



This Month's Program: September 16, 2021

Coexisting with Panthers Update



A female Florida panther crosses through southwest Florida habitat at night with three kittens. Using data from panthers that were tagged with tracking equipment, conservationists were able to prove that panthers were crossing the Caloosahatchee River near LaBelle. © David Shindle, USFWS

Although the Florida Panther is still highly endangered, it is making a comeback thanks to conserved land and conservation efforts. Most of the estimated 120 to 230 Florida Panthers live in South Florida. Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) September speaker, Dr. Jennifer Korn, focuses on the panthers in the rest of the state.

Previously only a few adventurous males crossed the Caloosahatchee River and traveled north in search of territory and mates, but in March 2017 a mother and kittens were documented on Babcock Ranch Preserve in Charlotte County—the first clear evidence of a female north of the Caloosahatchee River in over 40 years. Then Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) biologists documented a second female north of the river, in Highlands County, just a few miles from Archbold Biological Station.

Dr. Korn previously worked as a Florida Panther specialist for FWC and is now a wildlife biologist with Johnson Engineering, Inc. In her research, she places cameras under bridges and wildlife crossings from Alligator Alley to I-4 to monitor use by panthers, Florida Black Bear, White-tailed Deer, and other species that cover large distances and rely on wildlife corridors. Building new wildlife crossings is very costly. If Dr. Korn can figure out which bridges are already important corridors for panthers, FDOT can retrofit these bridges to assist their movements. Her work involves partnerships with private landowners and non-governmental organizations, as listed on the [Path of the Panther Facebook page](#). Dr. Korn presented for OAS back in October 2018, and we have invited her to give an update on her research and efforts.

On September 16th just open YouTube and put Orange Audubon Society in the search field. The program will pop up at 7 p.m. Join us! *Terry Piper, Programs Chair*

Monthly Field Trip: September 25, 2021 Lake Louisa State Park

Orange Audubon Society's first monthly field trip of the season will be on National Public Lands Day, September 25th. Lake Louisa State Park in Clermont will be our location. Purchased starting in 1973 through the state's conservation land acquisition programs, Lake Louisa now spans over 4,000 acres.

We will look for upland species like Northern Bobwhite, migratory songbirds in the oaks and resident and migratory waterfowl on the lake. This trip is limited to 10-12 participants. You must reserve a space the week before (deadline: 9/18/21) by contacting me at lmartin5@msn.com or (407) 252-1182. 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



Fox Squirrel, Wekiwa Springs State Park, March 2017. Photo: Mary Keim

Bird Chats with OAS

Orange Audubon Society has initiated a fun weekly "Bird Chat" on Zoom each Thursday at 7 p.m. (except the 3rd Thursday). Each chat has identification of mystery birds, discussion of new arrivals, and a topic of the week—generally a guest presentation. Register at [this link](#) to participate live. 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). 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 continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Last summer OAS initiated its Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive Ambassador Program and its online Bird Chats with OAS. This year we have started a Young Birders Club (p.7).

To our monthly surveys at Wekiwa Springs State Park and our quarterly survey at Oakland Nature Preserve, this year OAS has added monthly surveys at Orlando Wetlands Park and quarterly surveys at Lower Wekiva River State Preserve. Surveys are fun and provide bird population data that helps park managers make decisions.

OAS' [NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL](#), December 2-6, 2021, is being planned on a relatively small scale to adhere to COVID-19 protocols. As we did last year, we have booked the Wekiwa Springs State Park Youth Camp as a place to house out-of-town trip leaders, and this opens up the opportunity to better utilize the wonderful Wekiwa Springs State Park. Two of OAS' upcoming guest speaker programs are by nationally known speakers: The October 21st program is our annual nature photo tips talk prior to the Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (deadline April 21st). The talk this year will be by Kevin Loughlin, owner of Wildside Nature Tours, a sponsor of the NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL. Kevin is a great nature photographer and his talk "Light...Shadow...Background!" should be very valuable to our photographers of all ages. And, if you have a child or grandchild interested in photography, you can sign up for the October 16th Youth and Family Photo Workshop at Mead Botanical Garden.

