



Special Event:

November 14, 2015 Return to the Roost Hayride at Orlando Wetlands Park

A hayride is a wonderful way to see the far reaches of Orlando Wetlands Park in Christmas, FL. Even more exciting is a sunset hayride in which you can watch wading birds return to the roost.

As the sun sets we will see alligator eye shine. Flashlights may reveal ghostly Wilson's Snipes flying up as we pass. Your eyes adjust to the darkening sky, and night sounds will fill your senses. It is a unique experience.

This event on Saturday, November 14th, 4:30-6:30 p.m., is an Orange Audubon Society fund-raiser. Cost is \$30 per person with 20 people maximum. Wetlands Park is located at 25155 Wheeler Rd, Christmas, FL. Contact Teresa Williams at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796 to register. For additional information, contact Danielle Ponsolle at (407) 658-4869.

Wetlands Park Winter Closing

Orlando Wetlands Park will be closing for the season on November 14 to reopen on January 31, per the purchase agreement between the City of Orlando and the original owners. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher and Vermilion Flycatcher were both found in mid October. Consider making a last visit!

Monthly Field Trip:

November 21, 2015 Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive



Osprey
Photo: Mary Keim

On Saturday, November 21st, Orange Audubon Society will visit the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. The 11-mile drive through the eastern portion of the Lake Apopka North Shore begins at Lust Road and ends on Jones Road.

The North Shore is one of Central Florida's Important Bird Areas. An article on page 5 lists recent bird sightings. More about the 20,009-acre property including map and bird list is at <http://floridaswater.com/recreationguide/lakeapopka/>.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the beginning of the wildlife drive at 2803 Lust Rd, Apopka, 32703. Bring birding gear, drink and lunch. We will walk about one mile. Free. No registration is required. Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, contact us at rssmhk@gmail.com

*Mary Keim and Randy Snyder,
Field Trip Committee*

This Month's Program:

November 19, 2015 Bird ID Challenges Presented by Jim Cox

For our November program, Jim Cox will present on bird species identification strategies. Jim directs the Stoddard Bird Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station near Tallahassee and serves on the Board of Apalachee Audubon.

Jim has taught a popular bird-watching class at Florida State University and continues to try to lure new people into the birding community. He worked as a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for many years before moving to Tall Timbers.



Jim has been studying Brown-headed Nuthatches, Bachman's Sparrows and other species and is interested in researching the nuthatches of Central Florida (see page 4). Join us November 19th for a fascinating program. Location and time details are in box to left.

Brook Rohman, Programs Co-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/

Climate Change Report



For years environmental groups have lobbied the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate carbon dioxide (CO₂) under the Clean Air Act (passed in 1963 and amended several times, most recently in 1990).

In 2007, the Supreme Court (*Massachusetts v. EPA*) ruled that “greenhouse gases (GHGs) fit well within the Act’s capacious definition of ‘air pollutant’” and the EPA must determine whether these gases endanger public health and welfare. In 2009, the EPA Administrator signed two distinct findings regarding GHGs under section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act: 1) Endangerment Finding: current and projected concentrations of the six key well-mixed GHGs — CO₂, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride — in the atmosphere threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations; 2) Cause or Contribute Finding: combined emissions of these well-mixed GHGs from new motor vehicles and new motor vehicle engines contribute to the greenhouse gas pollution that threatens public health and welfare. These findings were a prerequisite for implementing CO₂ emissions standards.



The 2012 passenger vehicle standards cover passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty passenger vehicles, from model year 2017 to 2025 and will raise average fuel economy to up to 54.5 mpg for model year 2025, for a combined increase of more than 90 percent over 2011 levels. The standards were adopted by the EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with the cooperation of major automakers and the state of California.

Clean Power Plan

On August 3, 2015, the Obama administration unveiled the final version of the EPA’s Clean Power Plan aiming

to lower emissions from U.S. power plants by 32% below 2005 levels by the year 2030.

Most attention has been placed on coal, the fossil fuel that creates the most CO₂ emissions. Under the Clean Power Plan, states could comply not just by cleaning or shutting down coal plants, but also by making far broader changes across the electricity system — reducing demand, investing in “smart grid” technology or supporting more renewable sources of energy.

