



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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PO Box 268, Eustis, FL 32727-0268

<https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/>

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VOLUME XLI

March—April 2022

Number 4

President's column

Do you have a scent or something that you heard that pulls you right back to childhood? For me there are a bunch, but one of the strongest is fresh cut grass and the sounds of Eagles. Our hearing and noses conjure up memories from the core of our beings. And to me, spring has all of the right smells with citrus, jasmine, and gardenias just beginning to put out their blooms. As, well all the chirping and singing of the birds. Watching them go on the search of nesting materials mean babies will soon arrive. What a wonderful time of year.

I hope you will get out and enjoy the beauty of Spring....

Our March 6th meeting will be our Annual Meeting. Have a few things to talk about. One is voting on changes to our bylaws. Elections of Board Members. In general some discussion about OVAS business.

Look forward to seeing you on Sunday...

Regards,

Stacey

Barred Owl and chick
Photo by Alex Chester

At-a-Glance

March 6, 2022 2pm—Annual Meeting; Jim Gross, Executive Director, Florida Defenders of the Environment

March 30, 2022 8am—Field Trip: Circle B Bar Reserver (Lakeland)

April 3, 2022 2pm—Program: at PEAR Park, Rebekah Davis, a Ph.D. Student at UCF

April 12, 2022 8am—Field Trip: Yaupon Brothers American Tea Co, and New Smyrna Beach Lighthouse

May 1, 2022 2pm—Program: Jay Watch with Jacqui Sulek



PROGRAMS

Our monthly programs are held on the first Sunday of the Month, at 2:00pm, either in person or perhaps on Zoom, and usually at Trout Lake Nature Center, unless indicated otherwise. Bring a chair for our outdoor meetings.

Program

March 6th, 2 pm at Trout Lake Nature Center

The Cross Florida Barge Canal

On March 6th, we will have Jim Gross of the Florida Defenders of Wildlife speak about "The Cross Florida Barge Canal, A Brief History".

Jim Gross is a professional geologist with over 45 years of experience in water resources. He is a native of California and earned his bachelor's degree in geology at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Jim worked in geothermal energy exploration and development early in his career, then returned to graduate school to earn a master's in geology at New Mexico State University. Jim has more than 25 years of professional experience working in Florida. He is a licensed professional geologist in California and Florida and is certified as a Professional Geologist by the American Institute of Professional Geologists. Jim is the executive director of Florida Defenders of the Environment. He has also been an adjunct professor at Santa Fe College in Gainesville for the past 6 years where he teaches Earth Science



Chipping Sparrow
Photo by Alex Vigh

Program

April 3rd, 2 pm at PEAR Park

UCF Audubon Chapter the Knighthawks

On April 3, at PEAR Park, Rebekah Davis, a Ph.D. Student at UCF and actively involved with the UCF Chapter of the Audubon society, the Knighthawks, will be our speaker. We are excited to hear about the Knighthawks Chapter, their recent projects, grants, and accomplishments.

This meeting will be held on the front porch of the main building at PEAR Park. It's a great place to birdwatch so plan on some extra time at this more southern part of the county, and don't forget to log your sightings on e-bird.



Yellow Warbler
Photo by Dennis O'Neil

April 12 Field Trip

Yaupon Brothers American Tea Co.

504 Pullman Road, Edgewater, FL 32132



(New facility in the Parktowne Industrial Complex, and Google Maps might not be representing it correctly)

10 am tour of their facility with lunch following, in their newly-opened cafe

Purchase lunch or BYO brown bag

Tour of New Smyrna Beach Lighthouse

4931 S. Peninsula Drive, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

Sometime in the afternoon, probably about 2 pm, \$7 per person entrance fee

Register online at oklawaha-valley-Audubon.org

If you want to drive yourself, meet us at 10 AM at the Yaupon

brothers facility in Edgewater. If you wish to caravan/carpool with the group, we will leave at 8:00 AM sharp from the Winn-Dixie on route 19 just north of Eustis. Please let me know if you plan to meet the group there, otherwise I'll drive directly from my home to Edgewater. See my contact information, below.