The other notable speaker is Scott Weidensaul, a Pulitzer Prize Finalist in 2002 for *Living on the Wind*. On January 20th, Scott will present for us on his new book *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*. Watch for continued information

on OAS' Plants for Birds efforts and our promotion of the native plants/caterpillars/birds research of Dr. Doug Tallamy.

OAS' 2021-2022 annual brochure of planned programs and activities should arrive at your mailbox 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 President's Letter Appeal included with the brochure! Thank you!

Deborah Green, President

Free the Ocklawaha River for Everyone

Five environmental bright spots in the 2021 Florida legislative session include passage of bills or budget items for Florida Wildlife Corridor land acquisition, sea level resiliency and flooding avoidance, water resource conservation, springs protection and manatee habitat. One unfunded Florida project, the restoration of the Ocklawaha River, supports each of these significant priorities.

The Ocklawaha is the heart of The Great Florida Riverway, a 217-mile waterway extending from Lake Apopka near Orlando to the lower St. Johns River ending in Jacksonville.

A free-flowing Ocklawaha River, reconnecting Silver Springs to the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers, is supported by FORCE (Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition for Everyone). Orange Audubon Society is a member of this coalition of sixty conservation, recreation, faith-based and business organizations.

Restoration of a free-flowing river will enhance water quality of the Ocklawaha—by removing the stagnant Rodman pool that is prone to algae bloom—and of the Lower St. Johns River by augmenting flows, increasing dissolved oxygen and providing a more balanced nutrient supply.

Breaching the Rodman/Kirkpatrick Dam would generate 156-276 million gallons per day of additional natural water flow for the Lower Ocklawaha River and St. Johns River Estuary by uncovering 20 freshwater springs drowned by the waters behind the dam. Additionally it also would eliminate substantial evaporation of valuable water resources from the

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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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Never miss out on OAS happenings. Add or update your email address by contacting newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org.

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Ocklawaha, cont.

reservoir as well as costly repairs to the dam. FORCE chair Margaret Spontak, a past Director of Development for Audubon Florida, is hopeful that Governor DeSantis and the legislature will give this nationally significant project its due during 2022.

On August 18th, Phyllis Hall of Seminole Audubon Society and I joined Margaret in meeting with the Florida Senate's Natural Resources Chair Jason Brodeur about the Ocklawaha. In collaboration with Vice Chair Senator Linda Stewart, the Senator has expressed support for the project. Please sign-up for the [FORCE newsletter at this link](#) and LIKE the [Free the Ocklawaha](#) Facebook page and other social media. Thanks for your help!

Deborah Green

Audubon Assembly 2021

This year Audubon Florida (AF) is holding three regional Audubon Assemblies with the theme Natural Climate Solutions. On October 21st at 6 p.m. join an online Welcome by AF Executive Director Julie Wraithmell and a Chapter Success Showcase. On October 28th at 6 p.m. tune in to Conservation Agenda Setting for 2022. The Central Florida regional event will be October 30th, with morning field trips followed by lunch outdoors at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will lead a driving tour of the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive and both a walking and tram tour of Orlando Wetlands Park. Some Assembly participants will join OAS' fall migration walk at Mead Botanical Garden. Register at [this link](#).

Local Government Sustainability Efforts

Vision 2050 is Orange County's comprehensive plan for smart, thriving, and healthy growth that guides how and where growth should occur in the county. Orange County's predicted growth over the next 30 year will put it at 2 million residents, making smart planning critical. Zoom Workshops started in October 2020 and ended in early July 2021, with County staff presenting changes in zoning, building facades, parking and road construction. In June, Audubon Florida's Charles Lee attended an environmental focus group to give input on the new comprehensive plan being developed for Vision 2050 joined by members of other environmental groups including the Florida Wildlife Federation, CLEO Institute, The Nature Conservancy, and Environment Florida.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) Conservation Chair Susan Thome-Barrett provided input including suggestions of increasing native plantings in public areas, increasing the amount of preserved natural habitats, and decreasing the use of clear-cutting in future areas of development.

