



### This Month's Program: September 17, 2020

## Cultivating the Wild: William Bartram's Travels by Robert Wilson



*Cultivating the Wild*, a thought-provoking one-hour film, will be Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) September 17th program on YouTube Live. Robert Wilson, who contributed much of the bird photography in the film, will host this very special presentation.

William Bartram, one of America's first naturalists, explored the southeast in the 1770s. The film examines what Bartram saw and what has come to

Pair of Barred Owls. 2020 Chertok Photo Contest. Honorable Mention, Advanced Category. Photo: Mark Hainen

pass in the more than 220 years since he wrote *Travels*.

Beautifully filmed throughout the southeast, the documentary culminates producer Eric Breitenbach's four years search for what Bartram saw and what six modern Bartrams — Manatee researcher Wayne Hartley, former Altamaha Riverkeeper James Holland, artist Philip Juras, ornithologist Drew Lanham, writer Janisse Ray, and native American educator Jim Sawgrass — see today.

Breitenbach teaches at Daytona State College's Southeast Center for Photographic Studies and has directed films for National Geographic Television, the Sundance Channel, PBS, and a variety of museums and non-profit organizations.

Co-producer Dorinda Dalimeyer directs the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program at the University of Georgia and is a past president of the Bartram Trail Conference. In 2010 she published the highly regarded biography: *Bartram's Living Legacy: The Travels and the Nature of the South*.

Wilson, a retired 30-year staff photographer for Lockheed Martin, is currently U.S. Brand Ambassador for Kowa Sporting Optics and is recognized as one of the country's top digiscopers.

Of interest to environmentalists, photographers, birders and plant lovers, the film examines the relationship we have with our beloved planet and gives thought to a better future.

Join OAS for a great program on September 17th, 7 p.m. on YouTube Live at [this link](#).

Terry Piper, Programs Chair

### Monthly Field Trip:

## September 19, 2020

## Econ River Wilderness Area

Orange Audubon Society's first in-person field trip since March will be on September 19th to the Econ River Wilderness Area. This 240-acre Seminole County site, located southeast of Oviedo, is bordered on the east by the Econlockhatchee River. It has beautiful oak hammocks, pine flatwoods and sandhill habitats, wildlife like Sherman's fox squirrel, river otter, gopher tortoise and many bird species. This trip is limited to 10-12 participants. You must reserve a space the week before by contacting me at [lmartin5@msn.com](mailto:lmartin5@msn.com) or (407) 647-5834. We hope you will join us and be courteous to others in making, keeping or promptly canceling reservations if your schedule changes. Larry Martin, Field Trips Chair



Before They Jump—Wood Ducks. 2020 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention, Advanced Category. Photo: Dan Jones

## Bird Chats with OAS

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has initiated a fun weekly "bird chat" on Zoom each Thursday at 7 p.m. (except the 3rd Thursday). Identification of mystery birds, discussion of new arrivals, and a topic of the week make up each chat. Register [at this link](#) and join the conversation. Past bird chats are archived on [OAS' YouTube channel](#).

Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary.

Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September–June) and all but January and June start at 7:00 p.m.

Programs are normally held at Harry P. Leu Gardens.

However, they will be held virtually until further notice due to COVID-19 health precautions.





**President's Message**

Welcome to a new year of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) programs,

local and overnight field trips, wildlife identification classes and photography workshops — all to the extent possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This summer OAS has initiated two new projects: The Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive Ambassador Program (p.4) and an online offering called Bird Chats with OAS (p.1). OAS' North Shore Birding Festival, dates TBA, is being planned on a smaller scale to adhere to COVID-19 protocols.

Two of OAS' upcoming programs are by particularly well-known speakers: The December 17th program is our annual nature photo tips talk prior to the Chertok nature photography contest (deadline April 15th). The talk is by Lisa Langell, an amazing nature photographer from Phoenix, Arizona. Continuing OAS' Plants for Birds efforts and our promotion of the native plants/caterpillars/birds research of Dr. Doug Tallamy, we are delighted to host Dr. Tallamy for our February 18th online program.