Yaupon tea is made from the ONLY naturally caffeinated plant to grow in North America, the Yaupon Holly. The company sustainably harvests leaves for teas locally, from their organically certified property in New Smyrna Beach. Yaupon Holly has a robust and rich history - it was consumed by the Indigenous Tribes of the region for thousands of years. Yaupon tea was a huge commercial industry during colonial times. From the company's website: "We work hard to make great tea, create Florida jobs, care for the environment, and respect native culture." Yaupon Brothers is a local, start-up company that has been growing by leaps and bounds. There is much excitement with the expansion and opening of their new processing plant, organic Yaupon farms and visitor facility.

Following lunch at their facility, we will caravan a short distance to the lighthouse for a tour of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. Step back in time and climb 175 feet at the Ponce Inlet Light Station and Museum. Constructed in 1887, the Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse has guided mariners along the Florida coast for more than 130 years. The Light Station is widely considered one of the most authentic and complete historic lighthouse facilities in the country. Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1998 this important site has been managed and operated by the non-profit Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse Preservation Association since 1972.

If there is still daylight following our tour of the lighthouse, we can scout the beach for shorebirds or the marsh for rails. Optional overnight if there is interest for shorebird viewing the following day. Contact Peg Lindsay directly if you are interested. Text 352-348-9258.



Baltimore Oriole Female

Photo by Stacey Kelly

Our monthly programs are held on the first Sunday of the Month, at 2:00pm, either in person or perhaps on Zoom, and usually at Trout Lake Nature Center, unless indicated otherwise. Bring a chair for our outdoor meetings.

Vice-president's column:

We've had a great season of programs and field trips so far this year! We need to start planning for next season though, so if you have a suggested topic or speaker please contact Michele at Michele.Cotty.audubon@gmail.com.

I recently got into a discussion with someone regarding the Audubon's support of Black Birders Week <https://www.audubon.org/black-birders-week>.

They were turned off by the idea. They wanted to know why a group needed to be singled out. I've thought about that question and would like to use an analogy as an answer as to why I support BBW.

Let's say we had a Florida Scrub Jay Week. I know I'm not the only one to get excited to see new birds, especially endemic types that are making a comeback despite being marginalized. Would that mean we value the Sandhill Cranes any less? Does it mean we don't also get excited when we see the hummingbirds return each year? Or the flocks of robins?

The other birds don't lose anything when we celebrate Florida Scrub Jays, in fact when the public get excited about protecting and encouraging one type of bird, the conservation and restoration of their environment benefits additional types of birds too!

The same can be said about improving our cultural environment; we benefit from a variety of views, experience, education and history. People who have felt at odds with the Audubon society for any number of reasons, may feel inclined to join us when we extend a hand to another group, because they can see we have established the appropriate environment for them to participate in, as well.

Below are links to articles discussing Audubon's problematic past from a couple of different perspectives.

<https://www.audubon.org/magazine/spring-2021/what-do-we-do-about-john-james-audubon>

<https://www.csmonitor.com/layout/set/amphtml/Environment/2021/0715/How-Audubon-societies-are-grappling-with-a-racist-past>

As an organization we have a lot of work to do to demonstrate Audubon is inclusive. To me BBW is just one step in that direction. Of course we can continue to disagree about the effectiveness of BBW. I also see how in our effort to include some, others can feel excluded. I'm hoping that with discussion about the subject we can open minds and hearts and move towards greater diversity in our chapter.

Speaking of participation, please feel free to email us to be put on a list of volunteers. Let us know what you like to do, are proficient at, or want to learn more about, so we can notify you when the right opportunity comes up. Manning a table at a street fair for a couple hours handing out our event calendar and other brochures, monitoring or attending community hearings, hosting a field trip, or being a board member, are relatively simple tasks that make a huge difference.

Have a great Spring!