A resident survey requested input on "trade-offs." One of these is having one larger community park versus many smaller, interspersed park areas throughout the community. While local, small parks sound good,

research shows one larger park is more supportive of native areas and wildlife than multiple, smaller parks.

Working with Orange County Sustainability Director Jeff Benavides, OAS president Deborah Green and Catherine Bowman and Mandy Morgan, plant experts from the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, are having a chance to provide input on the County's suggested tree list to increase use of natives.

In addition, the City of Orlando voted 5-2 in August to approve an EV (electric vehicle) readiness code that would require certain new developments within the city to include EV-capable and EV-installed parking spots. This type of land development code is the first of its kind in Orlando and signals a huge step towards the electric transition that will be going on in the next decade. Over the long-term this code can reduce emissions, lower retrofit costs for developments down the road, and provide equitable access to charging infrastructure for all residents. Audubon Florida and OAS fully support this EV-readiness code and look forward to its implementation.

Olivia Sciandra, AF Conservation Organizer, with OAS Conservation Committee



Common Yellowthroat in wild grape at Pine Lily Preserve, a Green PLACE property. Photo: Mary Keim

Green PLACE Funding

In August, Orange County Leadership approved \$100 million dollars for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands in an effort to meet the goal of doubling the acreage in preservation by 2030, a goal supported by Mayor Demings and the County Commissioners. Preservation of Orange County's natural resources is an important goal, both for environmental health and for quality of life for residents.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has had a long partnership with Orange County regarding its environmental lands. This includes an annual photo walk—this year a February 26th photo walk at Isle of Pine Preserve, butterfly and bird surveys at Green PLACE properties with data provided to Orange County Environmental Protection Division, and providing valuable input in stakeholder meetings regarding elevating the visibility of the Green PLACE Program.

OAS members appreciate the Orange County Green PLACE properties for their ecological value; flood control, aquifer recharge, habitat cooling, wildlife corridors, and preservation of some of the last wild places in Orange County. Especially during the pandemic, residents and visitors alike have been searching for places to get out in nature.

In addition to the \$100 million now approved for Environmentally Sensitive Lands Acquisition, OAS encourages the Orange County Commission to consider mechanisms for ongoing funding.

Now is a critical time to acquire key properties, however in the future additional important properties may be identified and additional landowners may become interested in selling.

A well-funded conservation land acquisition program makes Orange County [a leader in sustainability](#).

OAS Conservation Committee

2021 Climate Update

In early August 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) finalized and published the first part of its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) titled *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*.

Since 1988 the IPCC has been tasked by the United Nations to compile special reports, methodology reports, and assessment reports on climate change, associated risks, and adaptation/mitigation options. These reports are compiled by the world's top climate scientists and are intended to internationally aid policymakers' decisions regarding climate change. Special and methodology reports have been released in recent years, but this will be the first assessment report since the one in 2014 that provided scientific feedback for the Paris Agreement.

Additional sections/reports of the AR6 report will continue to be released with the complete report expected to be finalized in 2022. The United States is currently experiencing flooding, heat waves, wildfires, and sea level rise on an unnervingly regular basis with no end in sight, and we are not alone. The effects of climate change can be seen all around the globe.

A rise in temperature is inevitable in coming decades, but the choices we make now will determine how high that rise will be. Findings in this most recent report will be addressed in the upcoming November 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow. To learn more about the AR6 report please [visit the IPCC website](#).

