



"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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First Hawk ID Field Trip

Just a reminder, the 1st Hawk ID Field Trip will be held on Saturday, November 15, 2003, at the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area. There is no charge for this field trip and spaces are still available. Meet at the gate of the old Bass Sod Farm entrance, which is 1.1 miles west of U.S. Hwy 441 on Jones Ave. in Zellwood at 9:00 AM. The field trip will be sedentary in nature and approximately three hours long.

Contact Dick Smith at 407-834-2197, or dick.smith@zepamfg.com, if you have any questions.

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd 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

This Month's Program: October 16, 2003 - 7:00pm Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, by Vince Morris

Red-cockaded woodpeckers are among Florida's most endangered birds. Dependent on old growth longleaf pines, these woodpeckers have disappeared throughout most of their former range as pines were logged out. The Withlacoochee State Forest (east of Orlando near Brooksville) has some old growth longleaf pines, and efforts to relocate red-cockaded woodpeckers to this area from other populations are ongoing. Vince Morris, wildlife biologist for the State Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, will present slides and tell us about this project and about this important bird species.

Join us November 20th for a great program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

November Field Trip - Lake Apopka North Shore

On Saturday, November 22, 2003, our monthly field trip will be to the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area in Zellwood. This is not to be confused with the 1st Birds of Prey ID Field Trip that will be just the weekend before on November 15 at the same location. This property, which is owned by the St. Johns River Water Management District, is normally closed to the public, and this is one of the few chances that you will

have to get into this magnificent birding area. In the winter months, this place is usually loaded with migrants, and this time should not be any different.

This will be a driving field trip. Because of the size of this property, we could not possibly do it justice on foot. It also gives us a chance to offer a field trip to our members who can't get around as easily by foot any

....cont'd p2

October Field Trip Report DICK SMITH, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

On Saturday, October 18, 2003, sixteen OAS members and their guests journeyed to Smyrna Dunes Park in Volusia County for our monthly field trip. It was an absolutely gorgeous day! The sun was shining brightly without being too hot and a gentle breeze was blowing in off the ocean, just perfect for a leisurely walk on the beach.

The "bird of the day" had to be the male Black-throated Green Warbler which gave us a lengthy, and repeated, display right at eye level in a shrub just 18 feet from the boardwalk. He was still in breeding plumage and

the sunlight just burst off his colors! One of the joys of these trips is when we have teenagers join us, and on the trip we had three. One of whom got to see a bird that he had wanted for some time - a Reddish Egret from 15 feet away in the surf.

Our total for the day was 52 species including American White Pelican, Wood Stork, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Merlin, American Oystercatcher, Black Skimmer, lots of Shorebirds, Gulls and Terns.

All in all, it was a good day to be in the great outdoors with good birding friends.

President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

We saw a Painted Bunting and an American Redstart in our backyard recently. We don't get a lot of opportunities to watch for birds in our yard for long periods of time, so these birds may have been around for a while either before or after being spotted. Or, they may simply have been passing through that day. Regardless, they were great to see. What goodies have you seen? Keep watching and remember to plant some shelter and food plants and keep some water available; these help attract birds to your area (even if you don't have lots of time to enjoy them).

Hopefully we'll have had a good weekend at the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park by

the time you read this. Thanks to all those who volunteered to help. If you missed coming there to buy some great nature t-shirts, totes, books, etc., we'll have items available at this month's meeting for your holiday shopping pleasure — for gift giving or for yourself — so bring your cash or checkbooks (sorry no credit or debit cards) with you to the meeting on the 20th. We're also planning to be at the first Sunday 'Give Green Gifts for the Holidays' event at Audubon's Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland on Dec. 7th for another opportunity to make purchases. That event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You could also volunteer to

help us that day!! If you can lend a helping hand, please contact me (LNS-oas@att.net or 407/886-2925). Thanks in advance.

This month, the first hawk identification field trip at the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area will be held on Saturday, November 15th. Join Bob Sanders for some individual help in identifying both permanent and visiting raptors. Check out the article on the following page for details on where/when to meet.

Also, keep watching where ever you have an opportunity and report special plant and animal sightings at our next meeting. See you there.

November Field Tripfrom p1

more (like me). We still will not be able to cover the entire property, but we can at least hit the "hot spots". We will bird until approximately noon and have a picnic lunch with all who desire to join us.

It is absolutely essential that we carpool on this field trip. If you have an SUV or other high road clearance vehicle, this would be a good time to bring it. We will meet to carpool at the Winn-Dixie Supermarket parking lot on U.S. Hwy 441 just north of the northern terminus of Hwy 429 (Western Beltway) in north Apopka in time to get signed up, assigned to a vehicle and LEAVE at 7:30 AM. Please arrive in a timely manner. Bring binoculars, field guides, spotting scopes, water and your lunch.

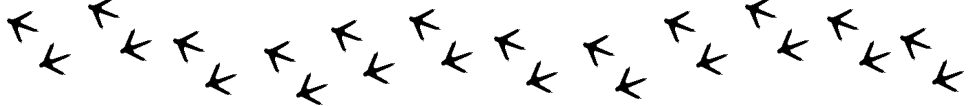
Contact Dick Smith at 407-834-2197 or dick.smith@zepamfg.com if you have any questions.

