



“The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida”

OASis

Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



Vol. 51

March 2015

Issue No. 7

This Month's Program: Thursday, March 19, 2015, 7:00 p.m. Improving Your Nature Photography by Vince Lamb

Vince Lamb will present Orange Audubon's March program to help you improve your nature photography skills. Vince is a Jay Watch volunteer, member of Land Management



Vince Lamb.
Photo: J Patrick Rice

Review teams with the Florida Native Plant Society, part of the Brevard Cultural Alliance, a Florida Master Naturalist and a past winner of the Chertok Nature Photography Contest.

With the deadline for the 2015 Chertok Nature Photography Contest coming up in May (see p.7), we hope all budding and experienced photographers will take the opportunity to take some tips from an expert. To see his extraordinary photography visit <http://www.vincelamb.com>. Non-photographers will also enjoy Vince's photos and natural history observations.

Join us March 19th for a fascinating program. Orange Audubon Society Programs are free and no reservations are necessary. Programs are held in the Camellia Room. If any questions, call (407) 637-2525.

Deborah Green, Programs Co-Chair



Spring Hammock. Photo: Vince Lamb

Chuluota Wilderness Area Field Trip Saturday, March 21, 2015

On Saturday, March 21st from 8 a.m.–12 noon, Orange Audubon Society will visit Chuluota Wilderness Area in southeast Seminole County. This 625-acre Seminole County Natural Lands property contains mesic hammock, pond pine flatwoods, sand pine scrub and other diverse ecosystems. These provide habitat for species such as the Scarlet Calamint, Florida Scrub Roseling, Regal Jumper (shown here), Festive Tiger Beetle, Florida Mouse and Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake. For map, directions, trail guide and more information about the property, see: <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/parksrec/naturallands/chuluota.aspx>.

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot located at 3895 Curryville Road, Chuluota, FL 32766. The field trip is free with no registration required. Bring plenty to drink, sun protection, insect protection, closed-toed shoes, birding gear and lunch (for after the hike). There are no facilities. We will walk about 3 miles at a pace to observe plants and animals along the way. Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, contact Mary and Randy at rsmhk@gmail.com.



Regal Jumper-*Phidippus regius*.
Photo: Mary Keim

Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary. Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September–June) and all but June start at 7:00 p.m. in the Camellia Room at Harry P. Leu Gardens
1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando, FL 32803
For map and directions, visit:
www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/

Amendment 1 Effort Not Over



Amendment 1 funds, the one third of documentary stamp revenue that was to be placed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, is being eyed as a slush fund by many members of the Florida legislature. It is very important that everyone who voted for Amendment 1 work to make sure that this law is implemented correctly.

The Florida's Water and Land Legacy Campaign, the group in Tallahassee who ran the Amendment 1 campaign, did a fantastic job, and I encourage everyone who cares about conservation land to look to the Campaign for what actions are best to take. Please go to the website <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/> and sign up for updates.

The campaign provides talking points and encourages us to make comments on the website set up by the Senate to receive input on Amendment 1 implementation: <http://www.flisenate.gov/media/topics/wlc>. Over 4000 comments have been received already, but more will continue to drive home the public's viewpoint.

The Campaign organized a big rally in Tallahassee on February 18. Some of us were requested to meet with legislators, and I was encouraged to speak before the Senate Committee on Environmental Preservation and Conservation, which is the Senate Committee that is drafting legislation to implement the Amendment. In front of this Committee, I made the point that the state's conservation land acquisition process was well managed and important for many reasons: aquifer recharge, flood control, maintaining water quality in our natural water bodies, including springs, preservation of species, and recreation, plus increased income through ecotourism to state and private entities.

Surprisingly, many Senators seemed unfamiliar with the process of conservation land acquisition. Therefore, I have personally followed up by email to provide them with the 2015 Florida Forever Priority List, the ranking of proposed conservation land buying projects that is developed first by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and then approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC), with properties prioritized based on connectivity, endangered species, endangered habitats, water resources, and recreation potential. These 2015 rankings are available online from http://www.dep.state.fl.us/lands/fl_forever.htm. See far right bottom of the page for ARC Approved 2015 Florida Forever Priority List. We need conservation lands to balance growth in Central Florida. By educating yourself and communicating with your representatives, you'll help assure the process ends as voters intended. Thank you!