Victoria Schwartz, Climate

Orlando Solar Co-op

The Orange County Solar Co-op 2021 was another big success! Over 245 people joined the Co-op before the recent deadline passed for signing up. This Co-op was the 8th one in the County since the first two in 2015.

Look for another Orange County Co-op next year and the Seminole County Solar Co-op to launch in February 2022.

Sign up for information at solarunitedneighbors.org/orlando.



Latino Conservation Week

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) continued its annual participation in Latino Conservation Week, a project of the Hispanic Access Foundation based in Washington, D.C. The celebration this year, as last year, involved having Spanish-speaking Ambassadors at the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. I happen to be fluent in Spanish having worked as an entomologist in Puerto Rico, so I served with Angela Gan on second shift while Paula Duenas and Stephanie Nieves (both OAS board members) served first shift. Ed Maldonado, a photographer who frequents LAWD, and his wife translated our press release for distribution to the local Hispanic media outlets. Paula put up flags of Hispanic countries to spruce up the Welcome Shelter for the July 18th event.

Deborah Green



Common Buckeye. Photo: Mary Keim

Butterfly Identification Field Trip, October 2, 2021

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is offering a Butterfly Identification Field Trip on Saturday, October 2nd. The trip is to Orlando Wetlands Park, 25155 Wheeler Rd, Christmas, FL from 9:00 am until noon. Registration is required. Cost is \$12 for Audubon members, \$17 for non-members. To reserve a space, contact OAS Treasurer Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 718-1977. Participants please bring binoculars, drink and snacks. Be prepared for sun and biting insects. Wear closed-toe shoes that you don't mind getting wet.

An optional recommended item to bring is the laminated brochure *Butterflies of Central Florida: A Guide*

June Challenge Winners

The June Challenge is an easy-going contest to get birders out in the field in one of the more difficult times to find birds. For several years Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has encouraged participation and publicized the winners. This year we held a Bird Chat about Summer Birding and the June Challenge with participation by last year's winner Sam Mitcham and Alachua Audubon's Rex Rowan ([see link](#)). To step it up a notch, this year OAS awarded a trophy, as Alachua Audubon has done for many years.



Sam Mitcham receiving trophy and certificate from Kathy Rigling, field trips chair.

Photo: Susan Thome-Barrett

This year Sam again came in first in Orange County and came in second in the state of Florida! Sam saw 129 species (123 native/6 nonnative). Fantastic birding in a tough month! #1 in Seminole County was Lorri Lilja with Brenda Grossnickle #2. #1 in Lake County was Jennifer McCleary.

In Orange County, the following were runners-up: #2 Kathy Rigling; #3 Susan Thome-Barrett; #4 Terry Breese; #5 Jennifer McCleary; #6 Claudia Breese; #7 Sonia Stephens; #8 (tie) Julia Nadeau Gneckow and Sylvie Nadeau Gneckow; #9 Whitney Breese and #10 Bert Alm. OAS held its awards ceremony at the new Tucker Ranch Recreational Center and Preserve of the City of Winter Garden. Tucker Ranch has uplands with large oaks, waterfront on John's Lake and grassy areas. Birders agreed this location would be worth checking out during fall migration and might be a new birding hotspot!

Susan Thome-Barrett and Kathy Rigling

to Common and Notable Species by Marc Minno, easily available for purchase online. Leaders are Randy Snyder and Mary Keim, butterfly counters since 1991. If you have questions about local butterflies or the field trip, contact Randy or Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com.

SE Arizona Birding



Lorri Lilja, Kathy Rigling, Susan Thome-Barrett and Angela Gan, Photo courtesy Kathy Rigling

Orange Audubon Society members Angela Gan, Lorri Lilja, Susan Thome-Barrett and I recently traveled to Southeastern Arizona to participate in the Southeastern Arizona Birding Festival hosted by Tucson Audubon.

The monsoonal weather cooperated, and we had 5 days of relatively comfortable conditions for the desert in August, and the bird species were abundant. Susan and I, who were new to birding in the Southwestern U.S., saw 53 life birds!

