



OASis

Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



Vol. 51

June 2015

Issue No. 10

This Month's Program: June 18, 2015 OAS' Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest Awards Program, Party & Silent Auction

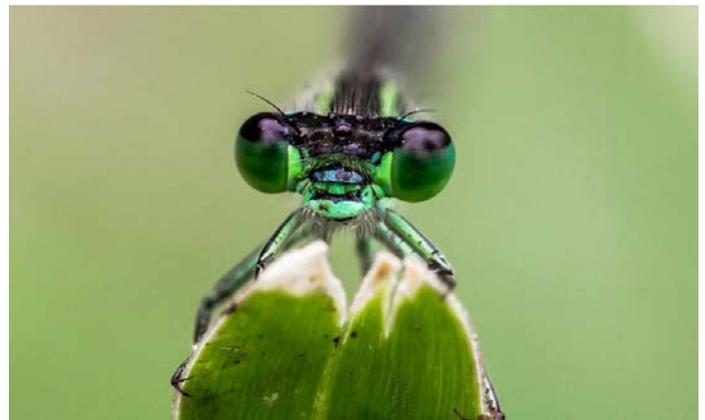
Once again Orange Audubon Society (OAS) celebrates the end of its season with an exclusive showing of entries from the annual Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest. Eligible entries in the 2015 (27th Annual) competition provide a virtual tour across Florida with images photographed from the East to West coasts; and from the Panhandle to the Keys.

A Silent Auction has also become a tradition for this end-of-season event, and OAS will furnish tasty and substantial finger foods so that you don't need to worry about making dinner before or after the program. Just arrive at 6:00 p.m. with an appetite for delicious food and beautiful photography, and bring your wallet for the Silent Auction. Your small donation (\$5 suggested) to help defray the cost of the event will be sincerely appreciated.

By 7:00 p.m. the Chertok show will begin and the suspense will mount ... who will win the contest in the Youth, Novice and Advanced Amateur/Professional categories? Answers unfold at the program's conclusion when winners are announced and over \$1,200 in ribbons, cash and other prizes are awarded.

At the same time there will be heightened anticipation from friendly competition for dozens of Silent Auction donations from local restaurants, native nurseries, camera and outdoor retail outfitters, resorts, area theme parks, our fantastic members and more (see article inside for featured items).

Proceeds from this program will benefit a future OAS nature center and/or related conservation and nature education projects.



Rambur's Forktail Damselfly Photo: *Steven Long*
2014 Chertok Photo Contest Honorable Mention Winner.
One of the photos on display at Colonial Photo & Hobby

Your support will be sincerely appreciated and acknowledgements for tax purposes are available to donors upon request.

Mark the date and don't forget to bring three things with you: an appetite for good food and camaraderie, your checkbook or cash for our world famous 'cash-n-carry quickly' auction (credit cards accepted, but slower to process!) and your best party attitude. Let's make a fuss over us!

Teresa Williams, Photo Contest Chair

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/

Last Call to Action for Amendment 1

If you are reading this in the first week of June, there's one more thing you can do to help secure greater funding for Florida Forever, which according to Amendment 1 (approved by 75% of voters) was supposed to receive 33% of net revenues from the existing excise tax on real estate transactions (doc stamps), an estimated \$757 million per year.

Contact the key legislators who will be negotiating the House and Senate budgets, which includes Amendment 1 spending. These 18 key legislators are listed at <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/sections/action/takeaction>. Thank you!



May 30 "Finish the Job" Rally at Eagle Nest Park Photo: Deborah Green

Reduce Water Demand to Protect Lakes, Rivers and Springs

Orange Audubon Society members and friends are encouraged to attend an upcoming Central Florida Water Initiative "Solutions Plan" public meeting on June 4th and to speak up for giving conservation measures and water conservation education (Water Ethic) more emphasis and funding. Water conservation is much cheaper than many of the proposed infrastructure projects, especially those that would take water from our rivers. Further, conservation often saves money for both consumers and the utilities by negating or delaying the need to add more water supply infrastructure.

