



Can you pick out all the species? They include Caspian Tern, Royal Tern, Forster's Tern, Ring-billed Gull, and Laughing Gull. Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, November 2015. Photo: Mary Keim

This Month's Program:

October 20, 2016

Gull and Tern Identification by Michael Brothers

While raucous Laughing Gulls are the only gulls that breed in Florida, many more species are here in migration or for the winter.

However, identifying gulls may be challenging due to different plumages at different life stages.

Relatives of gulls, the terns have a handful of species breeding in our area, all facing challenges in finding safe breeding locations. Many additional tern species are here in migration and winter.

Orange Audubon Society is fortunate to host Michael Brothers, a gull and tern expert, for its October 20th program. Michael is Director of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet and leads pelagic birding expeditions off Florida and Georgia. He is a member of the Florida Ornithological Society Records Committee and is the Florida regional editor of the journal *North American Birds*. Michael illustrates his talks with great photos.

Bring your mystery gull or tern photos and all your natural history questions for Michael and join us October 20th at 7:00 p.m. for a fascinating program. See box below for location.

Brook Rohman, Second Vice President

October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 31, 2016

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks

Celebrating fall migration, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is hosting bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. Walks will be on Saturdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, and 31, 2016. The October 22nd walk is in place of OAS' Monthly Field Trip.

To entice people to experience the pleasures of birding and become aware of this great location in Winter Park, the walks are free and open to the public with no registration needed. Each walk will be led by an experienced birding leader.



Barred owl at Mead Botanical Garden.
Photo: Brad Rohman

There should be many species of migratory songbirds still passing through in October and winter residents settling in. These include warblers, thrushes, flycatchers and woodpeckers. And of course there are the ever-popular Barred Owls. A bird list is posted at [this link](#).

The walks start at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours. We will cover much of the park, going at a slow pace and stopping frequently to observe birds. Loaner binoculars will be available. If you need to borrow a pair, please arrive a little early to sign them out.

If you have questions, contact me at (407) 647-5834 or lmartin5@msn.com.

Larry Martin, OAS-Mead Liaison

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/





Voting is Ever More Important

The 2016 General Election is critically

important for the environment, so as conservationists we must engage our family members and friends in voting. The League of Women Voters works on voter registration and if you have time to volunteer with this group, please do. The last day people can register to vote in the General Election is October 11th.

There are three ways to vote: 1) Vote by Mail (used to be called Absentee ballot). You may request a Vote by Mail ballot by calling your County Supervisor of Elections up to 6 days prior to the election, request online for the ballot to be mailed to you or download it in pdf form and mail it in. It must be received by 7 p.m. on election day, at the Supervisor of Elections office. 2) Early voting is from October 29–November 5 and in Orange County extends from Monday October 24th through Sunday November 6th at 17 locations, including libraries and community centers, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Or, 3) Vote at your designated polling place on election day.

Information on issues and candidates is available through the [League of Women Voters](#), [League of Conservation Voters](#) (national) and [Florida Conservation Voters](#).

Purposeful Confusion: Vote No on 1

The Orange Audubon Society board has voted to **oppose Amendment 1** on the November ballot, joining other Audubon chapters, other environmental groups, and the League of Women Voters. Why vote NO when we want to promote solar? This “wolf in sheep’s clothing” amendment, to quote Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente who opposed allowing it on the ballot, will solidify the status quo.

Do you remember two years ago when we were collecting petition signatures to get the Solar Choice Amendment on the November Ballot and suddenly there appeared a



second petition, confusingly similar to the first? We didn’t get enough signatures for the petition that was sponsored by [Consumers for Solar Choice](#), but will try again for 2018.

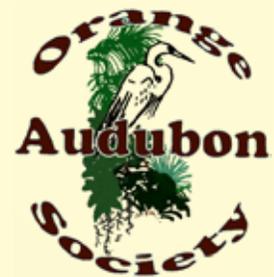
But the second petition, funded by Consumers for Smart Solar with paid petition gatherers, did collect enough signatures, so it is now Amendment 1 on the upcoming ballot. The deceptively-named Consumers for Smart Solar was formed in July 2015 in direct response to the Solar Choice effort, and has received its current \$21.5 million from investor-owned utilities plus several billionaire-backed organizations. If you want to research the money trail, please see the [December 2015 OASis](#), where we gave detailed instructions. Floridians for Solar Choice, Inc. is funded by individuals and the [Southern Alliance for Clean Energy Action Fund](#).