During the festival we were able to tour some of SE Arizona's notable hotspots including the Ash Canyon Bird Sanctuary, the Ramsey Canyon Preserve, Oracle State Park, Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, Mt. Lemmon, the Patagonia area, and the Paton Center for Hummingbirds. The landscape was amazingly varied and spectacular from the Sonoran Desert to grasslands to the "Sky Islands."

We saw so many stunning birds, making this trip beyond our expectations. Some of the highlights were Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Lucifer's Hummingbird, Northern Beardless-Tyrannulet, Thick-billed Kingbird, Zone-tailed Hawk, Pygmy Nuthatch, Red Crossbill, Olive Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Bridled Titmouse and Acorn Woodpecker.

Tucson Audubon did an outstanding job organizing their trips, following COVID protocols. I would highly recommend this festival for anyone considering visiting next August. It's a great way to be introduced to this amazing region.

Kathy Rigling

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. *Rachel Carson*

Red-Headed Woodpecker: Another Remarkable Species in Peril

Dramatic markings and unusual behaviors combine to produce a spectacular bird easy to identify. Uncommon but unmistakable, the Red-headed Woodpecker has a black back, large white patches on its lower wings, a white rump and a brilliant, entirely dark red head. No other Florida woodpecker has an all red head. (In contrast, the more common Red-bellied Woodpecker has a bright red crown and nape.) Unlike other woodpecker species, the male and female of the Red-headed Woodpecker look identical. The juvenile, however, has a plain brown head.

Once abundant across U.S. woodlands, orchards, parks, and farmlands, these woodpeckers have declined markedly during the last century. A hundred years ago North America had vastly more mature forests, nut crops and dead trees—prime habitat for these birds that were so common farmers paid a bounty for them, perhaps to protect their nut and berry crops. As human populations exploded, dead trees were felled and branches trimmed for construction, the species dwindled, resulting in a cumulative decline of 70 percent since 1966.

Red-headed Woodpeckers breed in Central Florida and prefer dead or dying trees for nesting cavities and storing food, particularly grasshoppers, and in Florida, acorns. Expert flycatchers, they capture live insects on the wing and cleverly stash them tightly into tree crevices so they cannot escape. And they wedge acorns in gateposts and railroad ties, or hammer them into cracks so tightly that other birds cannot remove them.

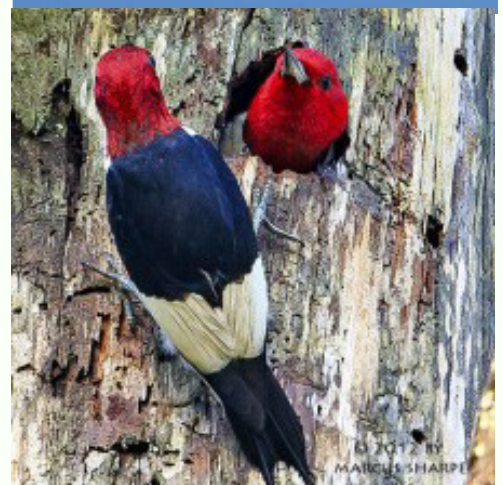
Omnivorous, these birds also feed on worms, berries, grubs, beetles, lizards, birds, mice and dead fish! They have robbed Cliff Swallow nests to eat their eggs and nestlings, at times destroying entire colonies. And they may raid poultry houses, pigeon houses and Bluebird boxes to obtain eggs.

When breeding, the male selects a nesting site in a dead tree in a field or open forest. They prefer smooth snags because this surface deters snakes. Males and females help with construction but the male begins by cracking the wood, digging out a gourd-shaped cavity, and making an entrance hole about two inches wide. Territorial and aggressive, these woodpeckers may pick fights with other birds including the much larger Pileated Woodpecker.