The meeting is on Thursday, June 4th, from 4:30–6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 300 W Plant Street, Winter Garden. If you need more information or have suggestions, please contact me at rhs-oas@att.net or (407) 886-2925.

Bob Stamps, Conservation Chair

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) is America's cornerstone bird conservation law. Passed in 1918, it was part of legislative efforts by Audubon and other early conservationists to stop plume hunters from wanton killing of birds to adorn women's hats, and to stop market hunting that contributed to the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon and other species. The MBTA was successful in helping to end these practices and is credited with preserving hundreds of species, such as the Snowy Egret.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has dusted off this century-old law and proposes to expand the kinds of activities the law would cover. This bold new approach could help reduce the number of bird "death traps" that kill tens of millions of birds each year by putting uncovered oil waste pits, unshielded power lines, cell tower, and other hazards under the scrutiny of the MBTA.

National Audubon supports this effort, and Orange Audubon Society has joined Audubon chapters across the country in a letter to USFWS in support of improvements to the MBTA.

Please add your voice in support also. Sign up to receive alerts from Audubon at audubonaction.org.

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.

Orange Audubon Society

P.O. Box 941142

Maitland, FL 32794-1142

www.orangeaudubonfl.org

President: Deborah Green

sabalpress@mac.com; (407) 637-2525

Address Change or E-Delivery: Mike Daley

miked129e@gmail.com; (407) 417-7818

Editor: Maria E.K. Paasch

mkp007.oas@gmail.com; (407) 277-8945

The OAS's Newsletter is published monthly from September through June and is emailed to all OAS members.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN FLORIDA 1-800-435-7352. VISIT www.800helpfla.com FOR HELP. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NO. CH2330.

Colonial Photo & Hobby to Showcase Chertok Photos in Store Displays

Congratulations to 17 photographers whose images entered in Orange Audubon Society's 2014 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest were selected for displays at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. Each year Colonial Photo & Hobby makes 'blind' selections from all eligible contest entries.

The displays, which are being installed as this newsletter goes to press, will include: *Walking the Marsh – Glossy Ibis* by **Cindy Baker**; *White-tailed Deer* by **Kevin Barry**; *Green Clearwing Dragonfly* by **Alyssa Degler**; *Blue Moon Gator – American Alligator* by **Janine Edmondson**; *When Zebras Fly Home – Zebra Longwing* by **Kimberly S. Fulwider**; *Slither and Scales – Yellow Rat Snake* (First Place, Youth Category) by **Matthew Guernier**; *Duckweed and Cypress* (Honorable Mention) by **Tammi S. Jones**; *Bald Eagle* by **Charles King**; *Alligator Eye – American Alligator* (Honorable Mention) by **Mark A. Kosinsky**; *I've Been Spotted – Red Fox* by **Michael Libbe**; *Rambur's Forktail Damselfly* (Honorable



Alligator Eye. 2014 Chertok Photo Contest Honorable Mention Winner. One of the photos on display at Colonial Photo & Hobby. Photo: Mark Kosinsky

Mention) by **Steve Long**; *Bumble Bee and Green Metallic Bee on Thistle* by **Evelyn Mason**; *Blow Dry – Nuptial Plumage Male Anhinga* by **James Mauzy**; *Baby Black-necked Stilt Cuddles Mom* by **Ruth Pannunzio**; *Got One! – Partially Leucistic Reddish Egret* by **Jack Rogers**; *Snuggle Time – Sandhill Cranes* (Honorable Mention) by **Debra Schmidt**; and *Red-shouldered Hawk Nest* by **Jim Urbach**.

Colonial Photo & Hobby has co-sponsored the Chertok competition since 2004 by contributing some of the prizes for winning photographers and featuring selected entries within their ever-busy retail premises. The displays credit the photographers who portray Florida's natural world so beautifully and help to increase interest in the annual competition and nature photography.

Items and Help Needed for Silent Auction

The June 18th Orange Audubon Society (OAS) meeting will once again include a Silent Auction with items from local businesses and items that you have personally made, baked or grown (i.e., Make It, Bake It, Grow It). Please notify us ahead of time of your planned contribution so that volunteers organizing this event will also be able to enjoy the evening; last minute contributions 'without notification' can frazzle the most disciplined volunteer.

