This Month’s Program: October 16, 2014
Brown-headed Nuthatch—Smallest Bird on Orange County’s Social Register
by Jim Cox

The Brown-headed Nuthatch is fun to spot with its treetop antics and squeaky call notes and has intriguing traits scientifically also.

Jim Cox, director of the Tall Timbers Research Station Stoddard Bird Lab, has been studying one nuthatch population for over 10 years, and he and colleagues are in the third year of an experiment to unveil secrets of nuthatch societies. Like Florida Scrub-jays and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, these nuthatches are cooperative breeders, with young birds helping adults raise additional young. Their family relations have many additional twists.

Jim formerly worked for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and taught a popular bird-watching class at Florida State University. He serves on the Apalachee Audubon Society board and loves introducing new people to birding. Join us October 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Leu Gardens for a great program! (See box to right for location information).

Deborah Green, Programs Co-chair

Backyard Biodiversity Day Field Trip
Saturday – October 18, 2014

Please join Orange Audubon Society in celebrating Backyard Biodiversity Day with a Field Trip to Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park. We will be leading an insect walk (1:30 p.m.) as one of many activities at this fun, all-day, learning event. See page 4 for more on the event.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder, Field Trip Committee

Beginners’ Bird Identification
Saturdays – October 4, 11 and 18, 2014

Bob Sanders will lead a Beginner’s Bird Watching Class on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. beginning October 4th with an “outdoor” classroom session and mini-field trip at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP), followed by field sessions on October 11th and 18th at OWP and Lake Jesup, respectively. Basic bird ID techniques, binocular basics (OAS has ‘loaner’ binoculars for use during the class), use of field guides and checklists, and birding ethics are covered.

Class is limited to 20 students, with registration required. Cost for the three sessions is $10 for children through age 12 with a registered adult, $30 for Audubon members, and $45 for non-members. You can join when registering for $50 ($30 class registration plus $20 membership), paid directly to OAS when you reserve your space by contacting Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. For other questions, contact Bob at (407) 454-0542.

Save the Date: Panhandle Trip, May 1–3, 2015

Orange Audubon Society’s exciting weekend field trip will include birding at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge guided by Andy Wraithmell, a return visit to Birdsong Nature Center and a private, hands-on wolf encounter/tour at Seacrest Wolf Preserve. Mark your calendars and watch the OASis for details or contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.
Help Protect and Preserve Florida’s Water, Wildlands and Wildlife

Of the 19 million people who live in Florida, 7 million rely on the Everglades to replenish their drinking water. We in Central Florida rely on open space to recharge our aquifer. Clean water is essential for quality of life anywhere and also for a healthy economy in a state that attracts significant tourism revenue because of its water.

Florida has 171 state parks and 69% of them are centered around bodies of water. Over 25.5 million people visited Florida’s state parks in 2013. Central Florida’s most popular park, Wekiwa Springs State Park, receives over 1/4 million visitors each year, more than many national parks.

Wekiwa Springs State Park and the areas surrounding the beautiful Wekiva River were purchased through an earlier version of Florida Forever, using the same funding mechanism, a portion of documentary tax stamps (real estate transaction taxes). The St. Johns River Water Management District conservation lands on the north shore of Lake Apopka, Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area, and many other state lands that we appreciate were also purchased with this funding stream.

Everybody loves Florida state parks and everybody needs clean water!

**VOTE YES ON 1**

Can you help by telling others about the importance of voting Yes on 1? Go to the website http://voteyeson1fl.org/ to see the text of the proposed Amendment.

Are you and everyone else among your family and friends over 18 registered and going to vote? Registration to vote in the November 4 election ends October 6. We all worked so hard to get Amendment 1 on the ballot, and now we need 60% of the votes to pass it.

OAS will have a limited number of Yes on 1 promotional items (buttons, yard signs, T-shirts, etc.) to sell (at cost) at the October meeting. Please contact me to reserve a T-shirt or other item or to volunteer (contact information in box to right). Thanks for your help! Deborah Green

The purpose and dedication of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is to promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it. OAS’ education programs foster the recognition of the tangible and intangible values in the remaining natural areas of Florida and the world, and our responsibility for the conservation of the Earth’s natural ecosystems and the services that they provide for the health of the planet.