Where to find this remarkable species? Look for tall, smooth tree snags with two-inch holes where they may be nesting. I have observed them in Mead Botanical Garden darting in and out of tree cavities feeding young, at Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge and at Wekiwa Springs State Park where they breed. They are not difficult to find in the Park, according to OAS field trips chair Kathy Rigling, who organizes monthly bird surveys there.

"We usually see or hear at least a dozen when doing a survey," she says. "We had nesting pairs during summer camp this year." Check it out! There is much to learn. You will fall in love with Florida all over again when you discover our fascinating birds.

Linda Carpenter



Top, Red-headed Woodpeckers. Photo: Mary Keim. Bottom, Red-headed Woodpeckers at nest. Photo: Marcus Sharpe

2021 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest Results

In its 2021 (33rd 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 17th in 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 (*) are featured on OAS' 2021-2022 Annual Brochure.

YOUTH CATEGORY

1st PLACE

Matthew Chin, Windermere
Fresh Catch—Osprey with Fish

2nd PLACE

Matthew Chin, Windermere
The Offering—Common Gallinule with Chick

3rd PLACE

Jake Turner, Nokomis
Reflections of Pink—Hover Fly on *Lyonia lucida

4th PLACE

Matthew Chin, Windermere
Gallinule Peekaboo—Purple Gallinule

5th PLACE

Lauren Chin, Windermere
Turtle Talk—Great Egret and Florida Softshell

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Lauren Chin, Windermere
**Launching Bald Eagle
Marigold Heron—Great Blue Heron
Rodent Lunch—Great Blue Heron with Lunch*

Nicole Chin, Windermere
*Gibbous Flyby—Roseate Spoonbill
Osprey Shake
Vampire Snail Kite*

Levi Davis, Belle Isle
Protective Parent—Sandhill Crane

Lillian Frazer, Casselberry
*Say Ah! Sandhill Crane
Zebra Bird—Black-and-white Warbler on Cypress*



Great Egret at Dawn. 2021 Chertok Photo Contest. Honorable Mention, Advanced Category. Photo: Melodi Roberts

Jake Turner, Nokomis
Six-spotted Fishing Spider with Spider Prey

NOVICE CATEGORY

1st PLACE

Steven Madow, Orlando
Diving Through Caves with Fishes

2nd PLACE

Caitrine Hellenga, Orlando
**Liftoff—Belted Kingfisher*

3rd PLACE

Jan Pewsey, Ocoee
Hitching a Ride—American Alligator and Florida Red-bellied Cooter

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Fred Antonio, Sorrento
Do I Hear Pipping? Black Vulture Chick and Egg

Jeffrey Gammon, Casselberry
Snow in Florida—Snow Goose

Maria Khvan, Apopka
Last Gasp—Great Blue Heron with American Alligator

Donald Martin, Melbourne
Hurry Back—Great Blue Herons

Vivian McCoy, Orlando
Misty Sunrise

Jean Polarolo, Windermere
*Doing a Little Reflecting—Green Heron
Looking at You! Burrowing Owl*

Lee Ann Posavad, Davenport
Harvest Time—American Bumblebee on Spanish Needle

Margie Sullivan, Winter Park
Slim Pickins—Bald Eagle and Black Vultures with American Alligator Carcass

Sebastian Tongson, Winter Park
Black and Blue Stopover—Black-throated Blue Warbler in Red Maple

ADVANCED AMATEUR/ PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY

1st PLACE

Mark Hainen, Groveland
Feeding—Immature Black Skimmer

2nd PLACE

Joyce Stefancic, Palm Coast
Feathered Symmetry—Purple Sandpiper

3rd PLACE

Ruth Pannunzio, West Palm Beach
Eastern Meadowlark

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Jan Addison, Deltona
Dragonfly Duo—Marl Pennants

