



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

September— October 2022

Number 1

President's column

As I started this newsletter, I was thinking about change of the season that will soon be upon us. What we love is fresh beginnings. When we feel like we can turn a page and start a new chapter. That's what Fall gives us. As, well Fall migration of our bird friends. In Florida, you kind of have to make fall happen. Mother Nature doesn't always cooperate with cool temps and dry air, so we have to mark the change of seasons on our own. For me, getting our "plants for birds" garden going is the unofficial start of the Fall season. A little work now will mean that in October when we do finally get our first cool front, you'll be ready to sit in your garden with a hot cup of coffee or tea.

Grow The Plants That Feed The Birds!

Feeding the birds can be rewarding, but it can also be expensive. Rather than spending money on birdseed, why not grow the plants that provide food for birds? Growing bird food is a great idea for a number of reasons, including:

Bird-friendly gardens that offer different types of food, including seeds, grain, fruits, and nectar, will attract a greater variety of species that may be shy and uncomfortable visiting a busy feeder.

Birders who enjoy gardening can combine two passions at once. Growing a bountiful harvest will not only test gardening expertise but will also satisfy hungry bird appetites.

Growing birdseed and bird food ensures safer seeds without unknown chemical enhancements or pesticide treatments. Instead, you are in control of every step of the growth and harvesting and can ensure the plants are safe for birds.

Growing a garden that provides food for birds is no more difficult than growing any type of flower, vegetable, or herb garden. It is important, however, to ensure the garden is bird-friendly in more than just the food it produces. Several really important things to consider location, size, design, diversity,

watering and pruning.

You maybe asking what sort of flowers and plants should I choice for my feather friends. Seed-bearing plants, fruits, grasses and grains, and nectar rich flowers.

September 17th is our first field trip of the year. It is to the Appleton Museum of Art. Please sign up for the field trip through our website. Or you can reach out to Peg Lindsey through email at pegcondor@embarqmail.com

October 2nd brings us our first program of the new year for us which is called "My Favorite Bird".....

Look forward to seeing everyone soon.

I would like to send out a big shout out to our Board Members. Michele, Sherry, Peg, Jane, Judy and Maria. As, well to Lori and Mark who support our website and newsletter.

Regards,

Stacey

At-a-Glance

September 17, 2022 10 am—Field Trip: Appleton Museum of Art

October Field Trips: See Page 3

October 2, 2022 2 pm—Program: My Favorite Bird

October 8—9 2022—The Big Sit

October 29, 2022 10 am—Field Trip: Leesburg's Venetian Gardens

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

October 2nd, Trout Lake Nature Center

My Favorite Bird

It's hard to pick a favorite Florida bird. But we all have birds which come to our feeders and some of them engage in amusing antics. Would you like to tell us about what is happening at your feeders? Or is there a bird whose singing you especially enjoy? or hate? Like maybe the spring-singing Chuck-will's-widow that sings all night. Is there a migrant that passes through your yard and makes you happy when you see it? Maybe this bird is a lifer. What would you like to tell us about your chosen bird?

Tell us the common name of the bird and it's scientific name. Where do you find this bird? What is its habitat? What time of year is it found in Florida? What does it eat? What about this bird makes it special for you?

Send information along with photos of your bird to pegcondor@embarqmail.com. Peg L will assemble all the submissions into a PowerPoint for us all to download on our mobile devices. So each one of us gets a front row seat at the presentation. Don't worry if you don't have good photos - Peg Urban and Peg Lindsay and their friends have plenty of good bird photos that we can use if yours don't meet your standards.

Send a photo of yourself, your favorite bird photos and bird information to Peg by September 23rd. And be prepared to talk about your bird on October 2nd at the season kickoff meeting at Trout Lake Nature Center, 2 pm

Just in case - yes, you can have 2 or 3 favorite yard birds. Send up to 5 in case we have duplicates.