OAS' 2020-2021 Annual Brochure of planned programs and activities should arrive by mid-September. We hope you can join us for OAS' many activities! And we hope you can give generously to the once-a-year letter appeal included with the brochure! Thank you!

*Deborah Green, President*

**Good News—Migratory Bird Treaty Act Protected**

On August 12th a federal judge upheld the 100-year-old law, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), halting attempted changes to the most important bird protection legislation ever passed. Lawsuits filed in 2018 by several national conservation groups, including the National Audubon Society (NAS), and eight state governments propelled this decision. Audubon Florida's Executive Director Julie Wraithmell points out, "If this administration's interpretation of the MBTA had been in place during the Deepwater Horizon disaster, BP would not have had to pay \$100 million in penalties for the millions of birds that died in the spill." Thank goodness the

court saw how unconscionable that position is and set things right. More at [this link](#).

**Good News—Great American Outdoors Act**

In a bipartisan vote on July 22nd, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Great American Outdoors Act, providing permanent, mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund at the authorized amount of \$900 million annually at no additional cost to taxpayers. The bill was passed by the Senate in June in a 73-25 vote and was signed by President Trump on August 4th.

The program will help national and local parks, public lands, and athletic fields in every county across the country. The bill also creates a new fund (\$1.9 billion annually for five years) to address deferred maintenance projects at the National Park Service, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Education schools. Parks have struggled to keep up with repairs for buildings and infrastructure even as visitation has increased. Thanks to all who wrote emails in support!

**Bad News—NEPA Weakened**

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is the cornerstone of our Nation's environmental laws and was enacted to ensure that information on the environmental impacts of any federal, or federally funded, action is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken.

NEPA's specifications include preparation of a formal Environmental Impact Statement. But for NEPA, thousands of acres of public lands in the West would be gone in a virtual giveaway to oil and gas companies. The principles that enabled those acres to be protected have been largely stripped from the new version of NEPA unveiled by the administration July 15th.

In countless ways, what the administration has done to this 50-year-old law is dangerous and illegal, and NAS is joining a coalition of environmental justice and other conservation organizations

*Continued next page*



Orange Audubon Society (OAS) mission: To promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it; 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.

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The OASis (Orange Audubon Society information source) newsletter is published monthly, September-June, and posted on the OAS website. A link announcing new issues is e-mailed to subscribers.

Never miss out on OAS happenings. Add or update your email address by contacting [newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org).

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**NEPA**

Continued from p. 2

to stop it. Here is [the link to learn more](#). Consider supporting NAS as it continues this legal action.

**Bad News—Endangered Species Act Attacked**

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has had overwhelmingly bipartisan support since it was passed in 1973. The current administration has proposed another blow to the ESA by issuing a new definition of *critical habitat*. Currently under ESA, *critical habitat* may include occupied habitat and unoccupied habitat that is essential for the conservation of a listed species. On July 31, 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service proposed to prevent designation of *unoccupied habitat* as critical habitat unless the occupied habitat was inadequate to conserve the species. This new definition risks only giving species enough habitat to eke out an existence, as opposed to providing the space they need to recover and thrive. Watch for National Audubon Society action alerts and public comment opportunities.

**Bad News—Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

Rapid climate change in the Arctic means that oil and gas development should be curtailed, not expanded.



Caribou herd in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Photo: USFWS

The U.S. Department of the Interior on August 17th released its decision to move forward with oil and gas drilling on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Indigenous lands of the Gwich'in people and breeding grounds of migratory shorebirds and waterfowl, many unique resident birds and other



**Latino Conservation Week**

“Birds as Connection,” an online panel discussion with Latinx members of the Audubon Florida (AF) network, was held on July 24, 2020. The panel was organized by Orange Audubon Society’s own board member and education chair Melissa Gonzalez. Steffanie Munguía, past AF Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) organizer and now National Audubon Society (NAS) board member, co-organized the session and secured its sponsorship by AF and NAS. This event was among hundreds held around the country for Latino Conservation Week, an annual project of the Hispanic Access Foundation based in Washington, D.C.