Deborah Green, President

Audubon Academy

On Saturday February 28th, Orange Audubon Society hosted the regional Audubon Academy. Organized by Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite, this event brought together Audubon chapters to exchange ideas, network, and brainstorm about ways of growing and improving the work that each chapter does. Many insightful presentations were given on increasing chapter diversity and participation, using social media, lobbying, fiscal obligation, insurance protection, and fundraising. Petitions, action alerts, and volunteering programs such as Jay Watch and Eagle Watch were discussed. When the different Florida Audubon chapters come together it really feels like a big family.

Melissa Gonzalez, Board member

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 OAS's Newsletter is published monthly from September through June and is emailed to all members of the Orange Audubon Society.

Birdapalooza and Lake Apopka Ecotourism Update



Birdapalooza 2015 banding station. Photo: Deborah Green

The Third Annual Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza held on February 7th was a huge success, with approximately 3,800 attendees. Tremendous thanks to Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite who helped co-found this event three years ago and who did all the logistical work with Orange County Commissioner Bryan Nelson, past Commissioner Fred Brummer, and Magnolia Park staff. Thanks also to Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members who volunteered to assist with hikes, boat and bus rides, stand lakeside to point out interesting features, and do outreach and merchandise sales at the event—Rick Baird, Linda Carpenter, Peggy Cox, Melissa Gonzalez, Deborah Green, Karen Hamblett, Milton Heiberg, Paul Hueber, Carole Johns, Cyndi Kay, Tom Keegan, Mary Keim, Wayne Kennedy, Charlie and Susan Kirby, Susan Ledbetter, Paul Lockett, Brent Mobley, Gallus Quigley, Brook and Brad Rohman, Bob Sanders, Victoria Schwartz, Becki Smith, Dick Smith, Randy Snyder, Teresa Williams and special thanks to Seminole Audubon's Pam Meharg for volunteering, too. The kids' walks were made memorable by stops at the bird banding station manned by Andrew Boyle, Christine Brown, Phyllis Hall, Richard Poole, and Becki Smith (all OAS members) where the children on one hike got to touch a very cooperative Ovenbird, as shown.

Birdapalooza now has a designated annual date, the first Saturday in February. If you missed it this year, be sure to make the effort to come out next year. OAS has long been committed to building ecotourism and nature enjoyment opportunities on Lake Apopka and its North Shore (a Globally Important Birding Area). Bit by bit there has been progress on making the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) lands accessible to the public. The District is actively working on a kayak launch and a wildlife drive through the property. District staff say that the long-awaited drive may open by late May, and OAS has been invited to share our knowledge of birds with visitors at an opening event. Stay tuned!

Orlando Wetlands Festival Also a Great Success!



Flying American Coots. Photo: Mary Keim

The 15th Annual Orlando Wetlands Festival on February 21, 2015 was another great event. Thanks to Randy Snyder, who coordinated Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) volunteers who led walking and bus tours, in conjunction with Mark Sees, City of Orlando Wetlands Manager and a former OAS board member. Leading tours were Sherri Brown, Deborah Green, Michael Kay, Mary Keim, Lorne Malo, Larry Martin, Lori and Jerry Mathis, Brook and Brad Rohman, Rebecca Smith, Randy Snyder and Bob Stamps. Bird banding demonstrations were given by Susan Angermeier, Andrew Boyle, Christine Brown, Phyllis Hall and Richard Poole. Youth volunteers Susanna Khachatryan with her dad, Hayk, Dominic ('Dom') Shimizu with his mom, Dominique, and Maddie Rohman made the kids' art activity great fun for many younger children. OAS' outreach and nature merchandise sales activities were also successful thanks to efforts by volunteers Rick Baird, John and Olga Cento, Charlie and Susan Kirby, Gini Henry, Cyndi Kay, Wayne Kennedy, Susan Ledlow, Brent Mobley, Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams. To all, thank you!

In Case You Missed the Meeting...Tracking Bird Migration on Weather Radar

Ornithologists and birders have relied on the power of radar for many years as a tool for understanding migration. From the earliest days of radar surveillance, the movements of birds were known to appear in radar imagery. Naturalists and professional nature guides Angel and Mariel Abreu have studied the technology for eight years. "When we take birding groups out, we can hit the right spots," said Angel. The couple spoke to an enthusiastic audience at the Orange Audubon Society February program meeting.