Maintaining the Grid

The investor-owned electric utilities say if people can buy electricity from whomever they want and no longer provide income to the utilities, maintaining the grid will be more expensive, energy rates will go up and low-income users will suffer. However, states like New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, not known for sunshine, are expanding rooftop photovoltaic (PV) cells and panels. Why can’t we?

From Mississippi to Maine states have examined whether solar causes customers to pay more and have concluded that solar customers actually provide a net benefit to the utility’s system. As cost to produce the PV cells and panels declines, solar grows rapidly nationwide. Please don’t be fooled by Amendment 1. Vote No on 1.

*Orange Audubon Society
Conservation Committee*



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:
Rick Baird
rbaird4@att.net
(407) 277-3357

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 the link e-mailed to 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

September Field Trip Report to Canaveral National Seashore

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, our first field trip of the season was to the north section of the Canaveral National Seashore. The twelve of us who made the early morning drive over were rewarded with a fun and informative morning exploring this barrier island environment.

From the dock at the visitors' center we watched a group of manatees pass right below us and later saw dolphins.

At the end of the road, where the pristine beach goes south 17 miles to the Titusville (Playalinda) end of the National Seashore, we crossed the dunes to see what birds we could find. The full moon and high tide made for a narrow beach, but we pressed on. One particularly large wave left us all wet below the knees, despite a frantic scramble.



Canaveral National Seashore Field Trip. Photo: Susan Kirby

We then moved to the accurately named Mosquito Lagoon side of the barrier island, walking through maritime forests to the old settlement of Eldora, then climbing Turtle Mound, an ancient Native American

Midden, i.e., big trash heap. We were able to identify plants, like railroad vine, seaside bean, red bay suffering from laurel wilt, hackberry, Simpson's stopper, white stopper, and papaya, some insects and 22 bird species.

A good time was had by all and I'm looking forward to the next trip. Maybe we'll see you there.

Larry Martin, Field Trip Chair



Above, Everglades Sunset. Photo: Susan Kirby; Below, Christi Carmichael and Bob Showler. Photo: David Marano

Celebrating The Everglades, Florida's National Park

Two veteran rangers of our National Park Service presented a fascinating program on the Florida Everglades at the September Orange Audubon Society program meeting.



To celebrate the centennial of the National Park Service, Bob Showler, who began his life-long career at Flamingo in 1979, shared the diversity of our beautiful national parks. These include Pipestone National Monument, Vicksburg National Military Park, Lewis & Clark National Historical Park, Bering Land Bridge National Park, Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, and others.

Recreationists, historians, conservationists, naturalists, and wilderness seekers have been attracted to the Everglades for decades, he noted, including John James Audubon who first visited in 1932 in search of flamingos. Ever since Audubon's visit, nature lovers have been enjoying the diverse bird species (370), noted by Showler's colleague, Christi Carmichael.

She detailed the rich bird life of the Everglades and the sad history of the plume hunters who devastated the Snowy and Great Egret population in the mid 1800s. "Entire rookeries were shot out on Cuthbert Island, and entire populations of wading birds were nearly annihilated," said Carmichael. It wasn't until 1920 that plume hunting became a thing of the past, she added. Everglades National park was created in 1947.

Uncommon bird species include the White-crowned Pigeon that visits in spring and summer to feed on the fruit of the Poisonwood Tree. The Mangrove Cuckoo, Gray Kingbird, and Black-whiskered Vireo also are frequent migrants.

Flamingos? Perhaps. "There have been regular sightings of one or two birds on Snake Bite Trail, a difficult area to access," said Carmichael. Large numbers of flamingos have been sighted at Mud Lake, however.

And exotic species we have heard much about continue to proliferate: "tens of thousands of Burmese pythons, particularly near the Agricultural Area," said Showler. "They are probably here to stay."

There also are 40 species of mammals, including the Florida panther, 296 species of fish, and a huge diversity of amphibians and reptiles, including the reclusive American crocodile, a native species of the mangrove swamps.

The best time of year to visit? March. Bring plenty of insect repellent for the voracious mosquitoes, and a tarp for your car to protect it from vultures that eat the rubber molding surrounding windshields. But come.