If you 'know' a business owner who might contribute to the Silent Auction, please solicit a donation or provide us with the contact person. If you have something to contribute, please contact Loretta at (407) 886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net or Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com so that bid sheets and accounting matters can be handled prior to the meeting. For each item, please provide a description, retail value and suggested minimum bid price (to ensure proper sales tax treatment and maximum fundraising potential). Deadline for notification of donations is Sunday, June 14th since the program is June 18th.

Since the June hospitality/auction/program is a busy, jam-packed evening, we need many volunteers to help us with hospitality and the silent auction (it's not hard work, just a lot of it in a few hours — checking items in, keeping bid sheets current and items organized during the auction and, upon close of the auction, pre-tallying multiple winning bids to help the cashiers). Please contact us (see above) if you can help that evening.

All proceeds from this event will benefit OAS' future nature education center, related conservation and/or education programs. Thank you for volunteering to help at the event, soliciting and/or making, baking or growing a donation(s) and then bidding on the fabulous auction items. Cash and checks (preferred), but credit cards accepted. See you on June 18th!

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams, Silent Auction Co-Chairs

Silent Auction Donor Acknowledgement

Orange Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges donors who, at press time, have pledged to make contributions for the silent auction on June 18, 2015. As other donations are received we will update a list on the website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org. Stay tuned. Donations pledged to-date are listed below.

- **Albin Polasek Museum**, Winter Park – Annual membership
- **Alfond Inn**, Winter Park – Certificate for one-night's stay in a classic king room and complementary valet parking
- **Anderson, Bruce** – *The Birdlife of Florida* by Henry M. Stevenson and Bruce H. Anderson (New); "A masterpiece of Florida Ornithology. Pick a species and learn more than you ever thought possible about its range and Natural History in FL."
- **Atlas Screen Printing/Wild Cotton** – nature-inspired merchandise
- **Audubon Center for Birds of Prey**, Maitland – Behind-the-Scenes tour for 5 people and a Raptor Release
- **Aquatica**, SeaWorld's Waterpark – 4 one-day admission tickets
- **Biosphere** native plant nursery, Winter Garden – Gift Certificate
- **Boggy Creek Airboat Rides**, Kissimmee – Gift Certificates
- **Bok Tower Gardens**, Lake Wales – Admission tickets
- **Brown, Sherry** – Picture frames
- **Carpenter, Linda** – Books: *85 Years Birding: Adventures and Learning* and *More Amazing, Incredible Birds* both by Kenneth J. Johnson – both collectibles.
- **Colonial Photo & Hobby, Inc.**, Orlando – Cool merchandise for cool photo hobbyists
- **Davis, Barbara** – JM New York double-decker wheeled duffel bag w/ hidden compartments
- **DeVane, Maggie** – John Gould & H.C. Richter Hummingbird lithograph and hooded Audubon windbreaker
- **Dexter's Restaurants** – Gift Cards
- **Dixie Crossroads**, Titusville – Gift Certificates
- **Doggie Door**, Winter Park – Hatley sleep shirt + totes for bird and Yorkie lovers
- **Enzian Theater** – Evening for 2 – includes admission + refreshment Gift Certificates
- **Fischer, Sherry** – framed digital photo (*Little Blue Heron*)
- **Gatorland** – Gift basket
- **Gigi's Ristorante Italia**, Mt. Plymouth – Gift Certificates
- **Green, Deborah** – Books: *2 Watching Wildlife in the Wekiva River Basin* + *2 Paradise Preserved: Natural History Explorations—Canaveral National Seashore & Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge*
- **Green Images** native plant nursery, Christmas – Gift Certificates
- **Green Isle Gardens** native plant nursery, Groveland – Gift Certificate
- **Henry, Gini** – gemstone pendant: hand wire-wrapped, non-tarnish sterling silver
- **Historic Edgewater Hotel**, Winter Garden – Gift Certificate for one-night stay + breakfast at this "Bed & Breakfast Style Inn"
- **Hounds & Kitties**, Maitland – Glass "Kitty" pendant choker and Gift Certificate for healthy pet foods & treats, toys, etc.
- **Jones, Arthur** – 10x13 photograph (*Wood Duck, Azalea, Cypress Trunk*) on wood panel and 16x20 photograph (*Egret Mystique*) on metal
- **Keim, Mary** – Northern Pintail wood decoy, Rose Quartz bookend, and mini-edition of *Birds: The Art of Ornithology* by Jonathan Elphick
- **Kirby, Susan** – 7 packets, 4 designs each, original photo notecards

