

Orange Audubon Society

Birdapalooza Birding Festival January 20-22, 2017

Details on Field Trip Locations and Possible Sightings



01/19/2017 : Thursday

Pre-festival Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ken Meyer on Helping Swallow-tailed Kites. Orange Audubon Society program at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803. Maximum participants: 50. Meet and greet starts at 6:30 p.m. Program starts at 7:00 p.m. Free. See more on Ken Meyer under the Speakers and Leaders tab

01/20/2017 (Friday)

Trip 1. Sunrise Photography and Birding. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$30, *includes lunch*. Leaders: Scott Simmons (Learn Outdoor Photography) and Lynn Marie Folts (Orange Audubon Society). 5:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. Maximum participants: 25. Lake Apopka has remarkable opportunities for sunrises (from northern locations like Clay Island) and sunsets (from Magnolia Park). Sunrise is at 7:18 a.m. on this date, so you will meet at the McDonald Canal Pavilion at 5:30 a.m. (suggest arriving 10 minutes early to form carpools). We will drive to the Clay Island Trailhead and then through normally-locked gates to an Overlook over beautiful Lake Apopka. Your trip leaders will provide both photo tips and bird identification tips at sunrise and throughout the morning. (See Trip 4 for possible sightings). *The trip includes lunch, back at the McDonald Canal Pavilion, which will allow you to conveniently participate in an afternoon trip (Trip 5 starts from the same location and Trip 6 starts about 35 minutes away).*

Trip 2. Sparrows, Buntings, and other Wintering Birds. Ferndale Preserve, 19220 County Rd 455, Clermont, FL 34715. \$30, *includes lunch*. Leaders: Gallus Quigley (Florida Ornithological Society) and Jerry Walker (Lake County Parks and Recreation). 7:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Maximum participants: 25. Ferndale Preserve is a 192-acre Lake County Preserve on the western shore of Lake Apopka, just a few miles from Sugarloaf Mountain, the highest point in peninsular Florida. The preserve has a mix of red maple-dominated wetlands, remnant oak hammocks, and other habitats in various stages in restoration. Over 190 bird species have been recorded. As many as 12 species of sparrow have been seen here including Le Conte's and Clay-colored Sparrows. *This trip can be taken in combination with afternoon Trip 5 or 6. Lunch will be served at the McDonald Canal Pavilion, about 20 minutes from Ferndale Preserve. If you are taking afternoon Trip 6, it is about 45 minutes between Ferndale and Seminole State Forest in a very rural area without convenient places to buy food, and the McDonald Canal is basically on the way.*

Trip 3. Waterfowl ID Field Workshop. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$30, *includes lunch*. Leaders: David Simpson (Birding with David Simpson) and Lorne Malo (Florida Ornithological Society). 7:30 a.m.- 11:30 p.m. Maximum participants: 25. The trip will traverse the canals and wetlands of the Lake Apopka North Shore and the lakeshore in search of ducks as well as Common and Purple Gallinules, American Coots and possibly loons and grebes. Fulvous Whistling Duck, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Wood Duck, and Mottled Duck can be seen throughout the year. Wintering in the area are Blue-winged Teal, Ruddy Duck, and a multitude of other species, including Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and Lesser Scaup. Your trip leaders will point out field marks to identify each species and distinguish the often brightly colored and distinctly patterned drakes and the often plainer and not-always-so-easy-to-identify hens. *The trip includes lunch, back at the McDonald Canal Pavilion, which will allow you to conveniently participate in an afternoon trip (Trip 5 starts from the McDonald Canal Pavilion. Trip 6 starts approximately 35 minutes away from the McDonald Canal Pavilion).*

Trip 4. Lake Apopka North Shore. All day, McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$50, *includes lunch*. Leaders: Greg Miller (Greg Miller Birding), Gian Basili (Florida Ornithological Society), Brook Rohman and Lorne Malo (afternoon only) (Orange Audubon Society). 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Maximum participants: 25. Regularly seen at this time of year are Sora, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin, Wood Stork, American Bittern, Sandhill Crane, Wood Duck,

