wildlife, and the places they need throughout Lake County and the region using science, advocacy and conservation.

## **Long-term Outcomes:**

OVAS will support the strategic goals of National Audubon, Audubon Florida, and the Central Florida Region of Audubon Florida. Specifically, the long-term outcomes that OVAS will directly contribute to are:

*Working Lands:* The quality of wildlife habitat on government and privately managed lands in Lake County and the region is increased.

*Water and Coasts:* Water quality and water flows in the watersheds of the Ocklawaha and St. Johns rivers, and the lakes, wetlands, springs, and aquifers in Lake County and the region are noticeably improved to restore the functioning of habitats across priority landscapes in the region and downstream along Florida's coast.

*Wildlife-Friendly Communities:* Local community members are engaged in ensuring wildlife-friendly habitats are established throughout Lake County and the region; Wildlife-friendly policies have been passed; Community members are engaged in local and region-wide conservation efforts; Conservation corridors have been established.

*Climate and Coasts:* Greenhouse gas emissions from Lake County and the region are reduced to minimize the related human-induced impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, and sea level rise.

## **Short-term Outcomes:**

*Working Lands:* Engage land managers of government and privately-owned lands and advocate for increased wildlife habitat quality on those lands.

*Water and Coasts:* Engage with community leaders, planners, and decision makers to protect water at the source (*e.g.*, aquifers, wetlands, lakes, springs, and rivers); Advocate for sustainable water supplies for natural and built systems; Advocate for water quality improvements.

*Wildlife-Friendly Communities:* Engage community to increase awareness of the need and participation in increasing wildlife-friendly habitats.

*Climate and Coasts:* Engage with community leaders, planners, and decision makers to reduce the impact of greenhouse gases.

(continued on the next page)

# Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society Strategic Plan for FY2019-2020 (continued)

## Strategies:

### *Education:*

- OVAS will provide speakers on relevant topics (working lands, water, coast, wildlife-friendly communities, and climate) for our monthly programs.
- OVAS will organize field trips; birding data will be uploaded to eBird for scientific use.
- OVAS will kindle the interest of children and young adults in the outdoors and conservation issues.
- OVAS will organize the Festival of Flight and Flowers.

### *Working Lands:*

- OVAS will advocate for state laws and local land use decisions and programs, including funding, which protect conservation lands and provide for managing those lands to restore and maintain wildlife and habitats.
- OVAS will further the 2019 Conservation Action Agenda of Audubon Florida for Working Lands.

### *Water and Coast:*

- OVAS will be mindful of public policy decisions impacting water quality and flow in Lake County and the region, and provide input to state and local managers and decision makers and private property owners. [*e.g.*, St. Johns River Water Management District, Lake County Water Authority, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, County and City Commissioners and Planners].
- OVAS will further the 2019 Conservation Action Agenda of Audubon Florida for Water and Coast.

### *Wildlife-Friendly Communities:*

- OVAS will join the National Audubon Plants for Birds program as a partner.
- OVAS will support Audubon Florida's EagleWatch and Scrub Jay programs.
- OVAS will support Audubon Florida's Center for Birds of Prey and similar local facilities.
- OVAS will collaborate with like-minded organizations on plants sales, speakers, and projects to mobilize communities to promote the use of native plants in all landscapes.
- OVAS will advocate for public policies that conserve existing wildlife habitat and restore damaged habitats
- OVAS will further the 2019 Conservation Action Agenda of Audubon Florida for Bird-Friendly Communities.

### *Climate and Coast:*

- OVAS will encourage local governments and communities to protect tree canopy and shrubs, and to facilitate residents in planting more trees and shrubs.
- OVAS will further the 2019 Conservation Action Agenda of Audubon Florida for Climate and Coast.

## REFERENCES:

Audubon 2016-2020 Strategic Plan <http://strategicplan.audubon.org>

Audubon Florida's 2019 Conservation Action Agenda

<https://fl.audubon.org/news/read-audubon-floridas-2019-conservation-action-agenda>



# OVAS - Join/Renew/Support

You are what hope looks like to a bird.

We're in a race against time to give birds and wildlife a fighting chance in a changing world. Show your love today by joining, renewing, or donating to Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS).

Membership benefits include: Household membership; Timely, relevant news about birds, their habitats, and the issues that affect them; Planned birding, environmental, and community events happening near you; A powerful voice in the fight to protect birds and wildlife, plus advocacy opportunities; Receive Oklawaha Valley Audubon's bi-monthly newsletter and other communications; Helping support OVAS partner organizations; Special offers and discounts available only to members.

By joining or renewing your local Audubon chapter, you support Oklawaha Valley Audubon directly. All funds stay with our chapter and support the organization of educational programs, field trips, our conservation efforts, as well as allow us to help our partner organizations locally.

We appreciate your support annually at the beginning of each FY/program year, which is July 1. Membership is not a requirement to attend or participate in the OVAS programs or field trips. There are 3 ways to join/renew OVAS locally.

You can use the renewal form below. Mail your check to OVAS, PO Box 268, Eustis, FL 32727.

You can pay at a monthly program with cash or check.

You can go to <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/> and click on Join Audubon and pay with PayPal.

## OVAS Membership Application

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Committee that you would be willing to volunteer assistance:

\_\_\_\_\_ Citizen Science Committee- help organize or participate in the annual Emeraldal Christmas bird count, monthly bird counts, monitor local rookeries, and /or record field trip reports data

\_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising Committee – Assist with Donation box, boat rides, raffles, and special events

\_\_\_\_\_ Hospitality Committee – Help with refreshments for membership meetings and 2 potlucks

\_\_\_\_\_ Membership Committee – membership and e-mail list, new name tags, sign-in book

\_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Committee - attend public meetings, help write letters to legislators

\_\_\_\_\_ Outreach Committee - Set up display at events, maintain bulletin board at TLNC, advertise events in newspapers/internet

\_\_\_\_\_ Digital Communications Committee - website, e-mail blasts, Facebook and social media

\_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter Committee - bi-monthly electronic newsletter and OVAS brochures

**OVAS is a Florida Not-for-Profit Corporation**

<https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/> (352) 432-8866  
<https://www.facebook.com/Oklawaha-Valley-Audubon-Society>



Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society

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32727-0268

**TO:**