The Clean Power Plan’s flexible compliance options allow states to fully deploy energy efficiency to help meet their state goals. The U.S. Department of Energy has already finalized energy efficiency standards for 29 categories of appliances and equipment, as well as new building codes for commercial buildings.

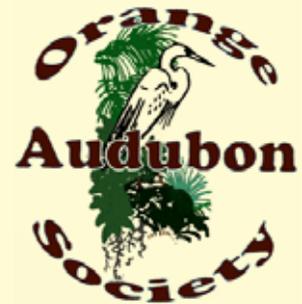
Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is in the final stages of a year-long energy efficiency project aimed to reduce greenhouse gases and energy bills of low income Winter Park residents. The Toyota TogetherGreen grant through National Audubon Society helps residents who cannot afford their own energy efficiency upgrades but whose older homes may benefit greatly by weatherization, insulation, and duct repair. More on that project next month.

OAS encourages all residents to become as energy efficient as possible and also to explore solar energy (see page 2). The Solar Choice ballot initiative passed its Supreme Court hurdle on October 22 and is now in the ballot petition collection stage.

On October 16th the U.S. Department of the Interior announced that it was cancelling two future oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic offshore, one for the federal waters of the Chukchi Sea and one for the Beaufort Sea. Interior said that the decision follows Shell Oil’s announcement that it will cease exploration activities in the Alaska offshore for the foreseeable future.

OAS could use your help on conservation issues. Please contact Conservation Chair Rick Baird at rbaird4@att.net. Thank you!

Deborah Green, Climate Chair



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 and OASis Editor:
Deborah Green
sabalpress@mac.com
(407) 637-2525

The OASis (Orange Audubon Society Information Source) Newsletter is published monthly from September through June. The newsletter is posted on the OAS website, and a link is e-mailed to all OAS members.

Address Change or E-Delivery:
Mike Daley
miked129e@gmail.com
(407) 417-7818

JOIN OAS’ [MEETUP](#) GROUP
LIKE OAS ON [FACEBOOK](#)

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352, WITHIN THE STATE. FROM OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA CALL 1-850-410-3800. VISIT www.800helpfla.com FOR HELP. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NO. CH2330.

Join a Solar Co-op

At the October meeting, Orange Audubon heard a short presentation from Central Florida Solar Advocates. This grassroots group encourages homeowners to bundle their individual buying power by forming solar co-ops as a way to reduce cost and effort of installing photovoltaic (PV) solar panels.

Through a competitive bidding process, the co-op selects a single contractor to install systems on all of the homes. Each participant owns his or her own system and will sign his or her own contract with the installer.

Floridians do not have access to several important incentives available in other states, but two tax exemptions are in place here. First a sales tax exemption on the cost of solar systems has been in place since July 1, 1997. In May 2005, this exemption was made permanent. Also when property tax is assessed on a residence, the value of solar systems is exempt.

A third incentive is net metering, an arrangement key to solar's growth nationally since the 1980s. Currently in place in 43 states and the District of Columbia, net metering allows a solar customer's electric meter to "spin backwards" when the customer generates more solar energy than he or she uses, ensuring fair credit for the clean power delivered to the grid.

A Federal Tax Credit (better than a deduction because it is cash returned to the taxpayer versus a reduction in income) is 30% of the total cost of the solar installation (materials, permitting, labor, etc.). This credit will expire on December 31, 2016. Information on incentives is found at www.dsireusa.org, with links to the Internal Revenue Code and legislation.

Central Florida Solar Advocates will be happy to talk with you about the economics of installing your own solar panels this way. For information, visit <https://cfsolaradvocates.org/>.

Deborah Green, Climate Chair

In Case You Missed the Program.... Beneficial Bats

While they may look spooky to some, bats are very important to the environment and human health.

We can learn a lot from bat physiology, said Shari Blissett-Clark, at the October Orange Audubon Society program. Eighty different types of medications are directly related to bat physiology. Furthermore, bats protect 400 food and fiber crops by eating insects and pollinating plants.

"Seventy-five percent of all the bats in the world eat insects," which may help protect us against malaria and other virulent diseases carried by mosquitoes.

Some bats have special characteristics that further their significance in the world of mammals. In the desert Southwest the Lesser long-nosed bat, *Lep-tonycteris yerbabuenae*, can see on the darkest night to pollinate large cacti that thrive in the extreme temperatures of the desert where it gets very hot during the day and very cold at night.