An acronym for radio detection and ranging, RADAR sends out a pulse of electromagnetic radiation. A signal returns and makes a "reflectivity" image on a radar screen, which, if you understand the science, can be used for quantifying and detecting the presence and movement of birds. Distinguishing birds from bats, insects, and other biological targets can be challenging, however. Therefore birders also use wind maps and velocity images to determine if radar patterns are birds and how many there are. (Targets moving across the wind or against the wind, or moving more than 10–15 knots faster than the wind, are almost exclusively birds.) Using all these tools can help you determine the speed and location of birds you wish to track.

Obviously weather conditions affect migration. "Birds don't fly in inclement weather," said Angel. Cloud cover and fog also obscure the pursuit. If a combination of these occurs, the birds may "fallout," or become disoriented and cease migration. Fog also can cause birds to overshoot a goal. Rain can weigh birds down and disorient them. For example, songbirds that become saturated during a storm may become so waterlogged they don't make it over the Gulf of Mexico and subsequently perish. A synoptic weather map of the U.S. showing the location of rain, cold, and high and low temperatures can aid the tracking process.

You may have to study the maps and keep logs of your birding ventures to better understand the science, Angel said. There are many websites to peruse for reference, including weathertap.com, wunderground.com, and the Clemson University Radar Ornithology Lab. Another popular weather radar site is weather.rap.ucar.edu/radar. Or go to www.badbirdz2.wordpress.com for the Abreus' online images that predict birding conditions across Florida during spring and fall migration. For more information on their custom birding and wildlife tours of South Florida, Miami, and the Florida Keys, go to www.natureisawesometours.com.

Linda Carpenter, Publicity Committee Member

Using eBird



Would you like to know what property in Orange County has the most birds reported, or whether Swallow-tailed Kites have made their Spring return to our area, or where Purple Gallinules can be found closest to you, or who last reported a Painted Bunting at Orlando Wetlands Park? All of these questions and many more can be answered using eBird <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>. Since its launch in 2002 by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird has changed the way that birders report and access information about birds. It is one of the largest and fastest growing biodiversity data resources. To give an example of the growth of eBird, the most recent Great Backyard Bird Count event added 143,084 checklists representing 18,254,799 bird observations.

eBird encourages birders to participate by maintaining their bird records and enabling them to visualize that data with maps, graphs and bar charts. A birder enters when and where they went birding and then completes an online bird checklist. Local experts review unusual records. eBird is an easy to use web site that converted this former field guide margin scribbler into an eBirder.

If you enjoy using eBird, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) could use your help entering bird survey data gathered prior to the digital age. eBird can make these records available for use. If you are willing to enter OAS bird survey data, please contact me at rsmhk@gmail.com. Thank you.

Mary Keim, OAS Wildlife Survey Committee member and eBirder

Disney's Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival Volunteers Needed From March 6th through May 17th

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is honored once again to be invited by Disney to participate in the EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival. OAS maintains an information table inside the festival pavilion (air-conditioned) throughout the festival every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from March 6th through May 17th. We are looking for a few volunteers to donate a day (10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.) to hand out Audubon materials and answer questions that Disney guests may have regarding our Audubon conservation efforts in Central Florida.

After our table shuts down for the day, we are allowed to stay and visit the countries, dine, watch the fireworks, and even take in a concert. If you are interested in representing OAS at Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival, please contact Susan Kirby at skirby1964@gmail.com or (407) 440-3448. Disney gives each of our volunteers a one day pass good at any of the theme parks up to a year. Take advantage of this great opportunity and help Audubon's outreach.

Youth Field Trip to Central Winds Park – March 14, 2015

OAS Board member Brook Rohman will be leading a Youth Field Trip to Central Winds Park in Winter Springs, near Lake Jesup, on March 14th. The trip will start at 8:30 a.m. for an approximately two hour walk. Children need to have an adult with them, wear comfortable shoes and bring water and bug spray. Spring migrants will be coming in, and Central Winds is a great birding spot. If your child, grandchild, or other child that you know would like to go, contact Brook at 407-921-8008 or email brookrohman@gmail.com.