Silent Auction Donor Acknowledgement, Continued

- **Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza** – official festival t-shirts
- **Lakeside Inn, Mt. Dora** – 2 day/1 night Gift Certificate
- **Le Coq au Vin** – Gift Certificates
- **Lighthouse Key Resort & Spa** – three-day/two-night stay in a two-bedroom villa
- **Mad Cow Theatre Company** – 2 tickets to regular performance
- **Martin, Larry's mom** – 3 silver-plated serving items, 2 matted & framed Nancy Carroll King seaside watercolors
- **Mathis, Lori** – 1995 signed, framed Florida Wildlife Exposition festival poster, basket with bottle of Thirsty Owl wine and wineglass, 4 books
- **Miller's Hardware** – Hummingbird feeder + food & Gift Certificate
- **Mobley, Brent** – *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America*, 9th printing July 2014
- **Morse Museum, Winter Park** – 8 general admission tickets
- **Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Apopka** – Gift Cards and more
- **Orlando Camera Club** – Free membership
- **Phelan, Steve** – Parabolic microphone and Sony recorder to capture and record bird songs and *The Singing Life of Birds by Donald Kroodsma*
- **Poole, Richard** – 3 nestboxes and native plants
- **Porkie's Original BBQ Ribs, Apopka** – Gift Certificate
- **Premier Boat Tours, Mt. Dora** – Gift Certificate for Tour for 2
- **Quigley, Gallus** – All-day birding for 2 with Gallus Quigley
- **Rodriguez, Delsy** – 11x14 photographs: *Blue-winged Teal* and *Crested Caracara*
- **Rohman, Brook** – 2 Hand-knitted shawls
- **Rollins College Center for Lifelong Education** – Gift Certificate for two classes
- **Roux, Chuck** – 1950 Popular Edition of *Audubon's Birds of America*
- **SeaWorld Orlando** – 4 one-day admission tickets
- **Shimizu, Dominique & Paul Lammardo** – 4 Orlando Science Center general admission tickets
- **Simpson, David** – Birding for 4 with David Simpson
- **Sloane, Margie** – *Ibis Landing* – framed digital photo
- **Sorzano, Diane & Derek** – Dianne Coleman signed/numbered/framed *Ferns & Butterflies* print
- **Stamps, Bob** – native plants
- **Starbucks (Aloma at Balfour), Winter Park** – Coffee and merchandise for java junkies
- **Walt Disney World** – 4 Park Hopper one-day tickets
- **Wekiva Island, Longwood** – Gift basket
- **Wild Birds Unlimited, Winter Springs** – Merchandise for nature enthusiasts
- **Williams, Teresa** – 4 jigsaw puzzles; Williams Sonoma 3-pc mixing bowl set; Sign: *I kissed a dog and I liked it!* and Paula Deen measuring cups and spoons
- **Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour** – Tickets to tour 3 canal-linked Winter Park lakes
- **Wraithmell, Andy** – All-day birding for 4 with Andy Wraithmell (in the Florida Panhandle)
- **Yebba, Ana, Hair Designer** – Gift Certificate for salon services

Some restrictions may apply to time and use of gift certificates and/or tours. Florida sales tax of 6½% will be added to the final bid price of taxable items. Additional donations are expected before the June 18th event, so bring cash, checks and credit cards and be prepared to outbid even your best Audubon buddies! OAS is grateful for your participation as a contributor, bidder or both. YOU make this auction and YOUR OAS chapter a big success.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams, Silent Auction Co-Chairs

In Case You Missed the Program ...