The Zoom program was a broad conversation about how birds unite people of diverse backgrounds and interests. This screen shot shows the following panelists (from top left and clockwise around Melissa, who is at center): Rafael Galvez of the Florida Keys Audubon Society; Celeste De Palma, Director of Everglades Policy for AF; Miriam Avello, audio engineer and volunteer at the Cape Florida Banding Station; Brian Cammarano, 2018-19 CLI participant and now Seasonal Lee County Anchor Steward for AF; Lida Rodriguez-Taseff, trial lawyer and AF board member; Paola Ferreira, biologist and Executive Director of Tropical Audubon Society, and Steffanie.

While the panelists’ own backgrounds and career paths are quite different, they all shared a passion for the outdoors and underscored the need to engage more Latinx in conservation. If you missed the presentation live, you can still see it from the AF YouTube channel [at this link](#).

wildlife like caribou.

This move overturns six decades of protections for the largest remaining stretch of wilderness in the United States.

The first leases to drill for oil and gas in the area could be sold by the end of 2020. Once granted, these leases will be extremely difficult to reverse.

Go to [audubon.org](#) and put Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the search field to see more information and action alerts.

OAS Conservation Committee

**Orlando Solar Co-op**

The Orlando Solar Co-op 2020, hosted by the City of Orlando and facilitated by Solar United Neighbors of Florida, has just reached its maximum 250 participants.

Curious to learn about solar technology, economics, co-op process and ask questions? Want to know about the next Co-op in Orange County when it is announced? Please sign up at [solarunitedneighbors.org/orlando](#)

## Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive Ambassador Program

The Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive (LAWD) is part of the Lake Apopka North Shore, a work site used Monday–Thursday by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) for long-term lake restoration. In 2015, SJRWMD made LAWD available to the public on weekends and federal holidays (non-work days), and Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is now helping to manage public access to this wildlife-rich lake restoration area by recruiting, training and managing volunteers for the new LAWD Ambassador Program..

LAWD has become increasingly popular as local folks have discovered it as a place to enjoy nature from the comfort of one's vehicle.



LAWD ambassadors at work. Photo: Jack Horton

To help relieve SJRWMD's burden so that LAWD might continue to be open to the public, OAS' LAWD ambassadors are on the drive every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. helping to orient new visitors. Most volunteer for a 2 1/2 hour shift per month. We could use more help!! If you would consider joining our volunteer pool, please email [volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org).

## M-Cores: Economic Feasibility of Turnpikes Questioned

Senate Bill 7068, the 2019 bill to create three toll roads to facilitate additional growth, was a sad certainty in the past legislative session, so Audubon Florida (AF) worked to make it better. Three Task Forces to study whether, where, and how these three turnpikes might be built were established, with AF represented on all three. The process is known only as M-Cores.

A recent "Taxwatch" analysis questions the financial viability of M-Cores. According to Charles Lee—AF director of advocacy—who sits on two of the task forces, there is little support anywhere for the three new turnpikes. Charles predicts that M-Cores is simply going to merge into projects that will increase the capacity of existing roads, specifically U.S. 19/98 and U.S. 27. The only new turnpike segment that is a "greenfield" project is likely to be the extension of the turnpike north from Wildwood to some point on the Suncoast Parkway, over by U.S 19. As such, some of the expansions might fit within Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) 5-year plans.

While drawing possible funding from various FDOT sources, the M-Cores statute does expressly contemplate that the M-Cores projects will be built as part of the turnpike system. This requires a financial feasibility test that the roads must produce 50% of the

revenue necessary to pay debt service on bonds to fund them by the 12th year of operation, and 100% by the 30th year of operation. Many of the routes have been studied before and have never shown that they would generate revenues close to passing this financial feasibility test.