Contrary to popular belief, bats are not blind but can see extremely well, she added. In addition to their good eyesight, bats use echolocation, or radar, to hunt insects and navigate at night.

The Florida bonneted bat, *Eumops floridanus*, is the largest bat in Florida, with a wingspan of 20 inches. Occurring in only a few counties in South Florida, it also is the most endangered because of sweeping urbanization.

Shari shared sad news about how an invasive fungus from Europe has killed millions of bats since it was first detected in New York state in 2006. This fungus, commonly referred to as white-nose fungus, grows on the faces and wings of bats, forcing them to wake up too frequently while they hibernate in the winter. Infected bats use up their fat stores too fast and starve to death before Spring arrives. U.S. biologists are searching for a solution.

Bats are protected in Florida and other states, and you cannot disturb them between April 15th and August 15th while they are birthing and rearing young. Building bat houses can help bats survive, she noted. But they have very specific design needs: six hours of sunlight during the day, four chambers, a landing pad and opening at the bottom, three-quarters of an inch wide crevices, a height of 12 to 18 feet, and a predator guard. Bats have many predators including snakes, owls, and raccoons. For more information, go to floridabats.org, batcon.org, or batconservation.org.

Linda Carpenter, Publicity Committee



Shari Blissett-Clark and fascinated Orange Audubon Society audience.
Photo: Susan Kirby



Adult female Brazilian free-tailed bat, *Tadarida brasiliensis*. Photo: Dominique Shimizu

Thank you to all who have already donated in response to Orange Audubon Society's once-a-year Letter Appeal sent to you in September to request financial support.

If you have not already done so, we hope you will consider supporting your local Audubon chapter.

Brown-headed Nuthatch Research

The Brown-headed Nuthatch, *Sitta pusilla*, is one of Florida's smallest birds with specialized habitat needs. It nests in holes in trees, usually dead trees and will use a nest box. Jim Cox, Director of the Stoddard Bird Lab at Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy, has done extensive research on Brown-headed Nuthatches in the Panhandle and would like to expand his research to Central Florida.

Jim and fellow researchers will color mark birds in a particular park or preserve and ask local Audubon members to keep a watch on the individuals. The project would help to build survival data to complement data from Tall Timbers. Brown-headed Nuthatches are recorded from many Central Florida parks and preserves, including Wekiwa Springs State Park.

After putting out nest boxes, Jim hopes to teach park biologists how to band nestlings (much easier than banding adults) so that even more marked birds are available for observation each year.

Are you interested in participating in Nuthatch survey work? For students we hope to set up this volunteer work so you can gain internship credit. For more information, contact Deborah at 407-637-2525 or sabalpress@mac.com.



November Species Highlight: Northern Bobwhite

The Northern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*, is the only quail species found regularly in the Eastern United States and is a National Audubon Priority Species. Bobwhites are small, chunky birds usually found in flocks. These flocks, known as "coveys," give hikers a thrill as they fly up when the birds are startled. Coveys are more common in fall and winter when these birds eat and roost together. When roosting at night, they stay on the ground in a circle with tails pointed inward and heads pointed out.

Bobwhites have brown or brownish-black upper parts with buffy mottling. The male has a broad white eyebrow and the female has a buffy throat and less distinctive eyebrow. The Florida subspecies is darker than bobwhites in other parts of the East and has extensive black on their breast and flanks.

The Northern Bobwhite has a very distinctive call, produced by the male - "Oh-Bob-White"! This call is often the only giveaway that the birds are in the area. They breed in tall grassy fields or pastures, and both the male and the female help build the nest on the ground. A shallow-depression with a domed-shape, the nest is woven of grass and has a side entrance. The female lays 10-15 eggs between February and June, and sometimes the pair will try for a second clutch in July.

The downy young leave their nest soon after hatching and are tended by both parents. Babies feed themselves right away. Bobwhite eat seeds, fruit, leaves and acorns. They will also eat insects and other invertebrates. This species does well in areas where the understory is maintained by regular burns, as this favors grasses and grass seeds.