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The OASis Newsletter is published monthly from September through June and is sent to all members of the Orange Audubon Society.

Audubon Assembly 2014 at Hutchinson Island:
Make It A Big Year for Florida’s Land, Water, and Wildlife
Friday and Saturday – October 17 and 18, 2014

Audubon Florida’s signature conservation event joins representatives of Audubon’s 44 chapters and 35,000 members with conservation leaders, scientists, educators and policy makers. Audubon Assembly allows you to connect with like-minded individuals, participate in forming Audubon’s 2014 conservation priorities, join exciting field trips, and learn new conservation skills. For more information and to register online go to http://fl.audubon.org/audubon-assembly-2014-make-it-big-year-floridas-land-water-and-wildlife. Hope to see you there!

Bob Stamps, Audubon Florida Board Member
**Fall Bird Walks in Mead Botanical Garden**  
**Saturdays – October 4, 11, 18, 25, and November 1, 2014**

Orange Audubon Society’s fall migration walks at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park will be each Saturday from October 4 through November 1 this year. To entice more people to experience the pleasures of birding and become aware of this local hot spot, the walks are free and open to the public and no registration is needed. Each walk will be led by an experienced birder.

In fall as many as 23 warbler species pass through Mead Botanical Garden, one of the best migration traps in Central Florida. The birds can find food, water, and shelter as they migrate through to their winter quarters as far south as South America. A creek, a pond, a wetlands area, and a higher sand hill area all provide habitats birds need.

The walks will start at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours at a casual pace. A limited number of loaner binoculars will be available. Mead Botanical Garden is located at 1500 S. Denning Drive at the intersection with Garden Drive, two blocks east of Orlando Avenue (Hwy. 17-92). For additional information contact Larry Martin, OAS-Mead Liaison, at (407) 647-5834.

**Photography Workshop with Award-Winner Jack Rogers**  
**Saturday – November 8, 2014**

Award-winning bird and nature photographer, Jack Rogers, will lead a Photography Workshop on November 8, 2014 from 6:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at Orlando Wetlands Park as a special fundraiser benefiting Orange Audubon Society (OAS).

The workshop begins at daybreak with a hands-on sunrise photography walk through the wetlands as Jack discusses how to anticipate photo opportunities. In addition to reviewing lighting angles, exposure and perspective, the session will also focus on understanding subject behavior. After 2–2 ½ hours in the field, the group will return to the education center for an indoor session, including analysis of photos.

The workshop, which complements OAS’ Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, is designed for beginner to intermediate skill levels. Any level of equipment is appropriate and any adult photographer may attend. The limit is 12 participants and the cost is $60 (Audubon members) and $75 (non-members). To register, please contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. For additional workshop information, please contact Jack at jrogers62@cfl.rr.com or (407) 341-7709.

**It’s Lake Eola Fiesta Time!—Please Help**

Orange Audubon Society’s (OAS) annual participation in the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival will be November 1st and 2nd, with advanced set-up Friday evening October 31st around 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday (~8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. each day) mainly consist of setting up and taking down of merchandise and, the fun part—talking to people about OAS and helping to sell merchandise. It will be OAS’ last opportunity to encourage folks to Vote Yes on 1. We need 3 or 4 people each day just for sales activities. If you volunteer early, you can have your choice of day and time. With enough volunteers, or volunteers who only wish to work with children, OAS could offer its kids’ art table; however, unless we have enough assistance, we will not be able to offer this fun, free children’s activity. This is OAS’ biggest outreach event, and we must have lots of help. Please contact Teresa to volunteer or if you have questions at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796 (eve.). This event helps OAS meet its financial and outreach goals. Thanks so much!

Teresa Williams, Treasurer
Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden
Saturday – October 18, 2014

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be co-sponsoring the second annual Backyard Biodiversity Day on October 18th from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park. Our collaborators are the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. OAS board members will be among those making biodiversity-related presentations and leading hikes.