Michele Cotty

1st VP



Juvenile American Alligator

Photo by Mataya Gurley

Photos from OVAS Trip to the Ocala National Forest 22 Feb

All pictures by Alex Chester



Scrub Jay



Red Headed Woodpecker



Cedar Waxwing



If you haven't lately take a look at our Website: [Oklawaha Valley Audubon](#)

Our updated Strategic Plan can be found [here](#)

Articles of Incorporation Revised January 1, 2020 can be found [here](#)

Current Bylaws can be found [here](#)

Proposed Updated Bylaws 2022 can be found [here](#)



Audubon Florida's website has several Educational Webinars if you are interested:

[Educational Webinars | Audubon Florida](#)

Audubon Trip

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

January 11, 2022

You can never pick the weather a year in advance. I picked a really bad day. The wind was brisk so all we could expect to see would be shorebirds and waterbirds. The little birds were all in hiding.

Four of us started at Sand Point Park, with additional stops at the Marina and Parrish Park just over the Bridge. Across the road from Parrish Park we saw a mixed flotilla of Greater and Lesser Scaup. We drove Blackpoint Wildlife Drive and were thrilled with close-up views of Roseate Spoonbills and Reddish Egrets, birds we rarely get to see in central Florida. We also saw many, many Tricolored Herons in a rookery. I'm not sure what's going on with the ducks. Usually we see tens of thousands of ducks on Blackpoint Wildlife Drive, but this year there were not many ducks. We did see a few, including a Cinnamon Teal, normally found west of the Mississippi. And (yay Peg) we spotted 6 American Avocets off in the distance.

From the Wildlife Drive we went to the Visitor Center, where we enjoyed lunch on an outdoor picnic table. From there we went to Canaveral National Seashore, stopping at most of the parking lots along the Atlantic Ocean. It was a thrill to watch the Northern Gannet (adults and juveniles) diving for fish way off in the distance. We had several flights of Brown Pelicans fly over. We usually find little birds in the dunes but, as I said before, the wind was too brisk for the little birds to come out.

Rock Shrimp at Dixie Crossroads was on the menu as usual. Yum.

Species count:

All Photos by Alex Chester

Sand Point Park – 17

Marina and Parrish Park – 19

Blackpoint Wildlife Drive – 33

Canaveral National Seashore – 15

Submitted by Peg Lindsay



Willet (Western)



Great Black-backed Gull



Cinnamon Teal (breeding male)