Fins and Feathers: Why Little Fish Are A Big Deal To Florida's Coastal Waterbirds

At the May Orange Audubon Society (OAS) meeting Debbie Salamone, communications officer for the Pew Charitable Trust's U.S. ocean conservation programs in the Southeast, spoke about shark conservation and the decline of primary food sources for coastal water birds.

One hundred million sharks are killed annually, primarily for shark fin soup, an expensive delicacy (\$100 per bowl or more) in many Chinese restaurants, according to Salamone, award-winning, former environmental reporter and editor at *The Orlando Sentinel*. Consequently, half of all sharks are "headed for extinction," she said. A Pew sampling of the soup in 15 U.S. cities found we are eating "an endangered species." Pew also has advocated against "finning," a cruel practice by fishermen of cutting off the shark's fin and throwing the animal back in the water to bleed to death. Salamone then spoke of her terrifying 2004 shark encounter at Canaveral National Seashore near New Smyrna Beach.

As she waded waist deep, "a huge fish jumped out of the water." That fish grabbed her foot, and although she began kicking, "it wouldn't let go." Her achilles tendon was ripped apart. It took 18 months for the injury to heal. After her recuperation and, upon learning that sharks were headed for extinction, she formed an advocacy group called Shark Attack Survivors for Shark Conservation, featured on the Discovery Channel's 2012 *Shark Fight*.

Salamone also reported on the decline in small baitfish, a primary food source for many of Florida's imperiled coastal water birds such as Reddish Egrets, Brown Pelicans, Roseate Spoonbills and Black Skimmers. Pew's Forage Fish Campaign is collecting "pledges" to urge the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to adopt new measures to help maintain and enhance Florida's legacy as the Fishing Capital of the World by protecting forage fish.

Members of the audience signed the pledge that will be taken to the FWC's late June meeting. Others are urged to sign the pledge online at www.floridaforagefish.org and to "share" and get other signatures that will be presented to FWC. For more information on The Pew Charitable Trust's conservation work go to pewtrusts.org. For the full *Fins and Feathers* report, see <http://bit.ly/FinsandFeathers>.

Linda Carpenter, Publicity Committee

Birdathon Champs Named

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2015 Birdathon fundraiser took place on April 18th. Great weather enabled enthusiastic birders: Sherri Brown, Karen Hamblett, Paul Hueber, Mary Keim, David Marano, Lori Mathis, Bob Sanders, Loretta Satterthwaite, Randy Snyder, Bob Stamps, Joyce and Bill Stefancic, Barbara Taylor, and Teresa Williams to span Central Florida seeking as many interesting, beautiful, and unique bird species as possible in a 24-hour period. Collectively 150 species were counted.

Recognition certificates for individuals with the most species seen and the most pledges solicited, respectively, went to Lori Mathis with 98 species—amazing, and Teresa Williams with \$600 pledged—astounding!

Birdathon donations will be used for a future OAS nature education center, related conservation or nature education projects. A big shout out goes to birders and fund-raisers named above plus Deborah Green, Susan Ledlow, Brent Mobley and Charlie and Marianna Ross for their fundraising efforts. If you also solicited pledges, please send pledge sheets and tax-deductible donations to OAS, P O Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. Thank you!

Brook Rohman, Birdathon Chair

Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area Limited Edition Field Trip Report

The final Limited Edition Field Trip for this season was Saturday, of May 30th to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Osceola County. As promised we saw Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Bachman's Sparrow, and other pineland specialties. I want to thank everyone who participated in this season's Limited Edition Field Trips. We'll do it again. Enjoy the summer. See you all in September.

Bob Sanders

Winter Park Residents Assisted by Energy Efficiency Program Funded by Toyota TogetherGreen by Audubon

A program to help low-income residents of the City of Winter Park (City) lower their energy bills comes from Orange Audubon Society (OAS) supported by a \$64,000 Toyota TogetherGreen by Audubon grant, in conjunction with the City's Sustainability Program. Winter Park has some of the wealthiest neighborhoods in Florida but approximately 2,700 Winter Park households (twenty-four percent of Winter Park's 11,000 households) have incomes of \$25,000 or below.

