



*"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"*

# OASis



*Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida*

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## This Month's Program: January 17, 2008 - 7:00pm Biological Wonders of the North Andes of Peru by Charles Motley

In the remote northern Andes of Peru, around 800 AD, the Chachapoyas people, twice as ancient as the Incas, built a fortress amidst the clouds. This region contains some of the highest biodiversity in the world, with its misty climate favouring the growth of orchids and bromeliads. Among the colorful birds is a hummingbird called the Marvelous Spatuletail, one of the most astonishing birds on earth. One of the highest waterfalls on earth was discovered in this remote area as recently as 2006.

Our January speaker Charles Motley visited this region over 20 years ago and fell in love with it. In 1988 he founded Chachapoyas Tours ([www.kuelapperu.com](http://www.kuelapperu.com)), the zone's first tourist provider even before there was access by a dependable vehicle road. Charles will profile this area's extraordinary biodiversity and show how Chachapoyas Tours works to provide a sustainable tourist income to help villagers defend their ecological and archaeological sites. Join us January 17 for a fascinating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

## January Field Trip - Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

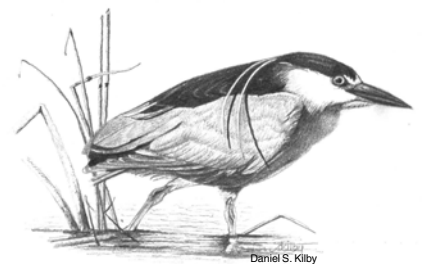
On Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, OAS will visit Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge near Titusville. The refuge is known for its wintering waterfowl. For more information about the refuge see: <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/>

Meet at 7:30am in the back parking lot of Burger King on SR 50 (Colonial Drive) just east of SR 434 (Alafaya Trail). Bring drink, birding gear (spotting scopes are very helpful), and lunch.

Dress with wind across the marsh in mind. Although this is primarily a driving trip along Black Point Wildlife Drive, we will

hike about 1 mile. Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, contact us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder  
Field Trip Committee



Daniel S. Kilby

*Orange Audubon Society meetings are free to the public and held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month (Sept - June) at 7:00pm in the Camellia Room at*

*Harry P. Leu Gardens  
1920 North Forest Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32803-1537*

*For directions, call 407-246-2620*

## Education Committee Update GAYE SMITH, EDUCATION CHAIR

We now have 15 teachers using Audubon Adventures in the following schools: Castle Creek Elementary, Deerwood Elementary, Freedom Middle, Lake Westin Elementary, Pineloch Elementary, Princeton Elementary, Rosemont Elementary, Southwest Middle, Sunset Park Elementary, and Sunrise Elementary. In addition, Orange Audubon brochures, a copy of Limited Edition Field Trips and a cover letter of invitation to OAS activities and meetings as well as information on signing up for Audubon Adventures have been delivered to eleven schools plus the Orlando Science Center.

These efforts are just a start at trying to reach schools and young people to encourage interest in and learning about wildlife and the diverse natural world around them. Additional helpers in broadcasting our OAS program are wanted and needed. Call 407-249-3969 or e mail [smith\\_ted\\_gaye@bellsouth.net](mailto:smith_ted_gaye@bellsouth.net)

### Special Extra Field Trip: Return to the Roost at Gatorland January 26 3:30 PM to dusk

The hours before dusk at Gatorland are very special as the birds come flying in to the roost. Thousands of White Ibises and egrets and herons fly in to rest for the night on the trees surrounding Gatorland's Alligator Breeding Marsh.

On January 26 Orange Audubon Society members and guests will be treated to a view of this amazing sight. Arrive around 3:30 to have a chance to view the breeding marsh and any part of Gatorland you wish. Guided by Mike Godwin, of the founding family of Gatorland, we will stay for the return to the roost.

Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children. No registration necessary. Just show up at Gatorland and mention Orange Audubon.

Gatorland is just north of Kissimmee on SR 441. Address: 14501 South Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando, FL 32837. Phone 1-800-393-5297. Website: [www.gatorlando.com](http://www.gatorlando.com).

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) promotes the understanding of and an interest in wildlife and the environment, recognition of the intangible values in the remaining natural beauty of Florida and the World, and the responsibility for the conservation of these remaining resources.