Interpretive hikes include how to identify birds, reptiles and amphibians, insects, plants, and edible plants. Indoor presentations include backyard mammals, why to plant natives, lakeshore landscaping, pruning, planting for wildlife, and native plants and homeowner associations. A new feature this year are workshops on wildflower propagation, planting natives in dry locations and sustainable native design.

A native plant sale will be going on all day with proceeds to help restore habitat at Mead Botanical Garden. There will be exhibitors (including OAS), vendors selling bird boxes (like the one housing the Great Crested Flycatchers at left), books, art, food trucks and more. Please join us for this fun day of learning how you can help birds and other wildlife in your backyard!

Central Florida Butterfly Identification Workshop
Saturday – October 11, 2014

Orange Audubon Society is offering a fall Butterfly Identification Workshop on Saturday, October 11, from 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Field observation and identification of butterflies will be at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) in Christmas, FL and nearby Seminole Ranch Conservation Area, with slide presentations in the OWP Education Center. For questions about course content, contact instructors Randy Snyder and Mary Keim at rssmhhk@gmail.com.

Recommended field guide is *Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida* by Glassberg, Minno, and Calhoun (2000, Oxford). Close-focusing binoculars are helpful and loaners will be available during the workshop. Participants should bring drink and lunch and wear appropriate field attire, including close-toed shoes you don’t mind getting wet.

Cost is $25 for Audubon members; $40 for non-members; and $10 for children 12 or younger with a registered adult, payable to Orange Audubon Society. Non-members can join when registering and pay $45, which includes butterfly workshop registration plus introductory 3-way annual membership in the Orange, National and Florida Audubon Societies ($20 promotional rate). Such new memberships must be paid directly to OAS, as instructed when you register. The workshop is limited to 16 students and registration is required. To reserve a space, contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.
Thanks To OAS’ Chertok Photo Contest Judges

Artist Carolyn Cohen, naturalist Paul Rebmann and photographer Marina Scarr were Orange Audubon Society’s (OAS) 2014 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest judges.

Carolyn Cohen is a botanical artist whose watercolors and hand painted etchings have been featured in museums, touring exhibitions and public and private collections. She exhibits in outdoor fine art shows and galleries, and her work is included in numerous publications. Through November 16, 2014 the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Garden is presenting Nature’s Design, an exhibit showcasing the art of Carolyn Cohen and Redenta Soprano, OAS’ 2013 artist judge.

Paul Rebmann is a Florida Master Naturalist and long-time member of the Florida Native Plant Society and the Audubon Society. A full-time network administrator, Paul is also a part-time nature photographer whose images have been published in field guides and periodicals and shown in exhibits. Paul’s Wild Florida Photo website gallery and educational resource, wildflphoto.com, features over 900 plant and animal species and other nature images.

Marina Scarr is an award-winning nature photographer and Florida Master Naturalist. Avian and wildlife subjects are her primary focus. She is an avian moderator who critiques photography on the popular nature photography website www.birdphotographers.net. Marina’s images have been published in numerous nature and photography magazines. Enjoy both Marina and Paul’s winning Chertok images on permanent virtual display at www.orangeaudubonfl.org/chertok.

OAS thanks Carolyn, Paul and Marina for contributing their valuable time and talents to help make the 2014 Chertok photo contest a success.  

Teresa Williams, Chertok Photography Contest Chair
**Planting to Attract Wildlife**

October is a great time to plant. Here is information about native shrubs with fruits appreciated by resident, migrant, and winter birds in our area. The iconic shrub to add to your landscape is American beautyberry, *Callicarpa americana*, a deciduous shrub that grows quite wide and to over 8 feet. Its small purple berries ripen as early as September and stay on the branches through the winter. Beautyberries are great favorites of the Gray Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*, and are eaten by warblers and vireos. The fact that the tiny purple berries stay on the plants for so long indicates that they are not really favored by most songbirds - taste them yourself and you'll see that they have an insipid taste - but they serve as emergency food and will bring the birds to your yard.

