



# 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 Column

Goodbye May... Hello June...

Please be a good month and bring smiles and happiness to all our family and friends....

Unfortunately, we must advise that our June program with Holly Short from Florida Audubon is cancelled. This program and others we have cancelled hopefully will be re-scheduled in the coming 2020-2021 year. We look forward to resuming our programs starting in September. Normally we meet the first Sunday of each month, except July and August. Due to a conflict with Labor Day weekend, please note the date of our first meeting of the 2020-2021 season will be Sunday, September 13th (the 2nd Sunday of the month). We are diligently working on future programs and field trips for your enjoyment. These will be announcement in August. Please do not forget to renew your membership. It is \$20.00 for individual/family households.

Since, we have been staying close to home and birding in our backyards or maybe from a hike you've gone on. Please share what you have seen - even if you have started a new garden. We have started a new butterfly and hummingbird garden. The first day we had a Coral Honeysuckle in the backyard we discovered we had a male Ruby Throated Hummingbird. He's so cool to watch. We have tons of butterflies as well.

Periodically we will send links for cool and neat things for everyone to enjoy. Look further in this newsletter for virtual education and enjoyment.

Cheers,  
Stacey



Roseate Spoonbill at the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge - photo by Alex Chester



Since May 10th, a banded Whooping Crane has been sighted at the Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. Several OVAS members have trekked to the top of the observation tower near the visitor's center for a view. This photo was taken by member, Alice Horst.

## Continue your support of Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society

June 30, 2020, marks the end of the 2020 OVAS FY and your current membership in your local chapter, Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society. You can renew your membership by clicking [here](#). Membership is only \$20, for the family. (Any additional donation is very much appreciated.)

# In Lieu of In-Person Programs at This Time, We Bring You Virtual Programs

## A Birder's Guide to Lake County by Gallus Quigley

Orange Audubon held their first online program on May 21st. The program was recorded and they graciously agreed to share the link with us as well as their write-up below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eful4NhGATA>

Gallus is a real local bird expert, incredibly enthusiastic, and really knows Lake County. He works as a planner, biologist and trails coordinator with the Lake County Parks & Trails Division and has been an avid birder for over 25 years. In his spare time, he works as a birding guide and several years ago formed Archaeopteryx Birding and Nature Tours with his wife Rebecca (Beck) Smith. Gallus is the Cornell eBird regional reviewer for Lake and Sumter counties and was Lake County's coordinator for the Second Florida Breeding Bird Atlas. Gallus' 2008 Florida Big Year, with 359 bird species spotted, remains the third highest count on record. He also broke Lake County's Big Year record in 2015 with 243 species.



Greg Miller, Beck Smith, Gallus Quigley, and Yve Nagy Morrell at the keynote dinner for the Festival of Flight and Flowers, Eustis, FL, October 23, 2018.



Prothonotary Warbler - photo by Dennis O'Neil

## A Guide to Restoring the Little Things that Run the World

by Doug Tallamy

Recently, the Florida Wildflower Foundation sponsored a live webinar by Doug Tallamy, Professor of Entomology at the University of Delaware. Dr. Tallamy is the author of a best-selling gardening book: *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*

His webinar was recorded by the FWF and is available to all to view at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KkSdBZI2qoM&feature=youtu.be>

His talk was titled "A Guide to Restoring the Little Things that Run the World", which is a reference to E.O. Wilson's (a famous ecologist) article about the importance of invertebrates (1987, *Conservation Biology* Vol. 1, No. 4).

Dr. Tallamy did an excellent job of linking insects (especially moths), plants, and birds; the photos are extraordinary and he links his research with that of the recent Audubon study about the great decline of North American birds. The timing is perfect to replace this month's program we had to cancel. Doug tailored his talk to Florida, as his audience was the Florida Wildflower Foundation members and friends.

We encourage you to watch Doug's webinar and we hope you enjoy it as much as we did. We are grateful to FWF for giving us permission to distribute the link to the webinar.



Hummingbird Moth on *Agastache* taken in Eustis by Mark Heinemann.