The grant-funded program, named Winter Park Homeowners Energy Efficiency Program (WPHEEP), was modeled after the 2010–2012 Orange County Homeowners Energy Efficiency Program, funded by a federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 grant. The City has its own utility billing, and the City has pledged to provide before and after billing data for this program. In this way the value of energy efficiency in lowering greenhouse gases and energy bills can be documented.

A cornerstone of the WPHEEP program is weatherization to curtail high energy use caused by air leaks through small cracks in building walls, roofs, doors and windows—problems characteristic of target homes built in the 1920s and 1930s and never upgraded.

Participants first attend an energy efficiency workshop, which teaches simple practices they can implement, and are given weather-stripping and caulking materials and a chance to practice their use. Then they book an energy evaluation (audit) through the City. Based on audit recommendations, participants can secure either insulation or duct repair by a trained licensed contractor. The value of these grant-funded retrofits may be as much as \$600. Another partner in the program, Miller's Ace Hardware, provides discounted weatherization materials for the workshops and additional discounts to workshop participants.

Following three workshops at the Winter Park Community Center, open to all Winter Park residents, other workshops were held at Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church and at New Fellowship Church of God. City Sustainability Staff and OAS continue partnering with area churches to engage the target low-income residents in this energy bill reduction effort. The year-long grant will end at the end of October, and the partners are hard at work to secure the target number of program participants. OAS is the only Florida entity to secure a TogetherGreen grant in 2014–2015 and one of only 19 across the country. This is the 8th and last year of Toyota's collaboration with National Audubon to provide these grants.



**I RECEIVED FREE
INSULATION | DUCT REPAIR**

a project supported by **Toyota TogetherGreen** by Audubon
with funding from Toyota® through Orange Audubon Society

do you qualify? contact 407.599.3364 or sustainability@cityofwinterpark.org

Energy Efficiency Workshop Photo: Deborah Green
Yard Sign to publicize those completing the program.

Deborah Green, Climate Chair

Rest in Peace – Frances Yokel

We are sorry to report that Fran Yokel, wife of former Florida Audubon Society President Bernie Yokel, passed away on May 22nd. The lives of many Orange Audubon Society members were impacted by this fast-talking lady. Fran was a member of Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society where she served on the board of directors and on numerous committees over many years. A retired elementary school teacher, Fran also volunteered at Trout Lake Nature Center. She was a champion for our environment and loved to be outdoors. Donations in her name can be made to Trout Lake Nature Center, and a celebration of her life will be held on Monday, June 22nd at 2:00 p.m. at Trout Lake Nature Center, 520 E. County Road 44, Eustis, FL 32726.

Bees and Birds Affected by Pesticides

In 2006, U.S. commercial migratory beekeepers reported sharp declines in their honey bee colonies. Declines had happened in the past, but now, in a phenomenon named colony collapse disorder (CCD), adult bees were abandoning their hives. A growing body of science has attributed these alarming recent bee declines to exposure to the what has rapidly become the world's most widely used class of insecticides, *neonicotinoids* ("neonics").

The American Bird Conservancy's report "The Impact of the Nation's Most Widely Used Insecticides on Birds," cites that a single corn kernel coated with a neonicotinoid can kill a songbird. Birds that breed, winter in or migrate through agricultural areas such as Dickcissels and Bobolinks are at significant risk from direct contact. Raptors such as Peregrine Falcons, eagles, owls, and hawks are at risk of accumulating high chemical concentrations in their bodies when they feed on poisoned prey. Birds in urban areas that eat seeds or insects from pesticide-treated plants may also be in jeopardy.

More will be included in future newsletters, but meanwhile information and calls for action are on the websites of Beyond Pesticides, Center for Food Safety, Pesticide Action Network North America, and the Center for Environmental Health.