The M-Cores process is showing where NOT to build any new roads like these, and is identifying large "avoidance areas" that will not likely show up in any corridors proposed. Charles suggests that our comments, to be submitted [at this link](#), focus on identifying conservation land and environmentally sensitive areas that must be avoided, which may not yet be on FDOT's avoidance maps, recommending that the M-Cores facilities be achieved by upgrading existing roads, or co-locating new toll lanes in or adjacent to existing road rights of way, or other existing scars on the land, such as major electrical transmission lines. Task force members have heard the "no build, no build, no build" cries over the past year and fully understand that it is the prevailing public sentiment. The most important comments would be to supply task force members with new ammunition to exclude environmentally important areas from consideration, and to firm up the support for co-location as an alternative. *Orange Audubon Society Conservation Committee*

## June Birding Challenge

The June Challenge is a friendly competition between birders to try to see as many species as they can in Florida's toughest month of birding. To add to the challenge, the birds *must be seen* not just heard.

Birders must find species using skill and patience, not by disturbing birds or their habitats. As to what is countable: If a local population of an exotic bird species is recognized as established by the American Birding Association (ABA), then any member of that population is an ABA-countable bird. Otherwise it goes on the birder's non-countable list. For instance, a bird belonging to an established population of Monk Parakeets is ABA-countable while an escaped Monk Parakeet or a Mute Swan at Lake Eola is not.



Gull-billed Tern at Orlando Wetlands Park. Photo: Sam Mitcham

The 2020 June Challenge attracted 119 participants from 22 counties. Sam Mitcham, a member of Orange Audubon Society, had the 6th highest individual list in the state with 123 ABA-countable species and 8 non-countable species!

The 2020 Orange County results by total, then by (ABA-countable/ABA non-countable) birds are:

- Sam Mitcham 131 (123/8)
- Mary Soule 127 ( 117/10)
- Kathsy Rigling 110 ( 102/8)
- Larry Martin 109 ( 101/8)
- Susan Thome-Barrett 89 (88/1)
- Jennifer McCleary 77 ( 77/0)
- LeeAnne Swanhill 34 ( 34/0)
- Marty Swanhill 34 ( 34/0)

The top birder for the 2020 June Challenge in all of Florida was Joanna Clayton of Pinellas County with 130 countable species. *Kathy Rigling*



In case you missed it ...

## Snail Kites: A Real Florida Survival Story



Snail Kite with Snail. 2020 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest. Second Place, Advanced Category. Photo: Bobby van Mierop

Orange Audubon Society's remote speaker on August 20th (originally scheduled for April) was Tyler Beck, who shared his work with the elusive Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*). Tyler is the Snail Kite Conservation Coordinator with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

The Snail Kite has been listed as endangered since 1967. As its name suggests, this extreme dietary specialist eats only snails. Historically its prey was only the Florida apple snail, *Pomacea paludosa*. However, with the relatively recent establishment of a large exotic snail population, the kite has expanded its diet to include *P. maculata*. In a rare occurrence, this invader from South America seems to complement the kites' diet since juvenile kites' survival rates have increased and kites have expanded their range. Perhaps more surprisingly, Florida apple snail numbers haven't suffered as a result.

Kite nests are always over water to provide concentrations of prey and prevention of predators. Kites nest during the spring and summer months and raise clutches of 2-3 chicks. FWC monitors nests during breeding season at Lake Kissimmee, Lake Okeechobee, and the Everglades and nestlings are banded. Predation is the number one cause of nest failure.

Each year, FWC outfits a few young birds with tracking devices and monitors their flights. Routes are often large, circular patterns, as if the birds are testing their environment for the best food sources and nesting possibilities. The three birds Tyler followed this year all survived to adulthood.

Terry Piper

## Wood Duck: A Spectacular Dabbler

I counted six ducklings paddling in a tight row behind their mom on Lake Knowles in late June. The Wood Ducks are doing well in Winter Park, I thought. What a surprise! Medicine for the pall of the pandemic.