Kathy Bargar, Orlando
Gator Pileup—American Alligators

Carl Bilancione, Winter Springs
Hybrid Reflection

Jeff Bishop, Ocoee
All This for a Little Fish—Great Egret

Neil Clements, Zephyr Hills
Hangin' on for Dear Life—Great Egret and Green Anole

Melodi Roberts, Winter Springs
Great Egret at Dawn

Diana Rose, Umatilla
Foggy Cattail Sunrise—Wood Duck

Joyce Stefancic, Palm Coast
Comin' Atcha'—Sandwich Tern

Bobby van Mierop, Palm Coast
**Juvenile with Droplet—Roseate Spoonbill*

*Nesting in Flight—Anhinga
White Morph—Reddish Egret*

Georgia Wilson, Deltona
Peekaboo—Barn Owl

Thank you to all the photographers who entered. We look forward to your participation in 2022.

Teresa Williams
Chertok Photography Contest Chair

Thanks to the Chertok Photo Contest Judges

Winners of the 2021 Chertok contest were selected by a panel of three professionals in the fields of art, nature and photography. This year's judges were Robert Sena, Reinier Munguia and Marina Scarr, respectively.

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Crested Caracara parent and fledgling. Photo: Delsy Rodriguez

Beginners' Bird Watching Class October 9, 16 and 23, 2021

Would you like to improve your bird identification skills? Take Orange Audubon's Beginners' Bird Watching Class starting October 9, 2021. It's three Saturday mornings, and if you have to miss one, you can make it up in the winter series (January 16, 23 and February 6, 2022). Instructors are Jeffrey Gammon and myself, with help from Susan Thome-Barrett.

All sessions are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. An "outdoor" classroom session and mini-field trip is October 9th at Orlando Wetlands Park. On October 16th and 23rd field sessions are at Mead Botanical Garden and the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, respectively.

The class is limited to 12 students and registration is required. Total cost for all three sessions is \$40 for Audubon members, \$55 for non-members and \$10 for children through age 12 with a registered adult. Non-members can join when registering, directly through OAS, as instructed when you register. To register email Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. For questions about the class, contact me at riglingkathy@gmail.com or (407) 488-9559.

Kathy Rigling, Field Trips Chair

Limited Edition Field Trip: Joe Overstreet Landing September 5, 2021

On Saturday, September 5th, Larry Martin and Kathy Rigling will lead Orange Audubon Society's Limited Edition Field Trip to Joe Overstreet Road/Landing and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area in Osceola County. Target birds are migrating shorebirds, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Short-tailed Hawk, Snail Kite, Crested Caracara, Sandhill Cranes, and Bald Eagles. Covid Precautions: We will practice social distancing. Please bring a mask to use when social distancing is not possible. Plan on a long day. Definitely pack a lunch! To register (required) contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com or (407) 488-9559.

Thanks to the Chertok Photo Contest Judges, cont.

Robert Sena is a local photographer who is also an artist, plying his craft with color pencils, mostly focused on birds. His artwork was recognized twice as Best of Show in Flagler County's Art League Competition, and one of his drawings will be in the Fall edition of *Artists Magazine*. Robert frequents the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive on his bicycle with camera over his shoulder. He volunteers at Mead Botanical Garden, and he and his wife Flo volunteer with Orange Audubon Society.

Marina Scarr is an award-winning nature photographer and a Florida Master Naturalist based in Sarasota. Having started in photography at age 18, in 2007 she went digital and may be found covered in mud or lying flat on her belly in sand attempting a picture from the best vantage point. She is an avian moderator on the popular nature photography website www.birdphotographers.net and has won many awards. Marina's images have been published in *National Wildlife*,

Nature's Best, Popular Photography, Living Bird, and other magazines.