Deborah Green, Conservation Committee

Beyond Pesticides Forum in Orlando

The national Beyond Pesticides forum (33rd annual) was held in Florida for the first time this April at the Florida A&M University College of Law in downtown Orlando. Scientists and advocates for limiting use of toxic pesticides shared information and strategized about public health and environmental protection. Past OAS board member Jeanne Economos, Pesticide Safety and Environmental Health Project Coordinator with the Farmworker Association of Florida, organized the tour of the Lake Apopka former farmlands, focused on persistent pesticides and their effects on the farmworkers. Forum presentations including those of Keynote speakers Dr. Tyrone Hayes and Dr. Lou Guillette are archived on the 2015 Beyond Pesticides Forum at www.beyondpesticides.org.



Jeanne Economos, Keynote speaker
Dr. Tyrone Hayes, and Deborah
Green at Beyond Pesticides Forum

May Field Trip Report – Seminole Ranch Conservation Area



Black Swallowtail larvae on Water Hemlock and Needleroot Airplant Orchid Photos: Mary Keim

Ten birders and natural history buffs attended the May 23rd Orange Audubon Society field trip to Seminole Ranch Conservation Area. We toured Seminole Ranch first and routed our return trip through adjacent Orlando Wetlands Park.

At least 42 bird species were observed including Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, Glossy Ibis, Limpkin, Black-necked Stilt, Common Ground-Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Purple Martin and Northern Parula. Other vertebrates included Florida Gar, Green Treefrog and Dusky Pigmy Rattlesnake.

Invertebrates included Ebony Jewelwing, Black Swallowtail, Pearl and Phaon Crescents and Black Horse Fly. Flowers in bloom included Browne's Savory, Water Hemlock, Yellow Milkwort, Rose-of-Sharon, Coastal Rosegentian and Rosy Camphorweed.

We also stopped to look at epiphytes such as Needleroot Airplant Orchid, Butterfly Orchid, Shoestring Fern, and several kinds of airplants. It was a great group of people on the trip and afterwards we were treated to nice hospitality from the Friends of the Orlando Wetlands as we ate our lunch in the air-conditioned education center. *Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair*

Thanks to Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite

Since the founding of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) in 1965, many well-known names from Central Florida's environmental community have served as officers. Among those who have served in leadership roles most consistently since the early 1980s are Dr. Robert (Bob) Stamps and his wife Loretta Satterthwaite.

Bob is Professor Emeritus of Environmental Horticulture with the University of Florida (UF) at the Mid-Florida Research and Education Center (MREC) in Apopka. His research, teaching and extension activities included topics as diverse as water conservation, utilization of native and appropriate plants, control of invasive plants, and prevention of ground and surface water contamination. Loretta's degrees are in 'Teacher Training in Biology' and they met when Loretta was the graduate student (teaching assistants) coordinator for, and both taught, Biology for Non-majors at the U of Illinois. She held positions of Publications Associate and Statistician at MREC and retired in 2012.



Loretta Satterthwaite and Bob Stamps,
Photo Courtesy of Chad Stamps

Bob and Loretta, who are life members of Audubon, have made significant contributions at the state level. Both served on the board of Florida Audubon Society and with the formation of Audubon Florida (AF), Bob was elected by the Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee to serve as its delegate on the AF Board, where he serves as Chapters' Committee Chair. He organized the three most recent Audubon Academies, including February's regional Academy, and is helping to organize AF's 2015 Audubon Assembly, to be held in late October in Maitland. This past year, Bob has represented Audubon on the Conservation Subteam of the Central Florida Water Initiative Solutions Team.

Through their extensive volunteerism, they have inspired others to volunteer also. They each served as OAS president (Loretta: 1987–89 and 2002–06; Bob: 1994–96 and 2008–10) and in other offices, including Loretta as Treasurer for many years, as chairs of committees (Conservation, Finance, Goals, Nature Education Center, Photo Contest, Programs, Publicity, Recycling, Sanctuary, and Webpage) and as members of others. They served as OAS's co-editors, edited the *Common Native Plants of Central Florida* for the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, and developed publications, including OAS' attractive annual brochure and the OAS "Central Florida Bird Checklist."

Bob and Loretta were instrumental in the establishment of OAS' Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest 27 years ago and have served continuously on the contest committee. Both have contributed to OAS' enviable position of financial stability by assisting with other successful fundraising efforts such as the Silent Auction and nature merchandise sales.