Wood Ducks are one of many species of dabbling ducks like mallards, pintails, shovelers, and teals that feed on the surface of the water by upending and making short, shallow dives. Common year-round in Florida and the Southeast, it is one of the most beautiful of all waterfowl. Breeding males are iridescent chestnut and green with distinctive ornate markings, a long swept back, or "drooping" crest, striking face patterns, and a bold red eye. Females are dull colored but have a dark, drooping crest and white eye patch. In summer the male molts into a drab "eclipse" plumage resembling the female, but with a brighter bill and remnants of the strange head pattern we see during breeding season.

Wood Ducks live in swamps, streams, creeks, sheltered ponds, and wood-fringed marshes with abundant vegetation for hiding and foraging. They eat seeds, fruit, insects and other arthropods. Plant materials make up 80 percent of their diet.

Natural cavities for these birds are scarce, and they cannot make their own, so they readily take to nest boxes like the ones on Lake Knowles installed years ago by an unknown bird lover. After hatching, ducklings make their way to water by jumping from their box or tree nest (see duckling photo p. 7). Higher sites, as high as 50 feet, are preferred apparently.

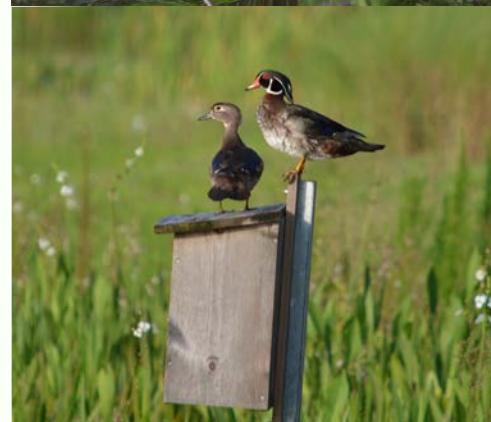
Wood Ducks pair up in January, therefore most birds arriving at breeding grounds in spring are already paired. This species is the only North American duck that regularly produces two broods in one year, which may explain ducklings in late June.

If you want to attract a breeding pair of Wood Ducks to your neighborhood, consider installing a nest box. Make sure to put it up well before the breeding season and attach a guard to keep predators from raiding eggs and young. You can find information about making nest boxes from [the Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) or our [own nest box expert Richard Poole](#). Boxes of many designs have proven successful.

The oldest recorded Wood Duck was 22.5 years old: a male that was banded in Oregon but found in California. Wood Duck populations increased between 1966 and 2015 according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, good news considering their dramatic declines in the late 19th century.

Check out the elegant Wood Duck! Cooler weather will bring more dabbling and diving ducks to Florida for us to discover. I look forward to seeing more fascinating species to dispel the pall of the pandemic!

Linda Carpenter



Top, Female Wood Duck and ducklings. Photo: Robert Sena. Middle, Wood Duck pair on nest box. Photo: Paul Eisenbrown. Bottom, Male Wood Duck. Photo: Sherry Fischer

## 2020 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest Results

In its 2020 (32nd Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) sponsored Youth, Novice and Advanced Amateur/Professional competition categories with the theme *Florida Native Nature*.

From approximately 350 entries, this year's judges (p.7) selected the following winners that were announced on June 18th a [program on YouTube](#) that included a showing of all eligible entries. Winning images are now displayed [on OAS' website](#) and those denoted below with an asterisk (\*) will be featured on OAS' 2020-2021 Annual Brochure.

### YOUTH CATEGORY

#### 1st PLACE

**Lily Frazer**, Casselberry  
*Chin Up! Double-crested Cormorant*

#### 2nd PLACE

**Levi Davis**, Belle Isle  
*What Bird? American Alligator and Feather*

#### 3rd PLACE

**Jake Turner**, Nokomis  
*Xtra Large Snack—Golden Orbweaver and Cicada*

#### 4th PLACE

**Jake Turner**, Nokomis  
*Feeding Time—Hairy Woodpeckers*

#### 5th PLACE

**Jake Turner**, Nokomis  
*Duck Fight! Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks*

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Ainsley Compher**, Oviedo  
*Calm Mode Activated—Eastern Grey Squirrel*

**Levi Davis**, Belle Isle  
*Bad Hair Day—Cattle Egret*  
*\*Two Heads are Better than One—White-tailed Deer*

**Lily Frazer**, Casselberry  
*Eat Your Greens—Marsh Rabbit*  
*Mickey's Distant Cousin—Opossum Joey*  
*Peaceful Perch—Palm Warbler*

**Irina Roganov**, Crestview  
*Handstand—Amanda's Pennant*  
*The Squeak—Ruby-throated Hummingbird*



*Spoonbill Feathers—Roseate Spoonbill. 2020 Chertok Photo Contest. Honorable Mention, Advanced Category. Photo: Laura Garza.*

**Mark Roganov**, Crestview  
*Sergeant School—Sergeant Major Fish*

**Jake Turner**, Nokomis  
*A Pair of Wood Ducks*  
*Peek-a-Boo! Black Racer*

### NOVICE CATEGORY

#### 1st PLACE

**Joy Fox**, Orlando  
*\*Stork Contemplation—Immature Wood Stork*

#### 2nd PLACE

**John Bailey**, Orlando  
*Peek-a-Who? Barred Owlet*

#### 3rd PLACE

**Bill Hauck**, Winter Park  
*Pileated Sisters—Pileated Woodpeckers*

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**John Bailey**, Orlando  
*Nectar Snack—White Peacock on Pickerelweed*

**Brian Bateson**, DeBary  
*Hanging Thief or Robber Fly—Diogmites neoternatus*

**Jeffrey Gammon**, Casselberry  
*Dapper Duo—Crested Caracara*

**Caitrine Hellenga**, Orlando  
*Sleepy Owlet—Burrowing Owl*

**Lorri Lilja**, Casselberry  
*Watchful Mate—Mississippi Kites*

**Donald Martin**, Melbourne  
*First Flight—Anhinga Chicks*  
*Wood Stork Reflections—Wood Storks*

**Vivian McCoy**, Orlando  
*Gotcha! Red-bellied Woodpecker*

**Victor Westhall**, Winter Springs  
*\*Night Shot—Green Treefrog*

### ADVANCED AMATEUR/ PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY

#### 1st PLACE

**Claudia Daniels**, Venice  
*Golden Hour—Great Egret*

#### 2nd PLACE

**Bobby van Mierop**, Palm Coast  
*Snail Kike with Snail*

#### 3rd PLACE

**Susan Kirby**, Orlando  
*Gull Concentration—Thousands of Gulls*

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Alan Dart**, Longwood  
*\*Two Beggars on a Branch—Barn Swallow Fledglings*

**Laura Garza**, Orlando  
*Spoonbill Feathers—Roseate Spoonbill*

**Mark Hainen**, Groveland  
*Pair of Barred Owls*

**Dan Jones**, Belle Isle  
*Before They Jump—Wood Ducks*

**Steven Long**, Lady Lake  
*Circle of Life—Zebra Longwing Caterpillar and Egg*  
*The Three Amigos—Willetts*

**Daniel Olson**, Sarasota  
*Sunrise with a Great Horned Owl*

**Ruth Pannunzio**, West Palm Beach  
*Bobcat Kitten*

**Daryl Roston**, DeLand  
*Sandhill Crane Family*

**Joyce Stefancic**, Orlando  
*Dive Bomber—Vermillion Flycatcher*  
*Save Water! Dust Bathe with a Friend—Northern Bobwhite Pair*

**Bobby van Mierop**, Palm Coast  
*Catch of the Day—Black Skimmer Chick*  
*Full Moonbill—Roseate Spoonbill*  
*Head Dip—Reddish Egret*

**John Wise**, Orlando  
*Hungry Cattle Egrets*

Thank you to all the photographers who entered. We look forward to your participation in 2021.

Teresa Williams  
Chertok Photography Contest Chair





Head Dip—Reddish Egret. 2020 Chertok Photo Contest. Honorable Mention, Advanced Category. Photo: Bobby van Mierop

## Beginners' Bird Watching Class October 3, 10 & 17, 2020

Orange Audubon Society offers a Beginners' Bird Watching Class this fall, taught by popular instructor Bob Sanders.

An "outdoor" classroom session and mini-field trip are both on October 3rd at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and 2 field sessions are on October 10th and 17th at OWP and Lake Jesup, respectively.

All sessions are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. If you miss a fall session, you may make-up that day in spring 2021.

The class is limited to 10 students and subject to prevailing COVID-19 safety protocols.

Cost for the Fall class is \$30 for Audubon members, \$45 for non-members and \$10 for children through age 12 with a registered adult. Non-members wishing to join will be given instructions upon registration.

To register contact Teresa at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or (407) 644-0796. For questions about the class, contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

## Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge September 26, 2020

On Saturday, September 26th, Bob Sanders will lead a Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the 140,000-acre refuge near Titusville. We will see Roseate Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Black Skimmer, gulls, terns and shorebirds, including possibly American Avocets. Field Trip is limited to 10 people. Cost is \$10 per person per trip for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Reservations (required) will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

## Thanks to the 2020 Chertok Photo Contest Judges

Winners of the 2020 Chertok contest were selected by a panel of three judges who are professionals in the fields of art, nature and photography, respectively. This year's judges were Edward Feldman, Bruce Anderson and Robert Wilson.

Edward Feldman earned his Bachelors of Fine Arts from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and began his career in New York City and Philadelphia as a graphic designer. Although he started in the days of hand art work, he quickly mastered digital graphic design. After moving to Orlando in the late 1980s, Edward has had many commercial clients, but his work for Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is among his favorites. He helped OAS with the current format of the OAS*is* and branding for the North Shore Birding Festival, starting with posters in 2016, and two versions of the logo, website and ads in 2018. Edward also

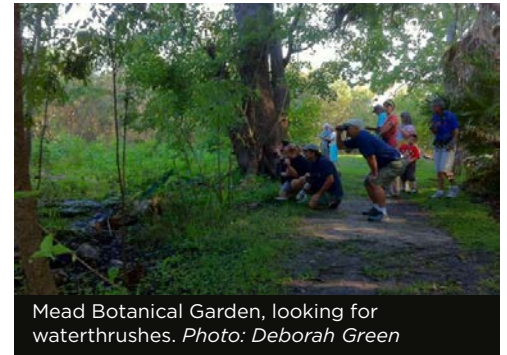
developed the graphics for 7 OAS kiosks for the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive—the raptor and waterfowl kiosks and 3 plant kiosks plus 2 invasive plant kiosks soon to be installed. Edward founded and co-manages the Adobe InDesign and Creative Suite User Group. His artwork has been featured on the cover of the *Winter Park Magazine*. See his work at [www.feldman.graphics](http://www.feldman.graphics).

Bruce Anderson, a/k/a 'da godfather of birding,' studied biological sciences at UCF and zoology, specifically birds, at the University of Oklahoma. He is past president of Florida Ornithological Society and past regional editor of the American Birding Association's journal, *North American Birds*. He reviews all Rare Bird Forms for Florida Christmas Bird Counts and has published many articles. He coauthored (and is proudest of) *The Birdlife of Florida*. This large book contains records,

## Fall Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2020

To celebrate fall migration, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will host bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden each Saturday in October, assuming there is not a serious spike in COVID-19. The walks are free and no registration is needed. Each walk will be led by an experienced birding guide. Walks start at 8:00 a.m. and will last 2 to 3 hours. The pace is slow with lots of stopping to look at birds. Location is Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. We will meet in the parking lot. For information, contact me at (407) 647-5834 or [lmartin5@msn.com](mailto:lmartin5@msn.com).

Larry Martin, OAS-Mead Liaison



Mead Botanical Garden, looking for waterthrushes. Photo: Deborah Green

including breeding records, of all bird species occurring in Florida, and is the authoritative compendium. Since retirement, Bruce has increased his world travel to six continents and his life list to over 3000 bird species.