Linda Carpenter, Publicity Committee

Bird-Friendly Communities



“It’s simple: By gardening with native plants —no matter where you live or how small or large your space is —you can help sustain wild-life.” —Doug Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home*

“Hometown Habitat” Film Showing, October 4, 2016

Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*, promotes an idea foreign to most gardeners. The idea is that plants eaten by caterpillars and other insects are the plants people should choose for their gardens. Why? Because these insects are food for songbirds.

Many people know about choosing plants with fruit or seeds for birds, but choosing plants for insect pests is a little different. Tallamy and his students at University of Delaware have counted insect species on different species of trees and shrubs.

For example, trees like oaks and wild cherries have some of the greatest numbers of caterpillar species. You can use the lists of top plants in Tallamy’s book or just focus on your local native plants, almost all of which have insects that feed on them. And of course do not use pesticides.

National Audubon has made one of its primary conservation goals creating Bird-Friendly Communities, since so much of the land in the United States is now residential communities with highly manicured landscapes.

The Florida Native Plant Society celebrates October as Florida Native Plant Month. On October 4th you have the opportunity to see the film “Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home,” which features the Bird-Friendly Communities concepts of Doug Tallamy.

Orange Audubon Society is co-sponsoring this free film showing with the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and several other partners. The 90-minute film will be shown October 4th, 6:45 p.m. at Leu Gardens. If you have any questions, call (407) 851-5416.



Nashville Warbler on American Beautyberry, Orlando backyard. Photo: Mary Keim

Plant and Garden Festival, October 8, 2016

The annual UF/IFAS Orange County Extension Plant and Garden Festival on October 8, 2016 will have great education, vendors, food trucks, and music! Presenters include current Orange Audubon Society (OAS) board member Dena Wild on “Want Pollinators? Grow Herbs” at 10 a.m. and past OAS president Bob Stamps on “Attracting Birds and other Critters to your Yard” at 2 p.m. The event will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UF/IFAS Orange County Extension Center, 6021 S. Conway Road, Orlando. 32812.

Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden October 15, 2016

For the 4th year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is teaming up with the Florida Native Plant Society and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. to sponsor Backyard Biodiversity Day. The event will be Saturday, October 15th from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at Mead Botanical Garden (MBG) in Winter Park.

This free event will host a native plant sale, the proceeds of which will benefit MBG in restoring its upland habitat.

Come early to buy the best selection of native plants to attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators to your landscape. Walks, talks, vendors, music, and food trucks make this a fun event. Contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com if you have any questions or if you would like to help with OAS’ outreach.

BEE Protective in Your Community

A growing body of science attributes alarming bee declines over the past 10 years to exposure to what has rapidly become the world’s most widely used class of insecticides, neonicotinoids (“neonics”).

The report “Impact of the Nation’s Most Widely Used Insecticides on Birds,” by the [American Bird Conservancy](#) documents that it is not only honeybees, pollinators necessary for one in every three human food crops, but also birds that are adversely affected by neonics.

Organizations like [Friends of the Earth](#) and the [National Wildlife Federation](#) have joined organizations focused on pesticide safety like [Beyond Pesticides](#), [Center for Food Safety](#), and the [Pesticide Action Network North America](#) in engaging their members to act to protect bees and other pollinators.

If you want to plant a pollinator-friendly garden, ask the nursery to be sure the seeds or plants weren’t treated with neonicotinoids.

If you possibly can, remove some grass and put in a garden. Each new plant makes a difference.

You can buy native plants on October 15th at Backyard Biodiversity Day. Create safe pollinator habitat in your backyard, school or office.

Deborah Green



Beginners' Bird Watching Class October 1, 8, 15, 2016

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Bob Sanders will teach a Beginners' Bird Watching Class this fall. It includes an "outdoor" classroom session and mini-field trip on October 1st at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and field sessions on October 8th and 15th at OWP and Lake Jesup, respectively. All sessions are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Eastern Phoebe. Photo: Mary Keim

If you miss a fall session, you may take a make-up session during the spring 2017 class.

The class is limited to 20 students and registration is required. 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. New memberships are paid directly to OAS, as instructed when you register. Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. If you have any questions about the class, contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

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.

The Protection of Migratory Birds

In 1918, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was put in place by the United States Government. The act is enforced by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and protects birds and their eggs from sale, possession and harassment. The list of protected birds is quite extensive and covers everything from the Siberian Accentor to the Common Yellowthroat. The full list can be found on fws.gov. Migration is hard on all species of birds, and many of them die from exhaustion, starvation and predation during this time, making this treaty extremely important.