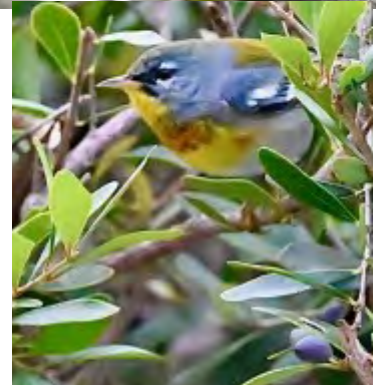
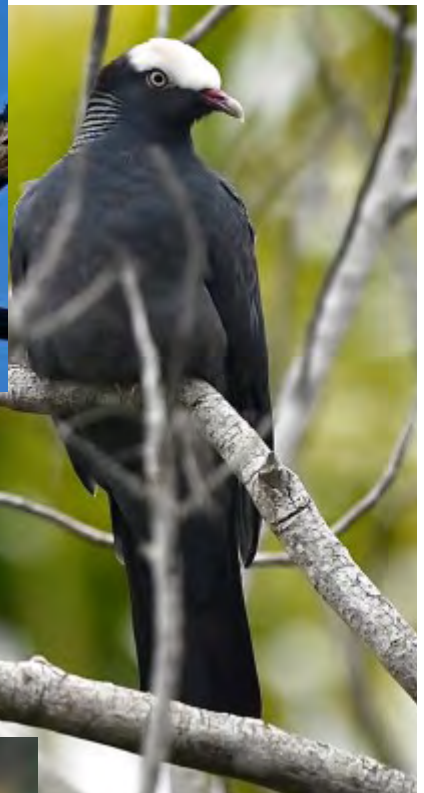
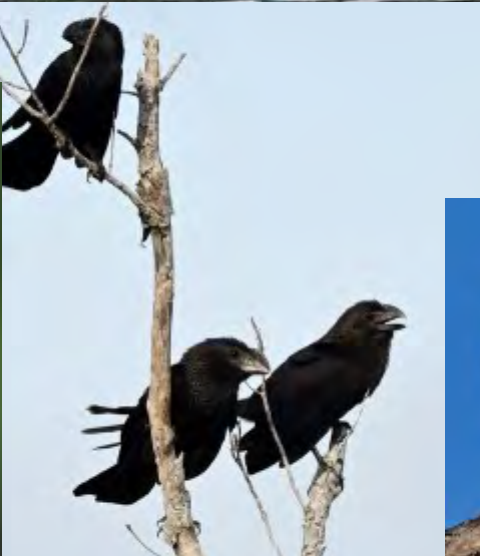
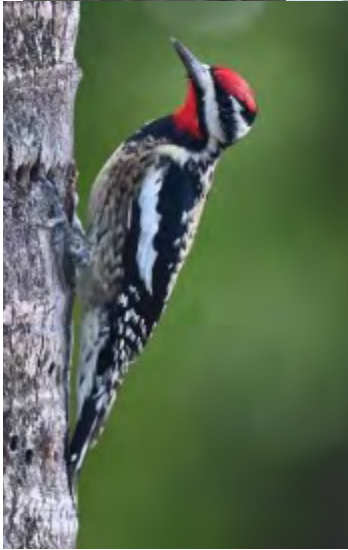
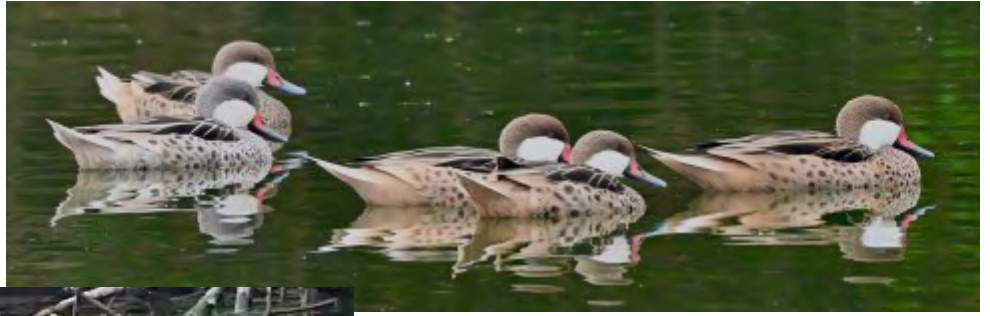


Ruddy Turnstone



Photos from OVAS Trip to the Bahamas and South Florida 10—16 Feb

Pictures by Alex and Sherry Chester



Photos from OVAS Trip to the Bahamas and South Florida 10—16 Feb

Pictures by Alex and Sherry Chester



News from the Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee, January 2022

Paula Wehr graced us with two terms at the helm of the Central Florida RCC and on the Audubon Florida board of directors. She remains actively engaged but the duties of Chapter representation and the seat on the board now fall to Melissa Lammers. We thank Paula for her capable stewardship.

The **Florida Legislature** is in session. We urge you to follow the action by subscribing to the Audubon Advocate. You can sign up here:

<https://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-advocate-newsletter> We discussed two bills at length during our meeting:

Seagrass Mitigation Program, SB 198 would allow sea grass mitigation banks, in turn allowing private companies to build marinas or put channels through undisturbed seagrass beds. This is extremely problematic as outlined in The Advocate. The Environment and Natural Resources Committee approved the bill. The Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee is next.

Net Metering, SB 1024, Renewable Energy Generation will reduce what utilities pay rooftop solar owners for excess electricity they generate, making home solar installation less attractive economically. To meet climate goals, Audubon supports both rooftop solar and utility-owned solar farms in appropriate locations.

Florida Forever and the Wildlife Corridor Act of 2021

The Wildlife Corridor Act adds \$300 million from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) to the \$100 million of State money appropriated to Florida Forever. The act strongly encourages using the funds to purchase land in the Wildlife Corridor. It's an incredible opportunity to protect lands critical to Florida's biodiversity. If your county has an active conservation land acquisition program, make sure it's looking at properties on the Florida Forever project list or in your portion of the Wildlife Corridor. If your county doesn't have an active conservation land acquisition program, you have the opportunity to become champions for specific purchases in your county. Talk to your chapter leader or conservation chair for more details.