Robert Wilson began digiscoping—attaching a camera or smart phone to a spotting scope—after a 30-year career as a staff photographer for Lockheed Martin. He now works for Kowa Sporting Optics, a sponsor of the North Shore Birding Festival. He takes great joy in sharing a view through his Kowa 883 scope or his Iphone while attached to the scope. Robert's photography was also used extensively in the film *Cultivating the Wild: William Bartram's Travels* that is OAS' September 17th program. He shares his photography [on Facebook](#).

OAS thanks Edward, Bruce and Robert for their time and talents that enhanced the 2020 Chertok competition.

Teresa Williams  
Chertok Photography Contest Chair

**Backyard Biodiversity Day  
Mead Botanical Garden  
October 17, 2020**



Plants for Birds is an important initiative of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) as well as National Audubon Society. For the 6th year, OAS is teaming up with the Florida Native Plant Society and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. to sponsor Backyard Biodiversity Day, an opportunity to buy native plants and learn more from the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society and friends.

This year's event takes place Saturday, October 17th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park. Walks, talks, vendors, music and food trucks will make it a fun event. If you would like to help at OAS' event table, contact Deborah at [volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org) or 407-637-2525.

**Join Audubon Florida's  
EagleWatch Program**

Florida's eagle nesting season is approaching! Audubon's EagleWatch program seeks volunteers to monitor eagle nests from October to May. Data collected in this community (citizen) science effort documents eagle nest productivity and is used by both the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance their conservation and law enforcement efforts.

To monitor Bald Eagle nests for the 2020-2021 breeding season, training is required. Plan to attend one of the following new volunteer trainings:

Saturday Sept 5th 10am-12pm. [Click here to register](#) for this date.

Sunday Sept 13th 2-4pm. [Click here to register](#) for this date.

Saturday Sept 19th 10am-12pm. [Click here to register](#) for this date.

Saturday Sept 26th 10am-12pm. [Click here to register](#) for this date.

Contact me if you have any questions at [eaglewatch@audubon.org](mailto:eaglewatch@audubon.org) or (407) 644-0190.

*Shawnlei Breeding, Audubon  
EagleWatch Program Manager*

**Conservation Leadership  
Initiative**

Audubon Florida's Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) brings college students into the Audubon fold.

In this 8-year old program chapter leaders are paired with students in mentor-mentee relationships, called co-mentorships, because both learn from each other. The hope is that students continue the relationship with the local chapter and become conservation leaders.

Through grants, the program has been expanded for 2020-21 to fund students to attend events and to keep students interacting with their local chapter. Students can [apply at this link](#) (deadline: September 12th).

**CLI Alum Melissa  
Gonzalez's New Job**

Congratulations to Orange Audubon Society board member and CLI alum Melissa Gonzalez on being hired as Outdoor Programs & Communications Specialist for the Friends of the Columbia Gorge in Portland, OR. She was among 197 applicants, and we are very proud.

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka**

September 12, 2020  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

**September Program: Cultivating the Wild: William Bartram's Travels - Robert Wilson**

September 17, 2020  
Contact Terry at (321) 436-4932

**September Field Trip: Econ River Wilderness Area, Oviedo**

September 19, 2020  
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

**National Public Lands Day**

September 26, 2020  
Contact Orange County EPD at (407) 836-1430

**Limited Edition Field Trip: Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Titusville**

September 26, 2020  
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

**Beginners' Bird Watching Class, Orlando Wetlands Park and Lake Jesup**

October 3, 10 & 17, 2020  
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

**Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park**

October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2020  
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

**Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka**

October 10, 2020  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

**Limited Edition Field Trip: Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Kenansville**

October 11, 2020  
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

**October Program: The UCF Purple Martin Project: Early Lessons From an Undergraduate Research Program - Anna Forsman**

October 15, 2020  
Contact Terry at (321) 436-4932

**Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park**

October 17, 2020  
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525