Migration of birds is a fantastic thing to study. The instinct that birds have to fly thousands of miles to and from their wintering and breeding grounds is truly amazing. The bird with the longest migration distance is the Arctic Tern. In fact, they have the longest distance of migration in all of the animal kingdom. These birds fly anywhere from 44,000 to 56,000 miles in one year's time, in order to have their young, escape the brutal arctic winter and to find food. When you think about the fact that these birds are only 11-14 inches from beak to tail, and weigh only about 4 ounces, this is remarkable.

Migration of birds is important to other species as well, including humans. Birds bring us much enjoyment, adding color and sound to our world. They also provide important environmental benefits, such as pollination, rodent control and seed dispersal.

We are fortunate in the state of Florida to live in a migration flyway, and now is the time to be looking for many migrating birds. On each Saturday in October, Orange Audubon Society leads bird walks at Mead Gardens in Winter Park. The walks are free and offer great opportunities to see many birds in their migration. Get your binoculars and get outside! Come enjoy this time with us and connect with the natural world.

Brook Rohman, Education Committee

Photographer's Green PLACE Nature Walk October 8, 2016



Isle of Pine Preserve Green PLACE walk.
Photo courtesy Orange County Environmental Protection Division

Orange County Environmental Protection Division is pleased to offer guided nature walks on the County's Green PLACE properties for birding, wildflower viewing and photo opportunities.

Green PLACE Nature Walks are offered in conjunction with OAS' annual Chertok nature photography contest. Photos taken at Green PLACE sites entered into this contest are eligible for

bonus prizes and inclusion in Orange County's 2018 nature calendar. Click this link to see the list of [Green PLACE](#) properties.

On Saturday, October 8th, bring your binoculars and cameras and enjoy an early morning hike at [Johns Lake Conservation Area](#), 880 Avalon Road, Winter Garden. The walk begins at 7:30 a.m., and will be co-lead by Beth Jackson, Environmental Program Supervisor, and Renee Thomas, experienced nature photographer. On your walk you will pass-through a live oak hammock and traverse a basin marsh that borders Johns Lake. Johns Lake Conservation Area is home to a number of bird species such as Bald Eagle, Osprey, two hawk species, a variety of herons and egrets, Sandhill Cranes, song birds, and more. The 2,424-acre lake is divided into east and west pools with a connecting channel. Capture the American Alligator, blooming pickerel weed, Great Blue Heron and other water birds, and dragonflies on camera from the channel's banks and pier.

The walk is FREE. Please sign-up at [this link](#). A final Green PLACE walk before the April 20th Chertok Photo Contest deadline will be March 4th.

Dragonfly Identification Workshop October 9, 2016

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is offering a Central Florida Dragonfly Identification Workshop on Sunday, October 9, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Instructors are OAS members and dragonfly enthusiasts Mary Keim and Randy Snyder.



Blue Dasher dragonfly. Photo: Mary Keim

An introductory slide presentation will start at 9:00 a.m. at the Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) Education Center on Wheeler Rd in Christmas. The field portion of the workshop will be at OWP and adjacent Seminole Ranch Conservation Area.

Participants should bring binoculars, drink and lunch plus sun protection, insect protection and close-toed shoes that can get wet. An optional recommended text is Paulson, D. 2011. *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.

Cost is \$25 for Audubon members; \$40 for non-members; and \$10 for children 12 or younger with a registered adult. The workshop is limited to 16 students and registration is required.

To reserve a space, contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. If you have questions, contact Randy and Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com or (407) 851-5416.

Genius Drive Workday to be Rescheduled

Orange Audubon will coordinate a workday at another date to remove Caesarweed around Lake Virginia. Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Wings and Wildflowers Festival, October 14-16, 2016

The 5th Annual Wings and Wildflowers Festival will be held October 14-16, 2016. Keynote speakers include Eric Draper, Executive Director of Audubon Florida, and writer Janisse Ray. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) board member Milton Heiberg is among the other speakers. There will be numerous field trips to show off Lake County's great natural parks and preserves, plus an array of exhibitors.

Wings and Wildflowers is at Venetian Gardens, 109 E. Dixie Ave. in Leesburg. For information about the festival, see [this link](#). OAS Board member Kathy Rigling will be there representing OAS and Cornell Labs' Bird Sleuth Program. She can be contacted at riglingk@aol.com or (407) 488-9559.