There has been a 65% reduction in Northern Bobwhite in Florida in the last 20 years. Why is not completely clear, but could be due to loss of habitat due to increased urbanization that decreases the likelihood of regular burns of prime habitat and the succession of grasslands to forest. The eggs and young are easy prey for house cats, dogs, skunks, cotton rats, opossums and owls. The young are also overtaken at times by fire ants. Northern Bobwhite is also still a popular game bird for hunters. Restoring upland habitat on both public and private lands is key to recovering Bobwhite populations, according to researchers.

Brook Rohman



Northern Bobwhites
Photo: Luciene Ferreira

Members Favorite Wildlife Viewing Spots Contributions Due November 19, 2015

For our December program, we are again doing Members Favorite Wildlife Viewing Spots. Are you ready to share some of your favorite spots in Florida, around the country or world? We encourage you to put together a short PowerPoint presentation that should last no longer than 5 minutes (allow another few minutes for questions) and include no more than 20 slides.

Don't use PowerPoint? Someone on the program committee will put your digital slides into format. All programs, no matter the format, must be turned in or emailed by the November 19th meeting to allow us to put together the full program. Even if you have no photos, there will also be an opportunity for sharing about great places visited this year. If you have questions, contact Brook Rohman at (407) 921-8008 or brookrohman@gmail.com. Join us for this holiday sharing among friends!

Lake Apopka Sightings

In the first fall/winter season since the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive has been open, excitement is building. In mid October we saw lots of Indigo Buntings. Swamp and Savannah Sparrows have returned, plus Eastern Phoebe, House Wrens, American Kestrels, Soras, Wilson's Snipe, Northern Harriers, American Bitterns, and Peregrine Falcons. Blue-winged Teal and American Coots are increasing in numbers. An off-course Brown Booby was seen. See you out there!

Brad and Brook Rohman

Fall Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden

The 2015 fall Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks were a big success. In just the first 3 Saturdays in October, 80 different bird species were spotted, including 22 warbler species.

A Bell's Vireo, normally found in the central and southwestern United States and northern Mexico, was seen by many.

With expert birders serving as leaders and other Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members helping attendees sign in and check out "loaner" binoculars, we have a great format. The more eyes the better. Many people just getting into birding have been joining us, some who have never or rarely really looked through binoculars or connected a common bird with its name.



Juvenile Barred Owl. Photo: Brad Rohman

The Barred Owl family is always a big hit and even wading birds, including Wood Storks, are exciting. Challenging-to-spot warblers, vireos, buntings, tanagers, thrushes, and orioles maintain the enthusiasm of the more experienced birders.

Mead Botanical Garden is a special spot for birding, and I speak for many OAS members in saying that we are very happy to have this as a place to introduce new people to our favorite sport. We'll be back in April for spring migration.

OAS thanks the following for their help this fall: Sherri Brown, Linda Carpenter, Paul Hueber, Ellen Rocco, Brook Rohman, Bob Sanders, Marcus Sharpe, Bob Sicolo, Renee Thomas and John Thomson.

Larry Martin,
Mead Botanical Garden Liaison

Announcing the 28th Annual Chertok Photo Contest:

New Entry Date and Prizes

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) announces its 28th Annual Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, themed: *Florida Native Nature*.

Competing in this contest will sharpen your photo skills, increase knowledge of Florida's amazing wildlife and wild places and teach valuable ethical field practices. Eligible photos may not include humans, human artifacts or introduced plant or animal species—subject matter must be native to Florida and must be taken in compliance with NANPA code of conduct: <http://www.nanpa.org/docs/NANPA-Ethical-Practices.pdf>.

New deadline: The deadline is April 16, 2016 (postmarked by date). Participants will be notified of any disqualified entries and may optionally replace them at no charge.

Bonus prizes: In addition to the \$1,200 prize package given by OAS and co-sponsor Colonial Photo & Hobby, 1st–3rd place winners will also be given bonus prizes if winning images were taken on Orange County natural lands (Green PLACES). See OAS' brochure and website for guided Green PLACE photo field trip opportunities.

The contest is open to all photographers (excluding members of OAS' board and Chertok contest committee) and three skill level competition categories are offered: Youth—for photographers age 17 years or younger by May 19; Novice—for new and less experienced photo hobbyists; and Advanced Amateur/Professional—for experienced photographers who have practiced and honed their skills over time. Entry submission details will soon be available. Meanwhile, get outside with your camera and start shooting and preserving Florida's amazing native nature! Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796 if you have questions.