Orange Audubon Society's Spring 2015 Beginners' Bird Watching Class Saturdays – March 7, 14 and 21, 2015

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Bob Sanders will teach a Beginners' Bird Watching Class this spring. This class includes an "outdoor" classroom session and mini-field trip on March 7th at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and 2 field sessions on March 14th and 21st at OWP and Lake Jesup, respectively. All sessions are 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Goals of the course are to increase knowledge and awareness of North American bird species; teach basic birding principles and bird ID techniques—including bird habitat and anatomy; provide binocular basics (OAS has "loaner" binoculars for use during the class) plus tips on using field guides and checklists; and discuss birding ethics. If you miss a spring session, you may take a make-up session during the fall 2015 class at no additional charge.

Registration is required and class is limited to 20 students. Total cost for all three sessions is \$30 for Audubon members, \$45 for non-members and \$10 for children through age 12 with a registered adult. Non-members can join when registering and be eligible for the reduced member rate. To register contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. For questions about the class, contact Bob at (407) 454-0542.

Ethos Vegan Kitchen 5% Profit Day to Benefit Orange Audubon Society Saturday – March 28, 2015



On Saturday, March 28th, 2015, Ethos Vegan Kitchen will be donating 5% of its profits to Orange Audubon Society (OAS). This is the third year that Ethos has selected OAS to benefit from their generous 5% profit day. The first year marked their best day ever, and last year's profits topped year one. We hope to keep breaking records this year. Ethos is located at 601-B South New York Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789, phone (407) 228-3899.

April 5, 2015 'Workday' at Genius Drive Nature Preserve

A 2-hour Workday is planned on Sunday, April 5, 9-11 a.m. at the Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park. Please contact Teresa: (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com if you can help.

Wish to Serve on the Orange Audubon Society Board?

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is the third largest Audubon chapter in the Southeast and the largest run totally by its dedicated volunteers. Your hard-working Board of Directors includes 5 Officers and 15 other Directors. Board members are elected for three-year terms, and each year, on a rotating basis, terms of 5 of the non-Officer Board members expire. At OAS' March 19th Board of Directors meeting, a committee will present a slate of nominees to be voted on at the annual meeting on April 16th.

OAS has been developing a Board application form that makes clear the expectations of those serving on the board. If there is not a vacant slot on the Board at any one time, we encourage you to still apply and to join one of our committees. Committees include Conservation, Education, Field Trip, Finance, Hospitality, Membership, *OAS's* (newsletter), Program, Publicity, Sanctuary, Website, Wildlife Survey, Birdathon, Chertok Nature Photography Contest, Silent Auction, Nature Education Centers, Nominating, Brochure, Climate, and Speakers Bureau.

Serving on the Board or a Committee is a great opportunity to get involved with environmental projects and events as well as help make decisions that will have a positive impact in your community. To volunteer please contact Brook Rohman at brookrohman@gmail.com or (407) 921-8008 or me at sabalpress@mac.com or (407) 637-2525. Thank you!

Deborah Green, President

Donate to Support Orange Audubon Society's Efforts

Last fall at the start of the new program season, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) mailed its once-a-year Letter Appeal to ask for your financial support. Many have generously contributed to support a future OAS nature education center, school programs, and general funding needs, but we have not yet reached our annual goal. If you have not already done so, please consider a gift to your chapter for the July 2014–June 2015 program year.

It is easy to donate online using the secure PayPal "Donate" button on OAS' website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org or you can pay by check made payable and mailed to Orange Audubon Society, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, Florida 32794. Thank you!

Birdathon Is Coming April 18, 2015!!

What is Birdathon, you ask? Birdathon is like a Walkathon, except you collect donation pledges for species of bird seen instead of miles walked. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members are encouraged to collect pledges for birds in any amount (for example, \$1 per bird, \$0.25 per bird, etc.) or simply a flat amount. Birds must be counted during a 24-hour period on April 18, 2015. You can bird as an individual or as a team. You don't even have to leave your house! For those of you who are adventurous, get some birding buddies, grab your binoculars, pick a spot and have fun!

We need your help! Doing the Birdathon is a lot of fun and every single dollar raised stays right here in Central Florida to support OAS' work. Get pledges from friends, neighbors, relatives, co-workers, strangers, your doctor, your dentist, your veterinarian, psychic or local merchant. Anything helps!! You must bird only in the state of Florida, but don't forget that the Dry Tortugas count! There is a list of birds you can download on the Florida Ornithological site if you need help. ALL BIRD SPECIES ARE COUNTABLE....exotic or not.