North Florida Birding and Botany Field Trips and Wolf Encounter, December 8-11, 2016

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is offering a weekend pilgrimage to the Florida Panhandle's Red Hills area for birding and botany field trips and a private, hands-on tour at Seacrest Wolf Preserve this December.

Weekend participants should arrive Thursday evening, December 8, 2016. On Friday morning a park botanist and an experienced OAS birder will lead a botany and birding field trip at Torreya State Park. This park is home to one of the world's rarest and oldest known trees that grows on the bluffs and ravines of Gadsden and Liberty Counties, FL. Later an optional tour of the historic Gregory House is offered (add \$3).

Friday afternoon a private tour at Seacrest Wolf Preserve gives you a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get up close and personal with resident Arctic and Grey Wolf families that are highly socialized with humans.

Saturday field trips to Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS) and the private Greenwood Plantation will be led by Jim Cox, director of TTRS' vertebrate ecology program and

include banding of Henslow's Sparrow (and possibly the rarer Lincoln's) plus an optional sunrise banding of Red-cockaded Woodpecker. A Sunday morning field trip to Birdsong Nature Center, with its mesmerizing Listening Place and Bird Window will cap off another incredible visit to the Red Hills.

Cost for the entire weekend, which includes guides, field trip fees and some meals, is \$80 for members/\$95 for non-members. Cost for the Seacrest private tour only is \$35 for members/\$45 for non-members; and cost for birding/ botany trips only is \$55 for members/\$65 for non-members.

Lodging is first come, first served at Walter Lodge at TTRS, which has 8 private, locked bedrooms (double occupancy with twin beds). Guests share 5 bathrooms, a large open living, dining and kitchen area. The lodge is offered to OAS participants for a discounted rate of just \$37.50/night plus tax if we fill it each night. Because lodge space is limited, priority will be given to weekend participants, but other TTRS facilities may be available for overflow. Rustic camping on the grounds near the lodge will be available at no charge. Please reserve promptly to enjoy three nights of slumber under ancient longleaf pine or book a hotel of your choice. The I-10 at Thomasville Road area is recommended.

OAS provides one picnic style lunch per paid field trip day (up to 3) Friday-Sunday and a casual dinner (likely a cookout) on the TTRS grounds Saturday evening to make this fun, memorable experience economical to boot! To reserve your spot and receive full details, contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.



Jim Cox holding a recently banded Henslow's Sparrow. Photo: Tara Tanaka

Creatures of the Night, Orlando Wetlands Park, October 29, 2016

On Saturday, October 29th, you can enjoy a special evening trailer tour of Orlando Wetlands Park. You will meet real live creatures of the night. The tour will be 5-8:30 p.m. at Orlando Wetlands Park, 25155 Wheeler Road, Christmas, Florida 32709. Cost is \$5 per person and reservations are required through website www.cityoforlando.net/wetland. If you have questions, email orlandowetlandspark@cityoforlando.net or call (407) 568-1706.

Exciting Events Coming Up: Time to Reserve

Birdapalooza Birding Weekend, January 20-22, 2017

The Fifth Annual Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza is now a weekend event and will be held January 20-22, 2017. On Friday, January 20th and Sunday January 22nd, enjoy field trips on and around the Lake Apopka North Shore. Trips will search for recently sighted rarities, and as many of the 360+ bird species documented on the property as possible. This year we have added dinners and keynote talks on Friday night and Saturday night. We are thrilled to announce that our Saturday keynote speaker is none other than Greg Miller of *The Big Year* fame, who will also lead field trips. The Birdapalooza Birding Festival website will soon be going live for registration. Save the dates.



Greg Miller with Orange Audubon Society board members after his program last year.
Photo: Jerry Mathis

Flamingo Quest II, April 22, 2017

On April 9, 2016 Orange Audubon Society (OAS) was hosted by Audubon Society of the Everglades in a tour of one of the South Florida Water Management District's Stormwater Treatment Areas in search of the American Flamingos that had been showing up there each spring. Unfortunately, water levels were too high that day for us to see them. So we are going to try again this year two weeks later in April, on Saturday April 22, 2017 (Earth Day). As last year, we will be led by birding guide David Simpson to bird Saturday after leaving the flamingo site and on Sunday.