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The OAS is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

### Ft. DeSoto Field Trip

The date is set for our annual field trip to Ft. DeSoto Park in St. Petersburg. We have reserved rooms in the Continuing Education Center at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg for Friday night, April 25, 2008. Birding at Ft. DeSoto will be on Saturday, April 26, 2008.

Plan to join us for a premier birding experience during spring migration. A sign up sheet and more details will be available at our January meeting. Anyone requiring additional information should contact Ted or Gaye Smith at (407) 249-3969 or [smith\\_ted\\_gaye@bellsouth.net](mailto:smith_ted_gaye@bellsouth.net).

### Valencia to Offer Florida Birds Class in the Spring

Are you looking for a supplement to OAS' Beginning Bird Watching Class? Are you or do you know a teacher that could use recertification points? Or are you just looking for an outdoor, interactive, and fun way to earn 3 biology credits and learn about birds in our state? If either applies to you, check out the Florida Birds class that will be taught this spring at Valencia Community College's Winter Park Campus by OAS VP Leesa Sward.

When:

Fridays: Feb 15, 22 & 29 6:00p-8:00p  
Saturdays: Feb 16 & 23 8:00a-2:00p  
Saturdays: March 1 & 8 8:00a-2:00p

Where:

Winter Park Campus of VCC  
Area Parks (Lake Island Park, Mead Garden, Merritt Island NWR, and more)

For more information on how to register for this class, please contact Patti Riva at 407-582-6845 (BSC 2933, CRN 24690). For more information about the class, please get in touch with Dr. Leesa Sward at [LSward@valenciac.edu](mailto:LSward@valenciac.edu) or 407-582-6925.

## OAS Field Trips Provide Photo Opportunities for Chertok Contest

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2007—2008 field trips schedule and other activities provide great opportunities for photo buffs interested in competing in its 2008 (20<sup>th</sup> Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest.

January through May field trips, wildlife surveys and bird and butterfly ID classes will take place in fabulous locales where an abundance of Florida native plants and animals, glorious sunrises, sunsets and waterways may be found. Merritt Island NWR, Gatorland (for a special Sunset Return to the Roost with gator night shine event), Lake Woodruff NWR, Rock Springs Run, Lake Jesup Conservation Area and Lake Apopka Restoration Area are among OAS' destinations.

Contest deadline is May 15, 2008, but there is no time like now to start taking your winning shots. Two contest themes for 2008, *Florida's Avian Wonders* and *Florida—Beyond Birds*, encourage you to photograph any of Florida's native flora and/or fauna.

Complete contest rules and entry forms are available on OAS' website: ([www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org)); at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando; and all future OAS meetings or by contacting [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796. Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair



### Genius Reserve Restoration Workdays Planned

OAS volunteers are needed to assist with ecological restoration efforts at the historic Genius Reserve, Winter Park on Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am until ~ Noon.

Work will primarily entail weeding in the cedar grove near Lake Mizell. If time permits, we will also work in the area along Lake Virginia, where OAS volunteers assisted in November with planting young hickory, swamp dogwood and red cedar trees and ginger raised in the Reserve's nursery.

For more details and to sign up, please contact Teresa: [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796.

# GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT IS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH NATURE

In February, volunteers throughout the U.S. and Canada are invited to

“Count for Fun, Count for the Future!”

New York, NY & Ithaca, NY, 23 October 2007—Millions of novice and accomplished bird watchers can make their fascination with nature add up for science and for the future during the 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, led by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. During “Presidents’ Day” weekend, February 15–18, 2008, anyone can count birds from wherever they are and enter their tallies online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). These reports create an exciting real-time picture of where the birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation.

“These volunteers are counting not only for fun but for the future,” said Tom Bancroft, Chief Science Officer for Audubon. “It’s fun to see how many different kinds of birds can be seen and counted right in your backyard or neighborhood park. Each tally helps us learn more about how our North American birds are doing, and what that says about the health and the future of our environment.”

“The GBBC is a great way to engage friends, family, and children in observing nature in their own backyard, where they will discover that the outdoors is full of color, behavior, flight, sounds, and mystery,” said Janis Dickinson, Director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

People of all ages and experience levels are invited to take part wherever they are—at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges, even counting birds on a balcony. Observers count the highest number of each species they see during at least 15 minutes on one or more of the count days. Then they enter their tallies on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

The web site provides helpful hints for identifying birds. Participants can compare results from their town or region with others, as checklists pour in from throughout the U.S. and Canada. They can also view bird photos taken by participants during the count and send in their own digital images for the online photo gallery and contest.