Pledge sheets will be available at our March and April meetings. High Total Bird Species winners and High Total Pledges raised will be announced at our meeting in May. Report your information by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 30. Leave your name, or team name, number of species seen and total pledged amount. Contact Brook Rohman to report this information at (407) 921-8008 or email at brookrohman@gmail.com. Money will be collected at the May meeting. Birdathon donations will be used to fund OAS conservation, advocacy and education efforts. Go out and bird!

Brook Rohman, Birdathon Chair

Limited Edition Field Trip to Lake Jesup Conservation Area Saturday – March 28, 2015

Join Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) popular field trip leader Bob Sanders on March 28th for a Limited Edition field trip to the Lake Jesup Conservation Area, a 6000+ acre St. Johns River Water Management District property on the north shore of Lake Jesup. Limited Edition field trips are limited to 15 participants, so that beginners can receive individualized attention. Cost is \$10 per person per trip for OAS members and \$15 per person for non-members. Reservations are required and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. For trip questions or reservations, call Bob Sanders at (407) 454-0542. The next Limited Edition field trip will be to Ft. De Soto Park, Pinellas County, on April 12, 2015.

Spring Bird Walks in Mead Botanical Garden

Spring migration is starting. To celebrate, Orange Audubon will be holding guided bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park. The walks will be on Saturdays starting April 4th through April 25th. Walks begin at 8:00 a.m., last 2 to 3 hours and go at a casual pace. All are led by experienced birders and are open to the public and are FREE.

Mead Botanical Garden is located at the intersection of south Denning Drive and Garden Drive two blocks east of Orlando Ave (Hwy. 17-92). Mead has been a great place for migrating birds to stop for food and rest on their way back north after the winter. The variety of habitats, wetlands, open water, and an upland area with oaks and tall pines, appeals to many bird species. Over 160 species have been documented in the past several years, including 23 species of warbler and 6 species of woodpecker. Barred owls and Red-shouldered Hawks are currently nesting in Mead Garden. Many of the birds should be in their colorful mating plumage.

A limited number of loaner binoculars are available. If you need a pair, please come a little early to sign them out and, if necessary, get a quick course on their proper use. The walks last fall inspired several people into the world of birding, and introduced many to the "oasis of Nature" that is Mead Botanical Garden. No need to preregister, just show up and have fun. Hope we see you there!

Larry Martin OAS-Mead Liaison

Subject Matters in 2015 Chertok Photo Contest

The theme for Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2015 (27th Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Nature Photography Contest is *Florida Native Nature*. Non-native species need not say "cheese" because the subject matter for this competition must be native (to Florida) and must not include discernible non-native species, humans or human artifacts.

The theme is broad—you may enter images of any of Florida's amazing native animals, plants, landscapes and habitats. This competition tests not only your skill behind the camera's lens, but also your knowledge of Florida's native species. A species is considered native to Florida if its natural range included Florida at the time of European contact or if the species arrived and established itself in this state unaided by man. OAS' website contains links to many plant and animal identification resources.

The final deadline is May 21, 2015 (received by date). However, if your entries are received by April 16, 2015 OAS' Chertok committee will pre-screen them and notify the participant of any that are ineligible. Those ineligible images may be replaced FREE, subject to the final deadline and other contest rules. Official entry forms containing complete contest rules are available online at www.orangeaudubonfl.org; at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL; at OAS meetings; or by request to (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.



Immature Roseate Spoonbill Photo: Jack Rogers

Florida Native Plant and Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour – April 11, 2015

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) first Florida Native Plant and Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour, to be held April 11, 2015, 9AM to 2PM, shows off yards that are native, wildlife friendly and attractive. This tour is a collaboration between OAS, Cuplet Fern and Tarflower Chapters of Florida Native Plant Society. Tickets will be \$5.00 per person, for your own self-paced tour of these landscapes located between Southeast Orlando and Winter Park. The tour map and information on the individual landscapes will be available to ticket purchasers a week before the event.

Tickets can be purchased using PayPal on the OAS website, www.orangeaudubonfl.org. Tickets will also be for sale at the Tarflower booth at the Leu Garden Plant Sale March 14 and 15, at OAS, Tarflower and Cuplet Fern meetings, at Wild Birds Unlimited, and at select nurseries. Contact Deborah at sabalpress@mac.com or (407) 637-2525 if any questions.