Teresa Williams

October Field Trip Report

Ten attended the October 17th Orange Audubon Society field trip to Hal Scott Preserve. At least 27 bird species were observed including Bald Eagle, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Eastern Phoebe, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, Eastern Bluebird and Pine Warbler.

Invertebrates included Green Lynx Spider, Golden-winged Skimmer, Whirligig Beetle, Common Buckeye, Loammi (aka Florida Dusted) Skipper and Bald-faced Hornet.



Golden-winged Skimmer (*Libellula auripennis*)
Photo: Mary Keim

Thanks to the frequent prescribed fire on the property, the pine flatwoods had more Lopsided Indiangrass than we had ever seen. Wildflowers in bloom included Shortleaf Rosegentian, Nuttall's Meadowbeauty, Water Cowbane, Swamp Milkweed, Pineland Rayless Goldenrod, Stiff (aka Rayless) Sunflower and Coastalplain Chaffhead. Other plants of interest were Butterfly Orchid, Hooded Pitcherplant and Swamp Tupelo. Thanks to several attendees from the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society for helping us to stop and smell the Vanillaleaf.

Backyard Biodiversity

For the 3rd year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) joined Florida Native Plant Society and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. in sponsoring Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden, and joins National Audubon Society's conservation initiative of Bird-Friendly Communities. Thanks to Mary Keim, Larry Martin, Brent Mobley, Randy Snyder and OAS past president Richard Poole for manning OAS' table and educating about nest-boxes.

Early Shopping for the Holidays?

Orange Audubon Society will be selling its nature-inspired merchandise (adult and youth t-shirts, tote bags, nest boxes, signs, mugs, books, etc.) at the November 19th meeting. Sales start at 6:30 p.m., so come early, browse and buy! Bring cash or check for quick check-out (PayPal for credit cards is available).

**Mead Botanical Garden Plant Sale
November 21, 2015**

If you missed Backyard Biodiversity Day, here's another chance to buy wildlife-friendly native plants—Mead Botanical Garden's GrowVember Plant Sale, November 21st from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 1300 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park. The Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society will sell native plants. Orange Audubon Society will have a table, and Larry Martin will lead bird walks from 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m.



Native Plants for Sale at Mead Botanical Garden. Photo courtesy Tarflower Chapter

**It's Lake Eola Fiesta Time!—Please Help
November 7, 2015**

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual participation in the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival is 7th-8th; setup is 4-6 p.m. on the 6th. This is OAS' biggest outreach and nature-merchandise sales event annually, and we need lots of help. We welcome any time you can contribute. 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 volunteers, we will not be able to offer this fun, free children's activity.

Please contact Teresa to volunteer or if you have questions: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796 (eve.). Then mark your calendar and commit to help OAS meet its financial and outreach goals. Thanks.

Oakland Heritage Festival

Thanks to Kathy Rigling and Dominique Shimizu for representing Orange Audubon Society at the Oakland Heritage Festival on October 24th.

**Limited Edition Field Trip, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge
November 14, 2015**

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge in Titusville is the destination for Orange Audubon Society's third Limited Edition field trip of the new season on November 14th. Limited Edition field trips are led by popular birding guide Bob Sanders and limited to 15 people.

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge offers outstanding scenery and very interesting birds, including resident Roseate Spoonbills and Reddish Egrets, a variety of overwintering species and other birds. Previous trips at this time of year have yielded nearly 70 species.

This trip is limited to 15 people and has a cost of \$10 per person per trip for Audubon members (\$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) 459-5617.

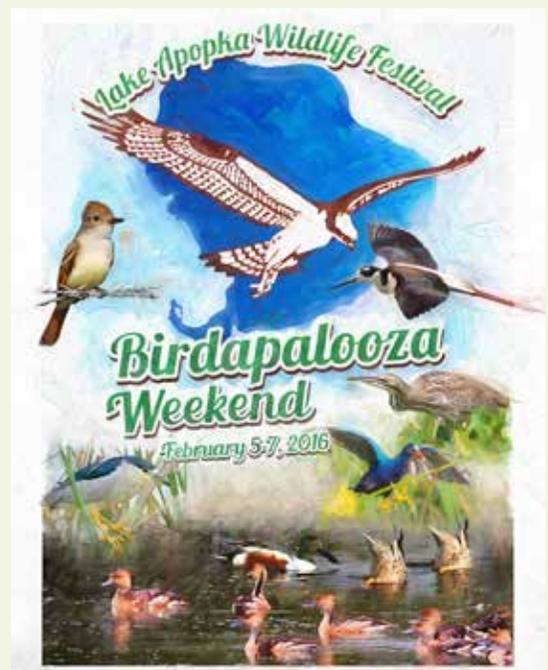
**Exciting Event Coming Up: Reserve Early!
Birdapalooza Birding Festival**

The Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza is now becoming a weekend event, perfect for birders visiting Florida or local birders wanting to learn more from well-known, expert birding leaders.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has organized a mini-Birding Festival on Friday, February 5th with three trips on the Lake Apopka North Shore. You can sign up for the day-long trip or a combination of field trips. See http://orangeaudubonfl.org/oas_field-trips.htm to download the brochure providing details about the field trips and leaders.

A minimum donation to OAS' nature education center fund is requested as part of registration. The all-day trip is \$40 and half-day trips are \$20 each. As the impetus for the festival is to show policy makers that the North Shore can bring in ecotourism dollars, we will be advertising statewide and nationally. Each trip has a limit of 30 participants, so register early. Register first to assure space is available by contacting Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.com or (407) 644-0796 and receive instructions for making your donation online or by check.

On Saturday February 6th, enjoy the free Birdapalooza festival, now in its 4th year, and on Sunday, February 7th find other unusual birds on your own. Tell family and friends and bring them with you!



Local Leaders Honored

Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite have been recognized nationally at Audubon Assembly 2015 with the William Dutcher Award, established to recognize outstanding Audubon volunteers who exemplify the standard of service to Audubon established by Dutcher.



Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite receiving the William Dutcher Award from Audubon Florida President Eric Draper (left) and National Audubon Vice President for Conservation Planning David O'Neill (right).
Photo: Audubon Florida.

Dutcher was the first chairman of the National Association of Audubon Societies in 1905. A tireless birder, researcher and scholar, he was one of the first to promote the idea of bird sanctuaries, conservation education and bird photography.

Dutcher was instrumental in convincing President Theodore Roosevelt to set aside Pelican Island, the first federal wildlife refuge, and fought for early wildlife laws. Recognizing the need for effective local organizations, he helped create the first Audubon chapters and oversaw Audubon's growth from a loose-knit federation to a powerful society.

National Audubon's Vice President for Conservation Strategies David O'Neill was only able to make the presentation after the audience of Bob and Loretta's peers finally sat down after their standing ovation. We have recognized Bob and Loretta's long service to Orange Audubon Society (June 2015 *OASis*, p.9), but it was thrilling to see them receive this national award and to see the enthusiastic recognition by Audubon leaders from around the state. Congratulations, Bob and Loretta!

Deborah Green

"Parks: The Heart of Natural Florida"

Audubon Assembly 2015 in Maitland brought together Audubon Florida's 44 chapters, conservation leaders, scientists, educators and policy makers. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members were well represented at the two-day event, where over 300 participants appreciated the timely presentations on the theme "Parks: The Heart of Natural Florida," organized in part by OAS Board member Sasha George.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection's business-oriented concept of making parks pay for themselves, and the negative impacts that some of the proposed strategies—hunting, grazing, logging—would have, were addressed. In workshops, participants were given strategies to prevent disastrous changes in our three-time award winning park system.

Architects of the Amendment 1 Campaign, attorneys Aliki Moncrief and Will Abberger, were honored at Assembly for their leadership. Since powerful legislators are now so blatantly ignoring the Amendment 1 vote, Moncrief and Abberger have turned their attention to securing election of environmentally-minded legislators and have founded the Florida Conservation Voters. Visit www.fcvoters.org to learn more.



Also honored by Audubon Florida at Assembly was Senator Darren Soto of District 14 (parts of Orange, Osceola and Polk counties). Soto was presented the "Champion of the Everglades" award for his work for Amendment 1 funding for Florida Forever land acquisition, to restore the Kissimmee River in the Northern Everglades, a Comprehensive Water Bill and to stop fracking. Audubon Florida's Eric Draper called him the "Go To" person in the Florida Senate on environmental issues. Congratulations, Senator Soto, and thanks from Orange Audubon!