Other native shrubs that have small fruits are Walter’s viburnum, *Viburnum obovatum*, Firebush, *Hamelia patens*, Simpson’s stopper, *Myrcianthes fragrans*, Wild coffee, *Psychotria nervosa*, and any of the native hollies, for example Yaupon holly, *Ilex vomitoria*, gallberry, *Ilex glabra*, or Dahoon holly, *Ilex cassine*. When you buy a holly from a nursery make sure you can already see the fruits, since these plants are dioecious (have male and female flowers on separate plants) and fruits appear only on the female plants. Holly fruits are particularly appreciated by the Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*.

Wax myrtle, *Myrica cerifera*, of which berries are fed on by the Yellow-rumped Warbler, *Setophaga coronata*, is also dioecious, so buy this shrub only if you can see the fruits on it. Our friend Richard Poole, a big promoter of the wax myrtle, takes cuttings from female plants to start the shrubs as a way to get a fruit-bearing wax myrtle. Another berried shrub birds appreciate is pokeweed, *Phytolacca americana*. Give this lanky shrub a chance for its wildlife value. It is easy to cut back when, later in the season, it becomes unsightly.

All of the native blueberries, *Vaccinium* species, like shiny blueberry, *Vaccinium myrsinites* (illustrated here) are appreciated by birds. Native blueberries are rarest to find in nurseries of the plants mentioned, and people “in the know” snap them up at native plants sales. Note that blueberries are slow to establish and need consistent water in the first six months or so.

A great place to buy many of these native shrubs is at Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden on October 18 (p.4). There will also be talks on these subjects and plant (and bird) identification walks. Hope we see you there.

OAS has a brochure “Bird- and Butterfly-Friendly Plants for Central Florida” that you can pick up at Backyard Biodiversity Day or our meetings.

*Deborah Green*

**OAS at Oakland Heritage Festival Saturday – October 25, 2014**

Again this year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will participate in the Oakland Heritage Festival at Speer Park in Oakland on October 25, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be concentrating our efforts on explaining “Vote Yes on 1” (p.2) since this event is so close to Election Day. We could use help with this outreach and also talking about OAS and our programs, field trips, conservation and education activities, Birds of Prey ID, spring Beginners’ Bird Watching Class, and special events (everything listed in the new 2014–15 brochure!). Help is needed setting up for the event (probably late afternoon Friday) and putting things away at the end of the day. You will have time at this laid-back event to buy tickets for the bike raffles and enjoy the rest of the festival—including taking a guided boat tour on Lake Apopka (always a sell-out). If you can help, please contact me at LNS-oas@att.net or (407) 886-2925. Thanks.

*Loretta Satterthwaite*
Teachers Interested In Audubon Adventures

All it took was the right means of getting the word out to increase enrollment in Audubon Adventures to 146 (and counting) Orange County Public School (OCPS) teachers. That means that nearly 4,400 students in grades 3–5 will now enjoy and learn from the award-winning nature education resource from National Audubon Society. At the Backyard Biodiversity Day (see article, page 4) Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will offer a workshop to ‘teach the teachers’ how best to utilize Audubon Adventures to further enhance its educational value.

One challenge remains—paying for 146+ classroom kits at $42.45 per classroom (about $6200) and building a reserve for next year’s requests, which OAS hopes will continue to increase! Some of you indicated in your amazing donations last spring and now in your wonderful response to last month’s Letter Appeal that you wanted your donation used for education. Thank you! Do you also know of a business that would sponsor a classroom or an entire school; or a parent or grandparent who would like to sponsor a child or grandchild’s class? If so, would you solicit their sponsorship or share their contact information with OAS’ treasurer at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796?

OAS would also like to offer more classroom presentations on birds and nature. If you know of a child whose teacher might be interested in either of these resources, or if you are a retired teacher or otherwise can present well to children, please contact Deborah Green at sabalpress@mac.com or (407) 637-2525. Thanks for your help with our educational efforts!