**Below are links to educational materials. This is an augmentation of the list provided in our May 1st email to our members and friends**

Three major organizations are offering additional materials to help you learn about and enjoy birds right now. Be sure to visit these websites:

- [National Audubon](#)
- [Audubon Florida](#)
- [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

Additional sources of information and entertainment are:

- [Visit Audubon for Kids](#)
- [I Saw a Bird: Audubon's Spring Migration Show](#)
- [The Hidden History in My Backyard](#) (a history of National Audubon and its roots in Florida)
- See also [The History of Audubon Florida](#)
- [National Audubon's birdy "care package"](#), a webpage with all of Audubon's best bird photos, videos and stories
- [10 Common Bird Songs Made Less Confusing](#)
- [Bird Song Opera](#)
- [Bird Song Hero: The Song Learning Game for Everyone | Bird Academy • The Cornell Lab](#)
- [Enjoy the Red-Winged Blackbird Show](#)
- [Beyond the Selfie: Ethics in Wildlife Photography](#) sponsored by Holbrook Travel
- [Kowa webinars](#) on Digiscoping and other topics
- [Eagle Power](#) | NOVA | PBS
- [Birding from an Apartment Window](#)
- [Bird-friendly Communities: Protecting Birds from Low-Rise and Suburban Building Collisions](#). This webinar, by National Audubon was on March 31. A related [Toolkit](#) is available
- [Understanding eBird & Merlin Bird ID](#) with special guests from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Dr. Jenna Curtis, Sarah Toner, and Drew Weber, sponsored by Holbrook Travel
- [How to Count Birds](#)
- [The Coolest Kingfishers from Six Continents](#)
- [Why Birds Do What They Do](#)
- [Visiting US National Parks](#) (virtually)
- [The Blue Mind Educator Series](#)



White Pelicans at the J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge - photo by Alex Chester

# Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee April 26, 2020

On Sunday, April 26, members of the Central Florida RCC held the spring conference call to discuss issues of regional concern.

Charles Lee, Audubon Florida staff advisor to our RCC, updated us on a variety of ongoing issues. Very brief summaries of only a few issues follow. Contact me at the address below if you want a full copy of the conference call notes.

**Seminole County Land Exchange:** A private developer wants to trade 669 acres immediately east of the Econlockhatchee River for 238 acres owned by Seminole County just west of the river in exchange for ending litigation over the County rejecting the developer's original plans for a project called River Cross. See the "Orlando Sentinel" editorial board article at <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/editorials/os-op-reject-river-cross-exchange-deal-20200423-hz6d5xkvjydbdimc3ogj4vh5j4-story.html> for background. [editor's note: At the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners meeting on April 28th, the commission voted 4-1 to cease discussions of the swap.]

**SB 410 Growth Management:** SB 410 contains an amendment which restricts the authority of many county governments to manage growth within their borders. If a county says "no" to a harmful development proposal, this amendment would allow the developer to find a city willing to say "yes," allow the city to annex the footprint of the development and leave the county no ability to deny it. Locally, the bill will undermine the integrity of the Rural Boundary approved by the citizens of Seminole County. An AF Action Alert gives members an opportunity to sign a letter to Governor DeSantis asking him to veto this bill.

## Florida Legislative Recap:

- The budget has not yet been sent to the Governor to allow for analysis regarding veto items due to a shortfall in revenue, mainly caused by the Covid-19 economic downturn.
- Funding for Florida Forever was budgeted at \$100 million which is supported by document stamp taxes. Document stamp tax may be impacted less than sales tax, tolls and other revenues.
- SB 712 Water Quality: This bill was passed by the legislature and will be sent to the Governor for approval. While some environmental organizations are pressing for a veto because the bill doesn't go far enough, AF supports signing because it is a good start. The bill includes provisions for long-neglected regulations in areas such as septic tanks, nutrient pollution, stormwater, BMPs and biosolids.

**Chapter Actions:** All chapter leaders continue to meet via conference call or video and keep the lines of communication open with their members. Even though in-person meetings, field trips, festivals and fundraisers have been cancelled or postponed, the advocacy work and community science projects of Audubon Florida chapters are ongoing.

We all look forward to easier times. Stay safe. Stay well. Be happy.

Paula Wehr  
Central Florida Chapters Representative  
Audubon Florida Board of Directors  
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## [Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive](#) facts (paraphrased excerpts from website)

The St. Johns River Water Management District closed the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive (LAWD) to motorized access on March 13, 2020, to limit the potential for large gatherings to decrease the potential spread of the COVID-19. The North Shore is accessible still via the regular walking/biking trail entrances, and is currently open for non-motorized vehicular recreational activities, with the expectation that users are practicing appropriate social distancing. All district recreational opportunities currently remain open around the Lake Apopka North Shore, except motorized access of the LAWD. The Lust Road gate is closed to public access; all other access points (trailheads at Clay Island, Green Mountain Scenic Overlook, North Shore, Magnolia Park and McDonald Canal Boat Ramp) are open to public access. Please note several water resource projects are under way at the Lake Apopka North Shore, and those construction areas are closed to public access. Monitor their facts website for any new information about the opening of the LAWD.



Red-winged Blackbird along the LAWD - photo by Alex Chester

# 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 (\$20/yr); 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 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 Emeralds 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>



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**TO:**