A Theatrical Encounter with one of Early America's Most Remarkable Men Thursday, April 16th, 2015

Orange Audubon Society is pleased to present "Puc Puggy's Travels in Florida," J.D. Sutton's acclaimed performance as botanist, artist and explorer William Bartram for our April program. Actor/playwright J.D. Sutton brings to life William Bartram and his four-year journey of exploration and discovery through America's southern colonies during the start of the Revolutionary War, sharing tales of his adventures – his encounters with Seminoles and his battles with alligators – and his awe at the beauty of the land that was, and is, Florida.

This performance is free and open to the public. Donations are much appreciated. The performance will be on Thursday, April 16th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Camellia Room at Leu Gardens.

Pass the word to history and natural history buffs! If questions contact Deborah at sabalpress@mac.com or (407) 637-2525.



Agricultural Justice, Age of Organics and Alligators: Protecting Health, Biodiversity, and Ecosystems

Beyond Pesticides, a Washington, D.C. nonprofit founded in 1981, will for the first time hold its National Pesticide Forum (33rd annual) in Florida. The conference will be from 5 p.m. on April 17th through 10 p.m. on April 18th and will be held at the Florida A&M University College of Law in Downtown Orlando. Orange Audubon Society is a co-sponsor. Scientists, policy makers and public health and environmental advocates will interact and strategize on solutions that are protective of health and the environment. The forum provides opportunities to share current science and policy information, discuss local, state, and national issues, and take a tour in the Apopka area.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn and join efforts to protect pollinators. Mark your calendars! Early registration extends through March 15. For more information, visit www.beyondpesticides.org.

Deborah Green, President

Panhandle Trip – A Few Spaces Left

Happy 112th Birthday (on March 14th) to the National Wildlife Refuge Systems (NWR)! A few spots are still available for Orange Audubon's May 1st–3rd road trip to Florida's Panhandle where we will visit one of the finest—the St. Marks NWR. To make reservations, contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

Help Needed for the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas

Starting in 2011 and extending through 2016, the second Florida Breeding Bird Atlas is being carried out by volunteers and sponsored by the Florida Ornithological Society, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Audubon of Florida. If you are an Orange County resident and can help, contact Coordinator Bruce Anderson at scizortail@aol.com or (407) 671-3137.

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Calendar of Events

Orange Audubon Society's Spring 2015 Beginners' Bird Watching Class

Saturdays – March 7, 14 and 21, 2015. Contact Bob at (407) 454-0542.

Youth Field Trip to Central Winds Park, Winter Springs

March 14, 2015. Contact Brook at 407-921-8008.

Orange Audubon Society Program: Improving Your Nature Photography by Vince Lamb.

March 19, 2015. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

March Field Trip, Chuluota Wilderness Area, Chuluota

March 21, 2015. Contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com

OAS-5% Profit Day at Ethos Vegan Kitchen, Winter Park

March 28, 2015. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Limited Edition Field Trip Lake Jesup Conservation Area

March 28, 2015. Contact Bob at (407) 454-0542

Spring Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks

April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015. Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Wildlife Friendly and Native Landscape tour

April 11, 2015, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Limited Edition Field Trip Ft. De Soto Park, Pinellas County

Apr 12, 2015. Contact Bob at (407) 454-0542

Orange Audubon Society Monthly Program: "Puc Puggy's Travels in Florida" William

Bartram performance by J.D. Sutton

April 16, 2015. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Beyond Pesticides Conference, Florida A&M School of Law, Downtown Orlando

April 17–18, 2015. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Orange Audubon Society Birdathon

April 18, 2015. Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

Central Florida Earth Day, Lake Eola, Orlando

April 26, 2015. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Florida Panhandle Road Trip, Birdsong Nature Center, St. Marks NWR and Seacrest Wolf Preserve

May 1–3, 2015. Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796

Baby Owl Shower, Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland

May 9, 2015. Contact (407) 539-5700

Chertok Nature Photography Contest, Final Submission Deadline: May 21, 2015

Optional Pre-screening* Deadline: Apr 16, 2015

(*Replace disqualified entries FREE by May 21 deadline)

Chertok Nature Photography Contest Awards

June 18, 2015. Contact (407) 644-0796.