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

Orange Audubon is sponsoring a workshop presentation by the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection on the OUTSTANDING FLORIDA WATER Designation, on November 6th (Thursday) from 9am to Noon, at Leu Gardens. RSVP to Peggy Cox, Conservation Chair, at 352-429-1042 or pegcox@att.net. DEP and St. Johns River

Water Management officials will present the reasons for this designation and how it is used in permitting activities.

The next OAS Conservation Committee meeting will be December 1st, at 6:30pm at the Downtown Orlando Library. Call or email me at 352-429-1042 or pegcox@att.net for more information.



Orange County Board of County Commissioners Takes a Stand (and we like it!!)

On Tuesday, October 21st, the Orange County BCC approved a resolution to send to the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority (OOCEA). This resolution states that the priorities for road building in Northwest Orange County should be the Maitland Boulevard Extension (a.k.a. the Apopka Bypass) and then the Wekiva Parkway (connecting the 429 toll road to I-4 somewhere near Sanford). Only after commitments are secured for completion of these two roads should the OOCEA proceed with acquisition of right-of-way for a Northwest Extension, a toll road that would cut through rural NW Orange County to end somewhere in rural Lake County. Chairman Crotty had also sent a letter to the OOCEA on October 17th that emphasized the issues that most concern the public regarding this proposed NW Extension — controlling urban sprawl, maintaining the rural character of the existing communities and protecting the water resources to ensure that we have enough water for central Florida's drinking water supply and for the natural systems, including the Wekiva GeoBasin.

Additionally, the BCC has resolved that the OOCEA make a presentation to the BCC (within thirty days of the Wekiva Coordinating Committee's finalizing of its recommendations) addressing the land use policies, all future limited-access highway proposals and proposed interchange connections within Northwest Orange County. Orange Audubon Society would encourage the County to include presentations regarding environmental issues/consequences of any such activities in NW Orange County at that same meeting.

Please contact the Orange County BCC and Chairman Crotty and thank them for taking this action. Also, try to attend the Wekiva Coordinating Committee meetings (visit www.wekivacommittee.org for schedule) and learn more about this issue. Be aware that even though this is the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, they are a separate entity and are not bound by this resolution by Orange County; however, we hope that they will seriously consider the resolution and the concerns of the citizens of Orange County and their elected officials.

Loretta Satterthwaite

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>

Announcing the 16th Annual CNPC Theme

"Native Wildlife of Florida – Preserving Nature through Photography"

Whether as close as your backyard or as far away as the Keys, Florida native wildlife abounds. Now that you know the theme, the rest is up to you. With fourteen remaining Orange Audubon Society (OAS) sponsored field trips, plus bird and butterfly counts and surveys, you'll have opportunities aplenty to get out your cameras and "preserve" some of Florida's native plant and animal wildlife. Who knows - yours could be the winning photo in OAS' 2004 (16th Annual) Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC).

Consistent with the purpose for which it was established, the CNPC focuses on Florida's native plants and animals. That means no humans, human-made structures or artifacts, or significant non-native (to Florida) plants or animals can be in the photograph. Deadline (postmark date) for submitting entries is May 20, 2004, the date of the OAS program meeting at Leu Gardens. Hand delivery at the May meeting is also acceptable.

Enter up to 4 color slides at \$2.50 each for OAS members and \$4 each for non-members. Non-members who join when submitting a contest entry form (membership application on back of contest entry form) also pay only \$2.50 each. Entry forms will be available at future OAS meetings. For more information, call or email Teresa: (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com), or check the OAS website: <http://orangeaudubonfl.org>.

Winning photos will be announced, and cash prizes and ribbons awarded at the June 17, 2004 OAS potluck dinner and contest presentation at Leu Gardens. Good luck!
Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Orange Audubon Society's By-Laws Changed

As was announced in previous issues of the OASis, the OAS Board of Directors considered revisions to the By-Laws at our October board meeting. Some changes were mandated by National Audubon Society and some were merely 'clean-ups' of the language. However, one functional change that was approved (effective as of October 16th) and is important was the elimination of term limits for members of the board and all officers with the exception of the President who is still limited to two successive 2-year terms. Non-officers who have served a full 3-year term are no longer required to take a one-year hiatus before being eligible to serve on the board again. This change was made with mixed feelings; the 'hiatus' was originally proposed so that OAS board members would have to take some well-earned R & R and open up slots for new people to participate on the board. Since instituting that change in 2000, results were varied as to its success and there were certainly down sides to it. For example, a person doing a really good job and serving an important function would be forced off the board. Time will tell whether this latest change is successful or not.