Reinier Munguia is the staff naturalist and president of Lake Region Audubon Society, based in Winter Haven. He has given photo workshops at the Space Coast, Big O and First Coast birding festivals, and this December, along with his wife Nyleen, he will present photo workshops at the [NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL](#). Reinier has been Audubon Florida's EagleWatch coordinator, assists with rescue work for wildlife rehabilitation centers and has worked with birds, reptiles, and others. He is widely published as a photographer and presents at schools all over Florida to help future generations understand and appreciate nature. His website is wildstockphotos.com.

Thanks very much to Robert, Marina, and Reinier for selecting this year's outstanding winners.

*Teresa Williams
Chertok Photography Contest Chair*

Fall Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021

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. However, reservations are required. Each walk will be led by an experienced birding guide. Walks start at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours 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.

To reserve your space the week before contact me at lmartin5@msn.com or (407) 252-1182.



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

Orange Audubon's Young Birders Club

Do you have a young person in your life between the ages of 8-16 who shows an interest in birds or in whom you want to help spark a connection to nature? Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is rolling out a Young Birders Club! We are initially starting with four guided walks in fall, early winter, late winter, and spring. These walks will be led by Jeffrey Gammon, a recent UCF Biology graduate and skilled birder. Assisting Jeffrey will be Stephanie Nieves, OAS board member, field biologist and mom.

Walks will be free, but advanced registration is required since space is limited. Loaner binoculars will be available.

Times are 8:30-11 a.m. Dates are as follows: September 25th, Mead Botanical Garden; November 13th, Lake Eola Park; January 22nd, the Lake Apopka North Shore, McDonald Canal area; and March 19th, Orlando Wetlands Park. Please contact Kathy Rigling at riglingkathy@gmail.com if you have questions or to register.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bird Chats with OAS via Zoom

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

- Wildlife of the Kissimmee Valley

by Paul Eisenbrown

September 2, 2021

- Cape Florida Banding Station by Michelle Davis

September 9, 2021

- Monitoring Birds in the Amazon

by Alec Hopping

September 23, 2021

- Seabird Nesting and Project Puffin

by Brian Cammarano

September 30, 2021

- NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL and other festivals by the Bird Chat Team

October 7, 2021

- The Nature Conservancy's Florida Programs

by Roberto Torres

October 14, 2021

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

September 4, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Limited Edition Field Trip: Joe Overstreet Landing and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area

September 5, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

September Program via YouTube: Coexisting With

Panthers Update – Dr. Jennifer Korn

September 16, 2021

Contact Terry at (321) 436-4932

South Carolina Coastal Birding

September 17-19, 2021

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Orlando Wetlands Park Monthly Survey

September 18, 2021

Contact Jeffrey at jeffreyg@knights.ucf.edu

Lower Wekiva River Preserve Quarterly Survey

September 22, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

September Field Trip/National Public Lands Day Lake Louisa State Park

September 25, 2021

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

Young Birders Field Trip, Mead Botanical Garden

September 25, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Butterfly Identification Field Trip, Orlando Wetlands Park

October 2, 2021

Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

October 2, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park

October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2021

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

Beginners Bird Watching Class,

Orlando Wetlands Park, Lake Jesup and Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

October 9, 16, and 23, 2021

Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park

October 16, 2021

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Youth & Family Photo Workshop, Mead Botanical Garden

October 16, 2021

Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

Limited Edition Field Trip: Ferndale and Green Mountain

October 17, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

October Program: Light...Shadow...Background! Photo Tips By Kevin Loughlin

October 21, 2021

Contact Terry at (321) 436-4932

October Field Trip: Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walk, Winter Park

October 16, 2021

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

Orlando Wetlands Park Monthly Survey

October 23, 2021

Contact Jeffrey at jeffreyg@knights.ucf.edu

Oakland Nature Preserve Quarterly Survey

October 24, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Audubon Assembly Field Trips, Central Florida

October 30, 2021

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Conservation Leadership Initiative

Audubon Florida's Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) brings college students into the Audubon fold. In this 9-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 2021-22 to fund students to attend events and to keep students interacting with their local chapter. Students can [apply at this link](#) (deadline: September 12th).