Mark your calendar. **The Big Sit! 2022** is coming soon. We're not sure yet if our Audubon chapter will hold an organized event, but you're encouraged to at least participate from your own back yard.

WHAT IS THE BIG SIT? It is a semi-competitive birding event originated by the New Haven Bird Club in 1992. It is free and open to anyone — individuals and teams — all over the world. The Big Sit! kicks off Saturday, October 8, 2022 at 12 a.m. midnight and closes Sunday, October 9, at 11:59 p.m.

For more information, <https://www.thebigsit.org/>

Field Trip

Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society, will sponsor a mobility week birding event at Leesburg's Venetian Gardens on Saturday, October 29, 2022, 10 AM. Venetian Gardens has adequate parking, concrete walkways along the lake and around the ponds and it is surprisingly rich, bird-wise. Peg Lindsay will be leading the trip. Sign up early because space is limited to 10 persons.

Sign up through the OVAS website. <https://oklawaha-valley-audubon.org/> If there are more than 10 signed up, I can recruit additional field trip leaders. Our chapter has binoculars and spotting scopes to share.

For more information on Mobility Week, go to FDOT website <https://www.fdot.gov/projects/mobilityweek/mobilityweek2022.shtm>

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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eBird News

A monthly newsletter from Team eBird
at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Save the date for October Big Day

If you thought Global Big Day was fun, join us on Saturday, 8 October for another day-long celebration of birds. This year's event is during both International Migratory Bird Day and Global Bird Weekend. Submit at least one eBird checklist on October Big Day and help us set a new world record!

Prepare for October Big Day 2022

October Field Trips

During October we are showcasing the field trips offered by Lake County Parks and Trails. No matter where you live in the County, there will be a field trip close to your home. **Field trips are limited to 10 persons so sign up early if you are planning to participate.**

The full listing of all County events, including details of the event, can be found at [Lake County, FL Calendar of Events \(lakecountyfl.gov\)](http://Lake County, FL Calendar of Events (lakecountyfl.gov))

To sign up for a Parks & Trails event go to [Office of Parks & Trails Event Reservation Form \(lakecountyfl.gov\)](http://Office of Parks & Trails Event Reservation Form (lakecountyfl.gov))

For all paddle events, sign up with Lake County Water Authority 352-324-6141

Below is a selected list of October events from Parks & Trails:

- October 2, 9 am Ferndale Preserve, Wild Edibles with Justin Pouliot
- October 9, 5 pm Pear Park Gateway, Exploration Hike with Justin Pouliot
- October 13, 9 am The Pasture Reserve, Exploring the Green Swamp with Justin Elkins
- October 14, 9 am Crooked River Paddle sign up with LCWA
- October 14, 8 am Ferndale Preserve, Exploration Hike with Justin Pouliot
- October 15, 9 am Ellis Acres Reserve, Open House & Hike with Linda Richardson
- October 15, 7:30 am Green Mountain Scenic Overlook, eBird Global Big Day with Gallus Quigley
- October 22, 7:30 am Lake May, Quarterly Bird & Butterfly Survey with Gallus Quigley
- October 22, 9 am Pear Park Nature Center, Bioblitz for Arthropods with Justin Pouliot
- October 23, 9 am Lake May Reserve, Herp Hike with Linda Richardson

Southern Broken Dash on Blazing Star
Picture by Stacey Kelly

Field Trip September 17, 10 am Appleton Museum of Art

College of Central Florida
4333 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala, Florida 34470
352-291-4455

<https://www.appletonmuseum.org/>

September is one of those iffy months, weather-wise, in Central Florida. It's probably likely it's too hot for an outdoor field trip for most of us. So we're going to look for the painted birds on the walls.

I personally have not visited this museum. But friends of mine who have, claim it is a very extraordinary museum experience. And maybe someone who is familiar with Ocala can recommend a restaurant where our group can eat, after the museum tour.

Opened in 1987, the Appleton is located in Central Florida and is home to an extraordinary permanent collection of over 24,000 objects, plus an outdoor sculpture walk and garden, and a wide variety of temporary exhibitions and special events throughout the year.

Admission to the museum is \$10 for adults, but they have many discounts that could take the entrance fee all the way down to free.

There is also an app available through both the Apple App Store or Google Play Store to help you with your visit.

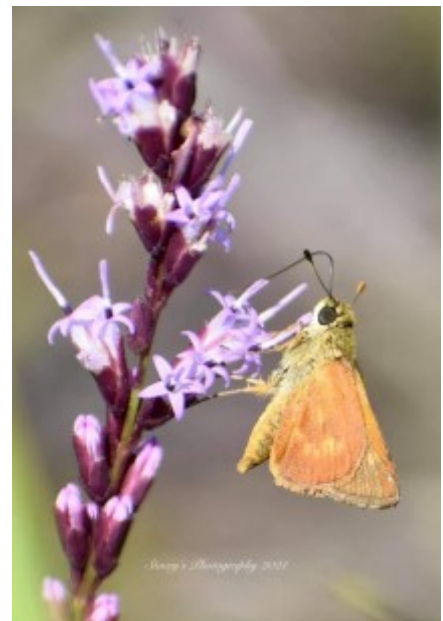
[Get Details Here](#)

Sign up for the field trip on the [OVAS website](#).

Contact me directly after you sign up if you need a ride or can give a ride to another of our members.

Peg Lindsay
Pegcondor@embarqmail.com

352-348-9258 prefer text



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.

**CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
PROGRESS REPORT 2022**

As of August 21, 2022 Rev. August 30, 2022

Meetings: The Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee (CF RCC) has met four times during CY 2022 with an additional meeting scheduled for after Assembly.

Engagement: Nine of the eleven chapters in the RCC (including University of Central Florida Knighthawk) are very active: four have attended every RCC meeting; an additional three have attended three of the meetings, excusing themselves when absent; and once proper contacts were found, an additional two chapters have begun attending. The remaining two chapters have not responded to emails this year.

Meeting Content: Meetings have focused on conservation concerns, including legislation pending / passed / quashed or vetoed; the ability to tap Wildlife Corridor Act of 2021 funds for local land conservation, the potential impact of SpaceX on Canaveral National Seashore, local land use ordinances, Split Oak, FDOT and CFX projects, 2022 Priorities, CLI and more. We focus on providing guidance on actions individual chapters can take locally, as well as coordinating activity by the RCC in support of our shared goals.

Progress against 2022 Regional Conservation Priorities

1. Promote Lake Apopka Restoration, Visitor Access and New Audubon Nature Center

CHAPTER	SUPPORT ACTIONS 2022
Halifax River	Donates to Friends of Lake Apopka annually. Conducts a minimum of 1 field trip/yr. which includes talk about restoration; actively promotes North Shore Birding Festival and several members serve as guides.
Highlands	Recently became involved with 2022 RCC (we had contact issues)
Kissimmee Valley	Conducts a field trip a year.
Oklawaha Valley	Conducts field trips and promotes the North Shore Birding Festival.
Orange	Hired staffer to educate at Lake Apopka which reawakened interest by electeds in the "Apopka Birding Park" (name of potential center). 7/27 memorandum of understanding signed between City of Apopka and chapter for center. Also, periodic meetings with District, city parks & recs and Audubon will be held. Initial meeting to walk property took place. Next step is lease from city for property. Will be selecting attorney to assist. City has asked its attorney to write lease. Situation – as since initiation of project in 2016 -- is very touch & go. Also instrumental in new Magnolia Park Education Center, 2 miles from Apopka Birding Park site, which offers a venue to teach children about the Lake. The Orange education staffer is working on a program with school(s).
Seminole	Promotes birding at the annual festival. At least one SAS member volunteers as an ambassador on the drive.
Southeast Volusia	Minimum of 1 field trip / yr. Recently become active with the 2022 RCC (we had contact issues)
West Volusia	Promotes the North Shore Birding Festival. Prior to pandemic, did 1 field trip/yr. there.
U.C. Knighthawk	Works with Seminole Audubon. Just starting school year.