The weekend-trip cost is \$40 for Audubon members and \$55 for non Audubon members, covering trip leader's time, contributions to Audubon of the Everglades and to OAS to assist our fund-raising toward a nature center. Saturday only participation will cost \$25 for Audubon members and \$40 for non Audubon members. To register contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

While we are announcing this trip first to OAS members, we will soon be sending the announcement to our neighboring Audubon chapters, so we encourage you to register early if you are interested.

Audubon Assembly 2016

Audubon Assembly is Florida's premier conservation event and conference. This year's gathering will be held on October 28-29, 2016 at the Sirata Beach Resort in St. Petersburg, and you are invited to attend! The theme this year is "One Gulf." Florida's Gulf Coast is vital to the survival of many wildlife species, including many nesting and migratory birds. Gulf restoration opportunities made possible by the financial settlements resulting from the Deepwater Horizon disaster present a landmark opportunity for Florida and our Gulf. Please visit [this link](#) for the latest information, mark your calendar and make your reservation!



Wood Stork at Orlando Wetlands Park
Photo: Mary Keim

It's Fiesta Time!! — Please Help

The Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival is on November 5 and 6, 2016 and is Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) biggest public outreach event. We really do need your help. Set-up is on Friday evening November 4th starting at approximately 5:00 pm. Friday preparations will consist of helping to set up the tent, tables, etc. Saturday and Sunday (8:00-6:00 each day) mainly consists of setting up and taking down of merchandise and, the fun part—helping to sell merchandise and talking to people about OAS. Usually, we hope volunteers can commit 3-4 hours, but if you only have two hours to volunteer, please do so. We need 3 or 4 people each day just for sales activities.

Please mark you calendar and commit to helping OAS meet its financial goals and reach out to new members. To volunteer or ask questions, please contact me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796. Thank you! *Teresa Williams*



Waterfowl sign on Loop Trail. Photo courtesy Magnolia Park



Raptor sign on Laughlin. Photo courtesy Magnolia Park

Hospitality Volunteers Wanted

Since attendance at our monthly meetings averages about 80 people, doing “hospitality” takes some effort. If you can help hospitality chair Charlie Kirby with tasks like getting attendees to sign in and putting out refreshments, please contact him at ckirby.kirby5@gmail.com. Thank you!



Waterfowl sign at Magnolia Park. Photo Deborah Green

Kiosks Installed Through Collaborative Grant

For the second year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) secured a Collaborative Grant from National Audubon Society and Audubon Florida to develop and install informative kiosks on the Lake Apopka North Shore. If you are familiar with the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive you will have seen the “Common Wildlife of Lake Apopka” kiosk halfway to the pumphouse.

With proceeds from the first grant, kiosks on the Wildlife Drive, Loop Trail and at Magnolia Park were installed, by Magnolia Park staff. With proceeds from the second grant, two new montages of great bird photos were developed. The “Raptors of the Lake Apopka North Shore” sign is now installed on the Drive at Laughlin Road. “Waterfowl of the Lake Apopka North Shore” signs is installed both on the Loop Trail in the Clay Island area and at Magnolia Park. Construction and installation were again thanks to Magnolia Park staff. OAS is most appreciative of the photographers whose work was used this year: Tamar Boorstin, Milton Heiberg, Lynn Marie Folts, Jennifer Hew, Marlo Hill, Mary Keim, Joyce Stefancic, Scott Simmons, and Jim Urbach.

Deborah Green

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Beginners' Bird Watching Class: Orlando Wetlands Park and Lake Jesup

October 1, 8, & 15, 2016
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22, and 31, 2016
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Free Movie Night - Hometown Habitat: Bringing Nature Home

October 4, 2016
Contact Mary at (407) 851-5416

Photographer's Green PLACE Nature Walk: Johns Lake

October 8, 2016
Contact Carrie.Mohanna@ocfl.net

Dragonfly Identification Workshop

October 9, 2016
Contact Randy at rssmhk@gmail.com

Wings and Wildflowers Festival, Leesburg

October 14-16, 2016
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden

October 15, 2016
Contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com

Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area

October 16, 2016
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

October Program: Gull and Tern Identification - Michael Brothers

October 20, 2016
Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

October Field Trip: Mead Botanical Garden

October 22, 2016
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Oakland Heritage Festival

October 22, 2016
Contact Taylor at tclark@oaklandnaturepreserve.org

Audubon Assembly, St. Petersburg

October 28-29, 2016
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park, Orlando

November 5-6, 2016
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796