Orange Audubon Society

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Mottled Duck, and Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling-Duck, along with most of North America's wading bird species. Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barn Owl, American Kestrel, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon are also typically seen, along with Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Ovenbird. Possible sightings are Roseate Spoonbill, Black Skimmer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, and Least Bittern. With such a large restoration area on the shore of Florida's 4th largest lake, off-course rarities frequently show up. As many as 13 sparrow species have been seen, including rarities like LeConte's and Clay-colored. Unique flycatcher species like Ash-throated, Western, Cassin's, Tropical, Scissor-tailed, and Vermillion, as well as Say's Phoebe and White-faced Ibis are out-of-range birds that have been repeatedly seen, and Groove-billed Anis were seen in 2015. Past rarities have also included Rough-legged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Eurasian Kestrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Whooping Crane, White-cheeked Pintail, and Ross' Goose. With skilled leaders and many eyes, we will be searching for what has turned up. *The trip includes lunch, back at the McDonald Canal Pavilion. After this field trip work your way over to the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (approximately 35 minutes away) for a meet-and-greet, Keynote Speaker and dinner.*

Trip 5. Raptors of the North Shore. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$20. Leaders: Bob Sanders and Larry Martin (Orange Audubon Society) and David Simpson (Birding with David Simpson). 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Maximum participants: 25. The North Shore hosts many wintering and resident raptors (birds of prey), since it includes marshes and grasslands full of rodents and other prey items. In addition to Osprey and Bald Eagle, you are likely to see American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks. Other possible sightings may be Short-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks. Past rarities have included Krider's Red-Tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Eurasian Kestrel, and Golden Eagle. *After this field trip, work your way over to the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (approximately 35 minutes away) for a meet-and-greet, Keynote Speaker Gian Basili and dinner.*

Trip 6. Scrub-Jays and other Pineland Species. Seminole State Forest, south entrance, SR 46, just west of Wekiva River bridge, approximately 14 miles west of Sanford. \$20. Leaders: Ralph Risch (Florida Division of Forestry) and Becki Smith (Orange Audubon Society) 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Maximum participants: 25. The Florida Scrub-Jay is a Florida endemic, restricted to Florida's ever decreasing sand pine scrub habitat. The 25,812-acre Seminole State Forest has the nearest relatively stable population of this friendly and charismatic bird. The State Forest also hosts Sandhill Cranes, Wild Turkey, Eastern Towhee and pine land specialties such as Bachman's Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Brown-headed Nuthatch. After everyone gets up close and personal with scrub-jays, the group will search for other species throughout the afternoon. *After this field trip, work your way over to the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (approximately 35 minutes away) for a meet-and-greet, Keynote Speaker Gian Basili and dinner.*

Keynote and dinner. Gian Basili on Lake Apopka Birding. Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, 2725 S. Binion Rd., Apopka, FL 32703 \$20. 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Maximum participants: 100. See more on Gian Basili and his contribution to birding the North Shore under the Speakers and Leaders tab. *Meet and greet starts at 4:30 p.m. Caterer TBA. Vegetarian options available.*

01/21/2017 (Saturday)

Trip 7. Birding by Ear. Magnolia Park, 2929 S Binion Road, Apopka, FL 32703. \$20. Leaders: Greg Miller (Greg Miller Birding), David Simpson (Birding with David Simpson), and Larry Martin (Orange Audubon Society) 7:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. Maximum participants: 25. This walking field workshop will focus on recognizing birds by their sounds. Birds are not as vocal at this time as in breeding season, but there are still many vocalizations that can help with identification. To get a head start on distinguishing species, you might review a tape of Common Gallinule sounds, as these are our most vocal species. See possible sightings under Trip 4. *After this trip, check out the Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza, right there adjacent to your trip starting place. There are food trucks where you can purchase lunch.*

Orange Audubon Society

Birdapalooza Birding Festival January 20-22, 2017

Details on Field Trip Locations and Possible Sightings

Sunrise Photo Shoot with Milton Heiberg. Magnolia Park, 2929 S Binion Road, Apopka, FL 32703. Free. Leader: Milton Heiberg (Tern Media) 7:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. Maximum participants: 25. This walking field workshop will focus on photography and will involve walking from Magnolia Park on the Lake Apopka Loop Trail along the canals and Lake Apopka lakeshore. *After this trip, check out the Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza, right there adjacent to your trip starting place. There are food trucks where you can purchase lunch.*

Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza, Magnolia Park, 2929 S Binion Road, Apopka. Free. 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. This is a family-oriented festival. Activities of greatest interest to birders will be the Sunrise photo shoot by Milton Heiberg at 7:30 a.m., bird banding demonstrations from 9:00 a.m. to about noon, and guided bus tours and nature hikes. There will be food trucks, music and other entertainment. On your own you can explore the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, just 2 miles north of Magnolia Park. *Afterward work your way over to the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (just across the road from Magnolia Park) for a meet-and-greet, Keynote Speaker Greg Miller and dinner starting at 4:30 p.m.*