Swallow-tailed Kite
Picture by Stacey Kelly

2. Monitor and Act on Local & State Government Land Use Decisions Impacting Wildlife Habitat

CHAPTER	SUPPORT ACTIONS 2022
Halifax River, Southeast Volusia, West Volusia	In partnership with other organizations, provide continuous oversight of Volusia Forever land acquisition program; written and appeared before Planning Board and County Council on land use decisions like setbacks for borrow pits adjacent to wetlands.
Highlands	Recently became involved with 2022 RCC (we had contact issues)
Kissimmee Valley	
Oklawaha Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Swamp goal: in conjunction with Audubon Florida, has taken positions and made recommendations on re-zoning and comprehensive plan amendments that affect Open Space. • Lenholt Tract goal: very little movement due to lack of funds and landowner being unwilling to place land in conservation (rumored). • Wildlife Corridor: in process of compiling information to meet with Lake County Commissioners.
Orange	Field trip planned to Hal Scott, the property almost surplused by the District (both chapter field trip and to be featured at Festival). Also conducts trips to Orange County "Green PLACE" properties and supports this land acquisition program through letter-writing.
Seminole	Has supported with letters and whatever else is requested from the chapters in the geographical area and with guidance from Charles Lee. Audubon provided comments to Seminole County Commission to set up a land acquisition program, which they are doing via ordinance.
U.C. Knighthawk	

3. Equity, Inclusion and Diversity

CHAPTER	SUPPORT ACTIONS 2022
Halifax River	Nothing to report at this time. Difficult to expand outreach during pandemic. Has made some big attempts in the past but didn't have the right partner to help orient us in order to gain traction.
Highlands	Recently became involved with 2022 RCC (we had contact issues)
Kissimmee Valley	
Oklawaha Valley	Providing a \$1,000 grant to Trout Lake Nature Center to be applied their 4-H Junior Master Naturalist Club. A program will be built around this grant for kids to learn about birding based specifically on how OVAS would like the program presented
Orange	Has made some inroads, including field trips with youth groups and held Spanish-speaking field trips. Will try to set up field trips for black birder week. Participated in pilot FLEDJE program and will be facilitating a monthly Birding Club at Zellwood Elementary with binoculars and field guides purchased through FLEDJE grant.
Seminole	Field trips attract a more diverse attendance than programs. Outreach includes working with Goldsboro Museum, an historically black community, to help with native plant landscaping and an underserved community, Midway. in Sanford. Chapter is represented on the FLEDJE program committee. A recent CLI student is now serving on the SAS board and last year's CLI student is interested in being on the board in the upcoming year.
Southeast Volusia	Participated in pilot FLEDJE program. Recently became active with the 2022 RCC (we had contact issues)
West Volusia	Participated in pilot FLEDJE program. Provides \$1000 per semester scholarships to ambassadors in local colleges. Working on YouTube videos in Spanish. Also seeking a grant to do a green infrastructure project in an underserved area.
U.C. Knighthawk	Has asked to be involved in this going forward.

Field Trip to Leesburg Museum July 20th

A trip to a historical museum is not one of our group's usual type of field trips. But summer is here and it's hot outside. We visited the museum and Mote-Morris House and had lunch at a café in Leesburg.

The Leesburg Heritage Museum is located in a 100 year old building. It is a stunning example of period architecture. Personally, I was more fascinated by the building itself than the artifacts crammed inside. It was originally built as a women's club. (Ladies, you rock!) We were met by volunteers and Director Glorianne Fahs who showed us around the museum. We were allowed upstairs as a special treat, an area not typically open to visitors. Like many nonprofits, this museum relies on donations and volunteer labor. There are many historical items in the museum sorely in need of a professional curator, and I hope that this is in their future.