In 2007, Great Backyard Bird Count participants made history, breaking records for the number of birds reported, and the number of checklists. Participants sent in 81,203 checklists tallying 11,082,387 birds of 613 species.

“Literally, there has never been a more detailed snapshot of a continental bird-distribution profile in history,” said John Fitzpatrick, Director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. “Imagine scientists 250 years from now being able to compare these data with their own!”

Already, the count results show how the numbers of some birds species have changed in recent years, such as a decline in Northern Pintails and an increase in Hooded Mergansers, consistent with trends from the Christmas Bird Count and Breeding Bird Survey.

“People who take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count see the results of their efforts in the news and in bird conservation work taking place across the country, said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. “Whether the counts occur at home, at schools or nature centers, they’re more than engaging and educational science activities for young people and adults, they’re a way to contribute to the conservation of birds and habitat nationwide.”

Lt. Daniel Britt, who served in Iraq 16 months, is glad to be back home in Zimmerman, MN, where he and his sons plan to join the GBBC. “We get a bunch of birds in our backyard,” Britt said, “but my oldest son, Daniel, and I may cross country ski into the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge to count birds there.”

For more information on how to participate, including identification tips, photos, bird sounds, maps, and information on over 500 bird species, visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

The Great Backyard Bird Count is sponsored in part by Wild Birds Unlimited.

Source: <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/press/news-stories/2008-gbbc-news-release>

The City of Orlando and the Orange Audubon Society join together to celebrate the Orlando Wetlands Park: an oasis of flora, fauna and feathered friends.

**9th Annual ORLANDO wetlands festival**

**FREE TO ALL!**  
Orlando Wetlands Park

**Saturday February 23, 2008 9am to 3pm**

Games  
Exhibits  
Door Prizes  
Face Painting  
Rock Climbing Wall  
6 O' Clock Sunrise Photo Hike  
Refreshments & Merchandise Booths

**Event Schedule**  
Bounce House  
Talalo Indian Dancers  
Live Wild Animals  
Interactive Displays  
Guided Birding Hikes  
Live Entertainment  
Backyard Tree Give Away  
Guided Wilderness Hikes  
Guided Native Plant ID Hike  
Guided Bus Tour of Wetlands  
Animal Catch & Release Demo  
Out-on-a-limb Kids Tree Climbing

And much, much, more!

**PBS**

For More Info Call  
(407) 568-1706 or (407)246-2213

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## Calendar of Events

### January 13, 2008 - Sunday

Little Big Econ S.F. - Joshua Creek Track Bird Survey  
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

### December 15, 2007 - Saturday

Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.  
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193  
dex@dexwine.com

### January 5, 2008 - Saturday

LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.  
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870/pbowen@sjrwmd.com

### January 12, 2008 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Class #3 - LARA  
Bob Sanders 407-766-5490

### January 17, 2008 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.  
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the  
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.  
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

### January 19, 2008 - Saturday

Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.  
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193  
dex@dexwine.com

### January 23-27, 2008 - Wed-Sun

Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival  
Neta Harris 321-268-5224 / 800-460-2664  
www.nbbd.com/fly

### January 26, 2007 - Saturday

Seminole Ranch (North) Butterfly Survey;  
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

### January 26, 2007 - Saturday

Special OAS Field Trip - Return to Roost @ Gatorland  
3:30pm-dusk; \$10 adults / \$5 children  
14501 South Orange Blossom Trail, Orlando

### February 2, 2008 - Saturday

LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.  
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870/pbowen@sjrwmd.com

### February 9, 2008 - Saturday

Little Big Econ S.F. - Joshua Creek Track Bird Survey  
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

### February 16, 2008 - Saturday

Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.  
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193  
dex@dexwine.com

### February 21, 2008 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.  
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the  
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.  
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

### February 23, 2008 - Saturday

Orlando Wetland Park Festival  
9:00am-3:00pm. Christmas, FL  
Information: 407-568-1706 or 407-246-2213

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