OAS board members came back from Assembly energized and armed with strategies, but we need your help. Please join the OAS Conservation Committee and work with us to carry out these strategies. Contact Conservation Chair Rick Baird at rbaird4@att.net. Thank you!

Lake Apopka Now An Audubon Florida Priority

Audubon Florida's first conservation priority for 2016, as set at Audubon Assembly, is IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS AND WATERWAYS CONSERVATION. This year the Lake Apopka North Shore is listed among other important sites! "The Lake Apopka Restoration Marsh allows people access to experience an amazing diversity of birdlife - 360 bird species use the lake and marsh. Audubon will work with local agencies to plan an Audubon Center and work with local governments toward management of the public lands for the benefit of birdlife."

Conservation Leadership Initiative

Audubon Florida's Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) at Audubon Assembly 2015 was a great opportunity to recruit college students to join Orange Audubon Society (OAS).

Melissa Gonzalez, University of Central Florida (UCF) student and OAS board member who was a CLI participant last year, assisted with the program and is working with other UCF students. Thanks also to Rick Baird, Deborah Green and Susan Kirby for being mentors.



CLI trip to Wekiwa Springs State Park. Mentor Paul Gray talks sandhill ecology to students.
Photo: Deborah Green

Youth Field Trip – November 7, 2015

Orange Audubon Society's second Youth field trip of the season is on November 7th at Central Winds Park, 1000 Central Winds Dr., Winter Springs, FL. Youth field trips allow children to observe and enjoy the natural world on easy hiking trails.

This site with boardwalk may allow us to see some late fall migrants as well as wetland species. The walk starts at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This trip is free and no reservations are necessary. Loaner binoculars will be available. Please contact leader Brook Rohman at brookrohman@gmail.com or (407) 921-8008 if you have questions.



Youth/Family Photo Workshop Postponed

Orange Audubon Society's November 14th Youth/Family Photo Workshop will be rescheduled in the spring. Instructor Jack Rogers had to cancel due to family health matters. This workshop will be great preparation for young people before entering photos in the Youth Category of the 2016 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest. We will announce the new date soon.

Birds of Prey Identification Class, Lake Apopka

Orange Audubon Society will hold three Birds of Prey Identification Classes on the Lake Apopka North Shore on December 6, 2015, January 3 and February 14, 2016. Each class will be from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. You can attend single or multiple days. Cost for each day is \$5 (Audubon members) or \$10 (non-members).

Popular instructor Bob Sanders is an avid birder who for many years has taught Raptor Identification. Before moving to Central Florida, Bob was co-founder of the Chimney Rock Hawk Watch in Martinsville, New Jersey. No early registration is required. Bob can be reached at (407) 459-5617. Mark your calendars!



Red-tailed Hawk. Photo: Paul Hueber

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Youth Field Trip: Central Winds Park

November 7, 2015
Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival

November 7-8, 2015
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

“Return to the Roost” Hayride, Orlando Wetlands Park

November 14, 2015
To register, contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796
For info, contact Danielle at (407) 658-4869

November Program: Bird ID Challenges by David Simpson

November 19, 2015
Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

November Field Trip: Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

November 21, 2015
Contact Mary at rsmhk@gmail.com.

GrowVember Plant Sale, Winter Park

November 21, 2015
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Birds of Prey Identification Class, Lake Apopka
December 6, 2015, January 3 and February 14, 2016.
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

Christmas Bird Counts: Contact the compiler to participate.

- **Emeralda/Sunnyhill:** December 14, 2015; Peg Lindsay, pegcondor@embarqmail.com.
- **Zellwood/Mt. Dora:** December 17, 2015; Wes Biggs, birdsatfnt@bellsouth.net.
- **Bay Lake:** December 17, 2015; John Thomson, jthomton@hotmail.com
- **Wekiva River:** December 19, 2015; Jay Exum, jay.exum@exumassoc.com.
- **Econlockhatchee:** December 26, 2015; Lorne Malo, lornemalo@bellsouth.net.
- **Clermont:** January 1, 2016. John Thomson, jthomton@hotmail.com.

December Program: Members Favorite Wildlife Viewing Spots

December 17, 2015
Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008