Beginning Birding with the Simpsons, Magnolia Park, 2929 S Binion Road, Apopka, FL 32703 and the Lake Apopka Loop Trail. 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.. Free. Leaders: David Simpson (David Simpson Birding) and Dee Simpson (Space Coast Audubon Society) 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. This afternoon walking field workshop will start with an orientation and then will look for birds along part of the Lake Apopka Loop Trail near Magnolia Park. Any of the species listed under Trip 4 might be seen. *After this field trip work your way over to the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center for a meet-and-greet, Keynote Speaker Greg Miller and dinner.*

Keynote and dinner, Greg Miller on *The Big Year*. University of Florida Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, 2725 S. Binion Rd., Apopka, FL 32703. \$25. 4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Maximum participants: 100. Greg did a Big Year in 1998 at the same time as 2 other birders, leading to a cutthroat competition. A fascinating story-teller, Greg was advisor for the 2011 film *The Big Year* and was played by Jack Black in the movie. See more about Greg under the Speakers and Leaders tab. *Meet and greet starts at 4:30 p.m. Pizza and salad will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the Keynote talk.*

01/22/2017 (Sunday)

Trip 8. Sunrise. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$30, *includes lunch.* Leaders: Jack Rogers (Orange Audubon Society), Earl Horn (Florida Ornithological Society), and Lynn Marie Folts (Orange Audubon Society). 5:30 a.m.- 11:00 a.m. Maximum participants: 25. (See Trip 1 for more details). *This trip can be taken in combination with Trip 11 (Wings Over Florida), which also meets at the McDonald Canal Pavilion. There are no convenient restaurants, so a box lunch is included with this trip.*

Trip 9. Bird Banding and Sandhill Specialties. Lake Lotus Park, 1153 Lake Lotus Park Road Altamonte Springs, FL 32714. \$30, *includes lunch.* Leaders: Andrew Boyle (Wekiiva Bird Banding Station), Deborah Green and Kathy Rigling (Orange Audubon Society). 7:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Maximum participants: 25. The Wekiiva Bird Banding Station began in the 1990s, and now operates at Lake Lotus Park, an 150-acre park in Altamonte Springs. Over 75 species have been banded since the program began at this location, with over 2,500 individual birds processed. Andrew Boyle, who leads the station, will demonstrate banding and explain what the station's studies have shown about migration patterns and life cycles of the birds. The group will then go on to Wekiiva Springs State Park (1800 Wekiiva Cir, Apopka, FL 32712), a 7,000-acre state park considered one of the crown jewels of Florida's award-winning state park system. At Wekiiva we will look for pine land specialties, including Red-headed Woodpeckers, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Bachman's Sparrows, Eastern Towhees, Pine Warblers, and overwintering songbirds. *This trip can be taken in combination with Trip 11 (Wings Over Florida), which meets at the McDonald Canal Pavilion. For your convenience in being able to participate in Trip 11, a box lunch is included with this trip.*

Orange Audubon Society

Birdapalooza Birding Festival January 20-22, 2017

Details on Field Trip Locations and Possible Sightings

Trip 10. Lake Apopka North Shore. All day, **McDonald Canal Pavilion**, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$50, *includes lunch*. Leaders: Greg Miller (Greg Miller Birding), Gallus Quigley (Florida Ornithological Society), Lorne Malo and Becki Smith (Orange Audubon Society) 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Maximum participants: 25. See Trip 4 for details and possible sightings. *Includes a box lunch.*

Trip 11. Wings Over Florida, Lake Apopka. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$20. Leaders: David Simpson (David Simpson Birding) and Brook Rohman (Orange Audubon Society). 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Maximum participants: 25. This afternoon field trip from the McDonald Canal Pavilion into various North Shore locations is sponsored by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Great Florida Birding Trail. Wings Over Florida is FWC's free bird (and butterfly) listing recognition program that provides attractive certificates for Florida life list and big year list achievements. You will be provided a print checklist and encouraged to fill it out and send in for your certificate and then work towards the next level. The Great Florida Birding Trail also has a Junior Birder Program, and families are encouraged to participate. For possible sightings on this trip, see Trip 4 Birding Lake Apopka North Shore.