SpaceX

SpaceX seeks to build a new launch facility that may impact access to the Canaveral National Seashore (CNS) and to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR). As more is learned, we'll update you.

Lake County Water Authority

A local bill to abolish the Authority and transfer its assets, including environmentally sensitive lands, to the county commission may be me facing some headwinds. Stay tuned!

Seminole County has joined the East Central Florida Regional Resilience Collaborative

<https://www.ecfrpc.org/resiliencecollaborative>

Oklawaha Valley informs us that Lake County may be moving to central environmental strategic planning. This would be good for Green Swamp, one of our Conservation Priorities.

Orange Audubon tells us that they've hired a part-time educational coordinator. Deborah Green recently gave a talk on Plants for Birds, Deborah for the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) Lunch and Learn series. You can view it here

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

Melissa Lammers

Central Florida Chapters Representative

Audubon Florida Board of Directors

Treasurer's Report Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society				Treasurer's Report Festival of Flight and Flowers			
Summary of Statement from United Southern Bank				Summary of Statement from United Southern Bank			
December 2021				December 2021			
Description	Debits	Credits	Balance	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance
Beginning Balance			8,839.18	Beginning Balance			1,033.52
PayPal		139.66					
Raffle donations - Holiday Luncheon		58.00					
D&O Insurance (Capital Premium Ins)	182.44						
USPS - stamps for Treasury use	11.60						
Office Depot - Sherry	7.50						
Ending Balance	201.54	197.66	8,835.30	Ending Balance			1,033.52
January 2022				January 2022			
Description	Debits	Credits	Balance	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance
Beginning Balance			8,835.30	Beginning Balance			1,033.52
Membership dues		60.00					
PayPal transfer		148.96					
	0.00						
Ending Balance	0.00	208.96	9,044.26	Ending Balance			1,033.52



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If you would like your nature photos featured in the Limpkin Call please email them to ovasnewsletter@gmail.com

OVAS Board of Directors

POSITION	NAME
President	Stacey Kelly
1st Vice President	Michele Cotty Loger
2nd Vice President	- vacant -
Secretary	Sherry Chester
Treasurer	Jane Lovejoy
Director-at-Large	- vacant -
Director-at-Large	Maria Distefano
Director-at-Large	Peg Lindsay
Director-at-Large	Judy Knizer
Director-at-Large	Lisa Cain

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 OVAS' bi-monthly newsletter and other communications; Helping to support OVAS partner organizations; Special offers and discounts available only to members.

By joining or renewing your local Audubon chapter, you support OVAS 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 OVAS programs or field trips.

There are three ways to join/renew OVAS locally:

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

You can pay at a monthly program by cash or check

You can go to <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/membership/> and pay with PayPal

OVAS Membership Application

New _____ Renewal _____ Today's Date _____

Print Name _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Address(es) _____

Phone Number _____

Committee you would be willing to volunteer with:

___ Citizen Science Committee— help organize or participate in annual Emerald Marsh Christmas Bird Count, monthly bird counts, monitor local rookeries, and/ or record field trip reports data

___ Fundraising Committee—Assist with Donation box, raffles, and special events

___ Hospitality Committee—Help with refreshments for membership meetings and potlucks

___ Membership Committee—membership and email list, new name tags, sign-in book

___ Conservation Committee—attend public meetings, help write letters to legislators

___ Outreach Committee—Set up displays at events, maintain bulletin board at TLNC, advertise events in newspapers/internet

___ Digital Communications Committee—website, emails, Facebook, and other social media

___ Newsletter Committee—bi-monthly electronic newsletter and OCAS brochures

OVAS is a Florida Not-for-Profit Corporation

<https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/>

(352) 432-8866

<https://www.facebook.com/OklawahaValleyAudubonSociety/>



Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society

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TO: