

# The Village Birders Calendar

March – April 2025

(as of February 3, 2025)

**This schedule is subject to change.**

Please check the website for updates and additional information.

<https://www.villagebirders.org/birding-trips>

All monthly meetings held at 9:00 AM at the Lake Okahumpka Recreation Center, 4505 Okahumpka Run.

## March 2025

March 6 (Thursday) Field Trip: Fort Island Gulf Beach. 16000 W. Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL. Leaders: Alice Horst and Jan Mercer. Meet at 8 AM in venue parking lot. Facility Port-A-Let only.

March 12 (Wednesday) Field Trip: Pine Meadows Conservation Area, 2280 Pine Meadows Golf Course Rd, Eustis, Lake County. Leader: Susan Pepper. Meet 8:30 AM in venue parking lot located at the end of the entrance road past the boat ramp. Facility Port-A-Let only.

March 15 (Saturday) Monthly Club Meeting: Lake Okahumpka Recreation Center. 9:00 AM. Speaker: Bernadine (Bernie) Hammond, Bio II RCW Biologist, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission: Red-cockaded Woodpeckers in the Withlacoochee State Forest.

March 19 (Wednesday) Field Trip: Chinsegut Wildlife and Environmental Area (pronounced "Chin-SEE-gut"), 23212 Lake Lindsey Road, Brooksville. Leader: Susan Pepper. Meet 8:20 AM at venue. Trip starts at 8:30 a.m. with brief introduction by FWC about the area. Restroom.

March 26 (Wednesday) Field Trip: Half Moon Wildlife Management Area, 8640 Sumter County Rd 247, Lake Panasoffkee. Leader: Liz Stackenborg. Meet 8 AM in parking lot at WMA Entrance Gate. Car pool for a drive through the area. Restroom.

### April 2025

April 1 (Tuesday) All Day Field Trip: Cedar Key National Wildlife Refuge, Cedar Key. Leader: Beth Sharlow. Meetup in The Villages to carpool. Drive to multiple birding locations in and around Cedar Key throughout the day. Eating lunch in downtown Cedar Key. Details TBA.

April 9 (Wednesday) Field Trip: Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, 7200 Battlefield Parkway, Bushnell. Leader: Susan Pepper. Meet 8:30 AM at venue in the parking lot off to the right after park entrance. Entrance fee \$3.00 per vehicle or a Florida State Park pass. Restroom.

April 12 (Saturday) Annual Member Only Picnic:  
RSVP REQUIRED Lake Griffin State Park, 3089 US-441,  
Fruitland Park. Coordinator: Barb Peterson. Meet 9:45 AM  
at venue for a bird walk followed at 11:00 AM with lunch.  
Entrance fee \$6.00 per vehicle or a Florida State Park  
pass. Restroom.  
Details TBA.

April 16 and 17 (Wednesday and Thursday) Overnight  
Field Trip: Fort De Soto County Park, 3500 Pinellas  
Bayway South, Tierra Verde. Leader: Mark Cudney & Alice  
Horst. On Wednesday, meet 8:30 AM at the park  
headquarters, located at the intersection of Pinellas  
Bayway and Anderson Blvd (huge U.S. flag pole).  
Entrance fee \$5 paid at park kiosks, credit cards only,  
license plate number required. Details TBA.

April 19 (Saturday) Monthly Club Meeting: Lake  
Okahumpka Recreation Center. 9:00 AM. Program:  
Birding 101 presented by Bob Smidt followed with  
Binocular & Spotting Scope demos on the boardwalk  
behind the Rec Center.

April 24 (Thursday) Field Trip: Moss Bluff North Park, 16298 SE 95th Street Rd, Ocklawaha. Leader: Bob Smidt. Meet 8:00 AM at North Park. From SE Hwy 464C go past Dam Diner, across bridge over Ocklawaha River, turn right on first road. Park entrance fee \$5. Restroom. Go to Moss Bluff South Park. Optional lunch at Duck's Dam Diner.

May 2025 – no events

June 2025 – All Month Long is the June Challenge  
Coordinator: Alice Horst. Details TBA.