As this goes to press, no one has volunteered to serve in the vacant seat on this year's board. If you would consider doing so, please contact me (LNS-oas@att.net or 407/886-2925). Thanks.
Loretta Satterthwaite



A War Zone No More RICHARD POOLE

A few years ago there was angst and anxiety for many that visited the Sand Lake area in Wekiwa Springs State Park. The years, 2001-2002, saw a dramatic change in the landscape. Fire had been restricted in this area, as a prescribed burn could not be conducted safely within the mature sand pines. Then, in an attempt to control southern pine beetle, the sand pines were removed.

Once the pines were removed, a prescribed fire was conducted in January 2002 for restoration of a scrub habitat. In less than two years the area went from a habitat with sand pines as high as 15 meters to an area where most vegetation scarcely reached one meter. Comments made by visitors when first seeing the area after the logging and burning described it as "resembling a war zone", a blackened, smoking sight of devastation. But the removal of the dense sand pine canopy provided light and space for the regeneration of smaller scrub plant species.

Previous to the restoration, banding of birds was conducted in the area during fall migration from 1994- 2000. Summer banding was started in 1995. There was no banding from December 2000 to August 2002. Banding was re-started in September 2002.

Several resident birds that were banded before restoration have been recaptured. White-eyed Vireo, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Northern Cardinal and Eastern Towhee stayed in and/or returned to the area despite the heavy logging and drastic change of the landscape. One Eastern Towhee was banded on 26 Sep. 1996 and recaptured July 13, 2003, indicating a life span greater than seven years! An Ovenbird banded 6 September 1997 also returned to the area. It was recaptured on 10 Oct. 2002. Forty-two species of birds have been banded in the area since restoration, including American Robin and American Goldfinch. Neither species had been banded in the area prior to 2002. The most numerous species banded are Gray Catbird and Common Yellowthroat.

For some species such as the Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren and Eastern Towhee commonly found in brushy habitats, removal of the dense canopy may enhance the quality of the habitat and increase the area for future foraging and nesting.

Kudos to Volunteers!!

Thanks to Peggy and Don Lantz, Bud O'Keefe and Mike Daley for helping with Orange Audubon Society's opportunity to provide some information to the Cub Scouts at Moss Park on October 4th. Despite the lack of cooperation by our feathered friends during the mini field trips, we enjoyed the afternoon and Peggy's 'classroom' presentations were well received. Perhaps we'll see future involvement with OAS from the families that were present there. Thanks again to our great volunteers.

Loretta Satterthwaite

OAS Looking at Insurance Options

Orange Audubon Society is looking into changing our insurance provider (after a premium increase of ~35% this year with no claims having ever been filed). If you are insurance knowledgeable or know of a provider who might be able to assist us in this quest (particularly officer/director indemnity insurance), please contact me at LNS-oas@att.net or 407-886-2925 as soon as possible. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite

OAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Leesa Sward 407-677-5374

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CONSERVATION Peggy Cox

EDUCATION Deborah Green
& Leesa Sward

FIELD TRIPS Dick Smith

FINANCE Milton Heiberg

HOSPITALITY Tom & Ruth Williams

MEMBERSHIP Mike Daley

NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

November 1, 2003 - Saturday

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

November 2, 2003 - Sunday

Eagles in Florida at CBOP; 10am-4pm
Katie Warner 407-644-0190
audubonofflorida.org/conservation/cbop.htm

November 6, 2003 - Thursday

Outstanding Florida Waters Workshop
9:00am-12:00noon; Harry P Leu Gardens
Peggy Cox; 352-429-1042 or pegcox@att.net

November 12-16, 2003 - Wed-Sun

Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival
Neta Harris (321-268-5224) or
Laurilee Thompson (321-268-5000).
www.nbbd.com/fly

November 15, 2003 - Saturday

Field Trip - Birds of Prey ID @ LANSRA
Dick Smith 407-834-2197
dick.smith@zepamfg.com

November 15, 2003 - Saturday

Tibet-Butler Birding & Wildlife Celebration
Tibet-Butler Preserve 9:00am-3:00pm
Cynthia Meketa 407-876-6696

November 20, 2003 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

November 22, 2003 - Saturday

Field Trip - LANSRA
Dick Smith 407-834-2197
dick.smith@zepamfg.com

January 17-19, 2004 - Sat-Mon

Everglades BirdFest, Everglades Nat'l Park
Broward County Audubon 954-776-5585
www.browardaudubon.org/birdfest

February 8, 2004 - Sunday

Orlando Wetlands Park Festival; 9am-3pm.
Mark Sees 407-568-1706

Everglades BirdFest - January 17-19, 2003

Everglades BirdFest, January 17-19, 2004, is a 3-day birding and ecology festival in Everglades National Park, including naturalist guided birdwatching in Main and Shark Valley sections of the park. Included is luxury coach transportation to sites and trails, 2 nights lodging at Flamingo Lodge, 7 meals, full use of park facilities, exhibitors, evening seminars on birdlife, wildlife, habitats, comparative ecology, natural history, and conservation and restoration of the Everglades.

Optional boating, canoeing, kayaking, biking, fishing, back-country hiking are available. Contact: Broward County Audubon Society, PO Box 9644, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310 954-776-5585, <http://www.browardaudubon.org/birdfest>

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