Bob was a primary contributor to the creation of Orange County's environmentally sensitive lands list and evaluation matrix while serving on the Orange County Conservation and Recreational Lands Committee. They also participated as surveyors for the first Florida Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Bob organized the first attempt at habitat restoration with a controlled burn and long leaf pine and wiregrass replanting at one of the Florida Audubon Society's sanctuaries. He also served on the board and as vice-chair of the Florida Conservation Foundation and was treasurer and publications editor for Citizens Against Throwaways that worked to improve Florida's first recycling legislation. Additionally, Bob served on the board of Friends of Lake Apopka and as a docent at Oakland Nature Preserve.

Bob and Loretta have been influential in promoting ecotourism interest in the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, including securing collaboration with former Orange County Commissioner Fred Brummer to roll out the highly successful 2013 Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza. After its third successful year in 2015, the festival now has an annual date of the first Saturday in February.

Bob and Loretta have been passionate, dedicated and consistent advocates for Central Florida's environment, sending clearly written letters and appearing and speaking up at all the relevant meetings. Both worked hard to mobilize petition-gathering and voting for Amendment 1. The OAS board and other members who know them are deeply grateful to Bob and Loretta for their outstanding service to the cause of conservation in Florida.

Deborah Green with Mary Keim

Lake Apopka North Shore Drive – Gates Finally Open!

In May the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) opened an 11-mile wildlife drive through portions of the approximately 20,000 acres on the Lake Apopka North Shore. The drive is open Friday through Sunday (and on federal holidays) from sunrise to an hour before sunset and is free!



Grooming Anhinga Photo: Dominick Martino. 2006
Chertok Photo Contest Honorable Mention Winner

Modeled after Black Point Wildlife Drive, the 7-mile auto tour at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the unpaved, one-way road begins at Lust Road and empties onto Jones Road. Vehicles share portions of the road with hikers and bicycle riders exploring the Lake Apopka Loop Trail, and the speed limit is 10 mph. The District spent \$300,000 to improve the lime-rock road and add “turn-outs” where visitors can pull over and get out to scope out the birds.

With close-up views of the marshes, it’s a chance to see diverse waders and other birds, alligators, raccoons, bobcats, and other wildlife all from the comfort of one’s car. On Memorial Day, following an article in the *Orlando Sentinel*, there was a steady stream of cars.

This long-awaited drive will clearly be a hit! OAS plans to participate in an event, possibly in November, where members with spotting scopes will be positioned along the drive to help visitors find interesting birds. Stay tuned.

Help Still Needed for the Florida Breeding Bird Atlas

Extending through 2016, the second Florida Breeding Bird Atlas is sponsored by the Florida Ornithological Society, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Audubon Florida. If you can make observations in Orange County, contact Coordinator Bruce Anderson at scizortail@aol.com or (407) 671-3137.

Reminders and Thanks

The June 18 program is the final Orange Audubon Society (OAS) activity for the 2014–2015 season. Over the summer, the Board will be planning activities for the upcoming year. If you have ideas for programs or any other suggestions, please contact me at sabalpress@mac.com or (407) 637-2525

Remember that OAS is run entirely by volunteers. If you wish to contribute as a volunteer next year, please let us know.

Membership renewals are handled through National Audubon Society (NAS). The renewal process can be confusing because NAS sends notices well before your renewal date. If you have any membership questions, contact me.

Thanks to all who participated in OAS programs, who volunteered, and/or donated. We appreciate you! Hope you all have a great summer! And hope to see you at the June 18th program!

Deborah Green, President

JOIN OAS' [MEETUP GROUP](#)

LIKE OAS ON [FACEBOOK](#)

Calendar of Events

Contact Your Legislators About Amendment 1 Funding

June 1, 2015 – end of session. Contact Bob at rhs-oas@att.net or (407) 886-2925

Central Florida Water Initiative, Winter Garden

June 4, 2015. Contact Bob at rhs-oas@att.net or (407) 886-2925

Chertok Nature Photography Contest Award Program and Silent Auction

June 18, 2015. Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796