Deborah Green

Junior Audubon field trip at Orlando Wetlands Park

Saturday – November 8, 2014

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) board member Brook Rohman is offering OAS’ first official Junior Audubon field trip on November 8, 2014 from 8:30–11:00 a.m. at Orlando Wetlands Park. If you know a child who would like to go on this and other youth-oriented field trips, contact Brook at brookrohman@gmail.com or (407) 921-8008.

September 20, 2014 Field Trip Report

Ten attended the OAS field trip to Pine Lily Preserve in Bithlo on September 20. The group observed at least 20 bird species including Wild Turkey, White Ibis, Downy Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren. Other wildlife included White-tailed Deer, Oak Toad, Southern Toad, Leopard Frog, Little Blue Dragonlet, Two-lined Spplebug, Barred Yellow, Thread-waisted Wasp, and Golden Silk Orbweaver with silver kleptoparasites (Argyrodes nephilae) in its web.

Wildflowers in bloom included Water Cowbane, Shortleaf Rosegentian, Yelloweyed Grass, Yellow Stargrass, Bladderwort, Orange Milkwort, Savannah Milkweed, Drumheads, Fringed Meadow-beauty, Tall Elephantsfoot, and Pennyroyal. The Chalky Bluestem was showy with the rain drops covering it. We looked for Pine Lilies in the wet prairie in the southwest corner of the property, but none were seen this trip. Despite the constant rain, the group enjoyed the beautiful flora and fauna.

Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair
Welcome New Members

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is the 3rd largest Audubon chapter in the Southeast, after Atlanta Audubon and Tropical Audubon Society in Miami. We are the largest chapter in the Southeast run completely by volunteers. OAS welcomes the following new OAS members: Cynthia Ballard, Ava Bergeron, John Campbell, Joan Caras, Maxine Carr, Marilyn Clock, Loretta Disalvatore, Christopher Donnelly, M.M. Griffith, Martha Hall, Julia Hegert, Lena Henderson, Donna Hilyard, Michelle Hummel, Debbi Johnson, Ronald Keiper, Tammy Kerber, Pramod & Ranna Mehta, Richard & Mary Nunis, Butch Orr, Lois Silverberg, Michael Spartz, Dennis St. John, Louise Stockton, Hilary Tucker, and Chad Wille.

Effective September 2014 the OASis is only available in electronic form. OAS members, if you are not yet receiving the notification to check our website for the new newsletter, please send an email to our membership data chair, Mike Daley at miked129e@gmail.com with the subject: “OASis GOING GREEN”

JOIN OAS’ MEETUP GROUP LIKE OAS ON FACEBOOK

Calendar of Events

Beginners’ Bird Watching Class, Orlando Wetlands Park and Lake Jesup
October 4 and 11, 2014 at Orlando Wetlands Park and October 18, 2014 at Lake Jesup; all sessions are 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. For questions about the class, contact Bob Sanders: (407) 454-0542. For required registration, contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park
October 4, 11, 18, 25, and Nov 1, 2014. Walks start at 8 a.m. Contact Larry at lmartin5@ms.com or (407) 647-5834.

Butterfly Identification Workshop, Orlando Wetlands Park / Seminole Ranch Conservation Area
October 11, 2014, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. For course information contact Randy or Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com; to register contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

October Program: Brown-headed Nuthatch—Smallest Bird on Orange County’s Social Register by Jim Cox
October 16, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Harry P. Leu Gardens, Camelia Room.

Field Trip - Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park
October 18, 2014, Join us at Backyard Biodiversity Day

Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park
October 18, 2014, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com.

Audubon Assembly, Hutchinson Island

Oakland Heritage Festival, Oakland
October 25, 2014. Contact Loretta at ins-oas@att.net or (407) 886-2925.

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park, Orlando
November 1–2, 2014. Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

Junior Audubon Field Trip, Orlando Wetlands Park
November 8, 2014. Contact Brook at brookrohman@gmail.com or (407) 921-8008.

Photography Workshop with Jack Rogers, Orlando Wetlands Park, Christmas
November 8, 2014. To register contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. For workshop information, contact Jack at jrogers62@cfl.rr.com or (407) 341-7709.

Genius Drive Nature Preserve Field Trip, Winter Park
November 9, 2014. Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.