Look at the photo, both to the right and the left of our group - there are outside stairs to the upstairs auditorium/dance hall. Over the years, in addition to serving the womens club, the building has been home to the Leesburg Library, an insurance agency, the Leesburg Chamber of Commerce, several civic clubs, the Leesburg High School Prom, WW-II USO dances and the Poinsettia Ball. If only the walls could speak!

After the museum tour, our group moved to the Mote-Morris House, a beautiful example of late Victorian architecture, built in 1892. The house was recently restored after a fire destroyed most of the building and contents about five years ago. The museum received donations from many local families of furniture, paintings and furnishings. Glorianne was delighted to show us around the former home of the Morris family.

And, yes, Chimney Swifts were flying overhead.



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

[Educational Webinars | Audubon Florida](#)

May 21st Field Trip

Yaupon Brothers Tea Company and Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum

Our carpool got lost on the way and we were a little late. That gave the others a chance to do some tea tasting while they waited. When we finally arrived, we were treated to a tour of the outside gardens with numerous cultivars of the Yaupon Holly. I learned quite a bit about the species *Ilex vomitoria*. The garden included a test plot of a native mint that the company is hoping to use as a flavor ingredient in their bagged tea.

The factory tour began outside, watching one of the employees roast tea leaves in a stainless steel pot over a gas fire. From there, we went inside to the drying room. This room was crammed with specially-made tables where the tea leaves were dumped to dry. From the drying room, we went to the grinding, flavoring and packaging room. I personally was surprised and impressed at how simple yet elegant the entire operation was.

Then we all enjoyed lunch and tea tasting in their café.

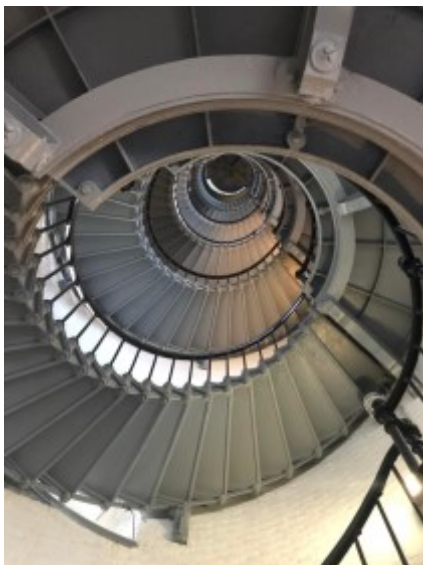
Our carpool was the only group that went on to the lighthouse. This museum has several small buildings on the grounds, each with a different theme. One building has an impressive display of Fresnel lenses from various lighthouses along the Atlantic coast. There was a building which showed living conditions of the lighthouse keepers. There was a communication building which focused on communication primarily during World War II. This museum is definitely worth a repeat visit, preferably when it's not so hot outside.

By the way, our carpool made a stop at Spruce Creek Park on the way east. Our intention was to see Clapper Rails. We saw three and heard at least five Rails calling. During our 15-minute stop, we saw 12 species of birds including the usual, expected herons and blackbirds, and also the unexpected Snail Kite. Yahoo.

Peg Lindsay



Pictures by Stacey Kelly



Treasurer's Report				Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society			
June 2022				June 2022			
Summary of Statements from United Southern Bank							
Description	Debits	Credits	Balance	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance
Beginning Balance			9,916.45	Beginning			1,028.52
PayPal		81.34					
Bluehost reimbursement	17.99						
PO Box Rental	156.00						
Ending Balance	173.99	81.34	9,823.80	Ending Bal-			1,028.52
July 2022				July 2022			
Description	Debits	Credits	Balance	Description	Debits	Credits	Balance
Beginning Balance			9,823.80	Beginning Balance			1,028.52
PayPal		240.10					
Membership		85.00					
Field Trip		60.00					
Ending Balance	0.00	385.10	10,208.90	Ending Balance			1,028.52

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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

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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: