



This Month's Program: October 21, 2021

Light...Shadow...Background!

By Kevin Loughlin



Orcas Evening Light. Photo: Kevin Loughlin

Every year Orange Audubon Society (OAS) hosts a photo tips program to lead in to our annual Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest—deadline April 21, 2022. OAS is privileged this year to host Kevin Loughlin, owner of Wildside Nature Tours for his program “Light...Shadow...Background!”

Kevin grew up in the woodlands of Pennsylvania and at age six, during a family trip through the American West, became fascinated with seeing new and different birds as well as photography. Instilled with a love for travel and seeking new, exciting destinations, Kevin has wanted to share his experiences with others. In 1993, he created Wildside Nature Tours. Wildside has been a long-time sponsor of the NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL.

Kevin's photographs and articles have appeared in publications such as *WildBird*, *Nature Photographer*, *Audubon* and *Birding* magazines, as well as many natural history books, including the new *Peterson's Reference Guide to Owls of North American and the Caribbean* by Scott Weidensaul.

On October 21st, just open YouTube and write Orange Audubon Society in the search field. The program will pop up at 7 p.m. Whether you want to improve your photo skills or just enjoy great photography, join us!

Terry Piper, Programs Chair

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

Mead Botanical Garden is one of the most accessible songbird migration hotspots in Central Florida. To celebrate fall migration, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will host bird walks at Mead each Saturday in October. Walks start at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours with lots of stopping to look at birds.

For safety in relation to COVID-19, number of participants is now limited and reservations are required. To reserve your space the week before contact me at lmartin5@msn.com or (407) 252-1182. Mead Botanical Garden is located at 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. Good fall birding!

Larry Martin, OAS-Mead Liaison



Cerulean Warbler, Mead Botanical Garden
September 2021. Photo: Delsy Rodriguez

The Passing of Two Great Environmentalists

This September Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has lost two great friends of the environment, Jim Thomas, OAS president from 1969-71, and Richard Poole, OAS president from 1971-73.

Orlando Sentinel environmental reporter Kevin Spear wrote an excellent tribute to Jim Thomas, [available at this link](#). Our tribute to Richard Poole, a quieter hero, is on p. 5.



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.



Free the Ocklawaha River for Everyone

Environmentalists

believe that now—finally—is the moment to secure the political will to breach the Rodman Reservoir/Kirkpatrick Dam and restore the Ocklawaha River. And filling out a public input survey from the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is how you can help.

On September 23rd, SJRWMD, at the request of the Governor's office and Florida Department of Environmental Protection, initiated a month-long online public input process about the fate of the Rodman Reservoir/Kirkpatrick Dam.

Rodman Reservoir is a half-century-old remnant of the unfinished Cross Florida Barge Canal, which was intended to provide a shipping shortcut linking the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean. The 9,200-acre reservoir is a mucky, weed-filled reminder of Florida's environmental failures. Submerged cypress stumps remain from a once pristine forest along the river's banks.

A free-flowing Ocklawaha River is the heart of The Great Florida Riverway, a 217-mile waterway extending from Lake Apopka to the lower St. Johns River ending in Jacksonville. Restoration of a free-flowing river will enhance water quality in the Ocklawaha—by removing the stagnant Rodman pool—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 eliminate substantial evaporation of valuable water resources from the reservoir. It would also eliminate costly repairs to the dam.

Environmentalists' efforts to breach the dam have always been stymied by fishermen who believe bass fishing is best in the reservoir and by local businesses who see the Rodman Reservoir as an economic driver. The group Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition for Everyone (FORCE) has accumulated scientific evidence that fishing will still be good with the breaching of the dam. Manatees will

also be able to move through the rivers. Regarding the costly annual repairs to the dam, do you remember the Piney Point disaster (to stop a leak from flooding surrounding neighborhoods, polluted wastewater from an abandoned phosphate mine was released into Tampa Bay)? The danger of failure of the Rodman Reservoir/Kirkpatrick Dam and costs of repairs increase each year.

Margaret Spontak, FORCE chair and past Director of Development for Audubon Florida, believes Governor DeSantis and the legislature will give this nationally significant project its due during 2022. Sign up for the [FORCE newsletter at this link](#) and LIKE the [Free the Ocklawaha](#) Facebook page.

Here is [the link](#) to the survey that must be completed before October 22nd. To be most effective, before filling it out, go to [this page from FORCE](#) to see the questions. Clicking on each question on the FORCE action page will give you science-based information that will most help the cause of restoration as you answer the survey.

Please ask your friends and family members to fill out the survey too. The time has passed for this state-subsidized 50-year old mistake to continue.

Deborah Green



Audubon Adventures

Would you like to help Orange Audubon Society get *Audubon Adventures* into more classrooms? Email Education Chair Kathy Rigling at riglingkathy@gmail.com



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.

For other membership information, contact: Mike Daley
miked129e@gmail.com
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Natural Climate Solutions

Reducing our carbon emissions to tackle climate change is going to require many different types of actions, from improving the efficiency of transportation to reducing waste in electricity transmission to phasing out dirty sources of energy. While these efforts help birds in terms of the big picture of climate change, sometimes it's hard to see a direct connection between carbon-cutting projects and bird conservation.

One way that we can mitigate carbon emissions and help wildlife at the same time is through natural climate solutions. These are restoration or management projects that restore or build habitat while at the same time increasing natural carbon storage capabilities. For example, a wetland restoration project would be considered a natural climate solution if restoring the natural vegetation removes more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than had been removed by plants at that location beforehand.

Natural climate solutions can be a win-win for birds if they conserve or restore native habitat that birds rely on for food or shelter. Restoring degraded habitat is one obvious type of project that is a natural climate solution. An example of this type of project is the ongoing restoration of the Lake Apopka North Shore, which Orange Audubon members know is creating great birding habitat! Other types of natural climate solutions are projects that prevent damage to ecosystems in the first place, manage landscapes using best practices, and prevent nutrient pollution to aquatic habitat.

If it sounds like we can only implement natural climate solutions in rural areas, that's not the case! Smaller-scale urban activities can include converting lawns to mixed native plant habitat, restoring urban tree canopies, building rain gardens, and composting. These types of projects can all capture carbon, create habitat or food for birds, and also improve the livability of our cities and suburbs.

Importantly, natural climate solutions play an important role but are not a substitute for greenhouse gas emissions reductions and a renewable energy transition. Increased emissions and rising temperatures will lessen

ecosystems' abilities to store carbon. We need to work on increasing renewable energy and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst climate impacts and give nature and people more time to adapt. However, natural climate solutions are an important component of an overall climate strategy.

Sonia Stephens, Climate Co-chair

Youth Climate Project



High school juniors and seniors in West Orange County are encouraged to research problems created by climate change, and as they find innovative solutions to enter their proposed solutions in the Youth Climate Project. Entrants scoring high on their projects could receive between \$1,000 and \$5,000. A total of \$20,000 in scholarship funding is available from the newly created Amon Foundation, in collaboration with the Oakland Nature Preserve, in this new program designed to "encourage the environmental leaders of the next generation." If you or a family member is a high school junior or senior at West Orange, Windermere, Ocoee, Olympia, Horizon, Legacy or Innovative Montessori High School or home schooled in west Orange County, visit www.YouthClimateProject.org for additional information on this great opportunity.

Young Birders Club Fall Walk

Orange Audubon is excited to announce that we have started a Young Birders Club with a first bird walk on September 25th at Mead Botanical Gardens. Led by Stephanie Nieves and myself, and assisted by Susan Thome-Barrett, the young birders enjoyed a taste of fall migration with views of Yellow Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Prairie Warblers, Swainson's Thrushes and Cape May Warblers, among others.

Seeing the resident Wood Ducks and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was also a great delight. The youngsters also enjoyed other sights of nature including fall blooms, Oak Toads and fish in the creek.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on flatwoods plum.
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. Leaders are Randy Snyder and Mary Keim, butterfly counters since 1991. 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.

The laminated brochure *Butterflies of Central Florida: A Guide to Common and Notable Species* by Marc Minno is worth bringing and easily purchased online. If you have questions about local butterflies or the field trip, contact Randy or Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com.



Young Birders Club Field Trip to Mead Botanical Garden. Photo: Kathy Rigling

If you have a child or grandchild aged 7 to 16 who would like to participate in the Young Birders Club, please contact me at riglingkathy@gmail.com. Our next planned event will be a late fall bird walk on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive on November 13th.

Kathy Rigling, Education Chair



Zebra Bird—Black-and-white Warbler on Cypress. 2021 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest, Honorable Mention, Youth Category. Photo: Lillian Frazer

Global Birding Weekend October 8-10, 2021

Global Birding Weekend—sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Bird Life International and Swarovski Optik—inspires people to get outside to enjoy nature and raises funds for global bird conservation. It is an extension of October Big Day in which people all over the world record their sightings on eBird to give a snapshot of bird movements. To create an eBird account visit [this link](https://globalbirding.org) and learn more at <https://globalbirding.org>.

Volunteer for a Bird Survey

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has several bird surveys that birders of all levels are welcome to join. We were asked to enlist volunteers for these community (citizen) science projects so that collected data can gauge the effectiveness of prescribed burning and other restoration efforts.

Our longest running survey has been at Wekiwa Springs State Park, considered the crown jewel of the Florida State Parks due to its active prescribed burning and diversity of habitats. The Wekiwa survey is held monthly on the first or second Saturday of the month (check the current OASis calendar). This survey has two hiking routes completed by two separate teams of volunteers. Participants hike about 2.5 miles at an easy pace mostly on level paths, although muddy during some rainy spells. We often observe Red-headed Woodpeckers, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Bachman's Sparrow and other sandhill specialties.

Our next longest running survey is to Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP) in Winter Garden. This park on the south shore of Lake Apopka is undergoing a very active sandhill restoration managed by Jackie Rolly and other

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

Want 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, Education Chair

volunteers. On this survey we hike about 1.5 miles, which does involve hiking up some sandy trails with slight elevation. Most participants continue through the wetlands on mostly boardwalk to Lake Apopka and back. This survey takes place quarterly each season. The fall ONP survey will be October 24th. The sandhill restoration is home to Eastern Bluebirds and various species of sparrows and wrens in fall and winter. It's a great place to view flyovers of hawks, pelicans and other birds that frequent Lake Apopka.

This past August Jeffrey Gammon began a new monthly survey at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) in east Orange county. OWP is the first of its kind man-made wetlands providing advanced treatment for reclaimed wastewater. This survey involves hiking on unshaded sandy roads for a distance of about 3 miles. OWP hosts more than 220 bird *continued p. 8*

Limited Edition Field Trip October 17, 2021

The next Limited Edition Field trip will be October 17, 2021 to Ferndale Preserve and Green Mountain Overlook in Lake County. Fee is \$12 for OAS members and \$17 for nonmembers. Maximum participants are 12 with preregistration and participant waivers are required. To register and for location details, please e-mail Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com.

The first Limited Edition field trip of the 2021-22 season was on September 5th to Joe Overstreet Road and Landing and Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Several participants got great looks at Crested Caracara feeding on carrion on Canoe Creek Road.

When we arrived at Joe Overstreet Road we were treated to a family of Red-headed Woodpeckers with juveniles actively feeding in the nearby pine trees. Next, we drove to the sod fields and were thrilled to see Upland Sandpipers, life birds for several of us, as they are just stopping over on their way to South America. We saw seven Upland Sandpipers including four about 10 feet from the road!



Upland Sandpiper. Photo: Alan Shapiro

We also saw Eastern Meadowlark, Prairie Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Barn Swallow, Roseate Spoonbill, Purple Gallinule and Caspian Tern.

Next, we drove to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area where we enjoyed late summer wildflowers and butterflies while searching for birds. Everyone was delighted with the "squeaky-toy" calls and upside-down antics on the pine branches of two Brown-headed Nuthatches. Larry Martin provided a great tour of the property including the Pine Flatwoods, Red-Cockaded Woodpecker nesting trees, Oak Hammock and Lake Shore. Notable species seen included Limpkin, Common Ground Dove, Red-tailed Hawk, White-eyed Vireo and Eastern Towhee.

Kathy Rigling, Education Chair



Richard Poole with his wife Christine Brown (left) doing outreach on nest boxes, 2011.
Photo: Maria Paasch

Richard T. Poole

June 16, 1931–September 22, 2021

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members who knew Dr. Richard Poole are saddened by his death last month at age 90. In a quiet unassuming way, Richard made major contributions to OAS which we will strive to carry on.

Richard served as OAS president from 1971 to 1973. He had settled in Central Florida as a horticulture researcher at the University of Florida's current Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka. Interested in influencing people to appreciate the environment, in 1975 he became a charter member of the Apopka Foliage Toastmasters Club. He enjoyed writing and published many *Orlando Sentinel* Op-Eds, particularly on the need to reduce or eliminate lawns.

Three interests of Richard's particularly support the mission of OAS: Nest boxes, native plants for birds, and bird banding. Richard constructed, installed, and monitored nest boxes for over 35 years. He donated hundreds of nest boxes that OAS sold and was always willing to do outreach. See [Want to Build a Bird Box?](#)

In his Longwood home, with his wife Christine, Richard landscaped with native plants, and he potted up seedlings and raised them to donate to plant sales by the Cuplet Fern chapter, Florida Native Plant Society, and OAS' Silent Auctions.

In the mid 1990s Richard began bird banding with park biologists at Wekiwa Springs State Park. In 2002 he became a master bander, licensed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Wekiwa Basin Bird Banding Station has since 2008 operated out of Lake Lotus Park. Richard passed the torch to Andrew Boyle, and the banding station remains the longest running in Florida.

A great teacher. Rest in peace, dear friend.
Deborah Green

Painted Bunting: A Flamboyant Patchwork

Uncommon, secretive and declining, the colorful Painted Bunting is one of our most beloved birds.

A medium-sized songbird, it has a stubby, cone-shaped seed-eating bill like finches. The unmistakable rainbow-colored male has a brilliant violet-blue head, green back, red rump and belly. The female and immature male have a bright yellow-green back fading to a pale yellow underbelly and a pale eye-ring. It is our only green finch-like species. Their song is a sweet, continuous warble.

Painted Buntings eat a wide variety of seeds as they forage on the ground, grab the stem of a plant then hold it in place with one foot while eating the seeds. During breeding season they switch to insects like grasshoppers, caterpillars, bugs, spiders, snails, wasps and flies. Foraging in marshes and trees, sometimes more than 30 feet off the ground, they snatch invertebrates from spider webs or dive through a web to steal a spider's prey.

These birds breed in semi-green habitats with scattered shrubs or trees. Those from the South-central U.S. breeding population use abandoned farms, strips of woodland between overgrown fields, brushy roadsides and patches of grasses, weeds and wildflowers. Males and females search dense foliage for a nest site and the female (in two days) builds the nest, a cup about two inches in diameter made of weed stems, leaf skeletons, bark strips, twigs, rootlets, grasses and tissue paper or rag scraps. She binds these together with cobwebs and then firmly attaches the nest to a supporting plant. Surely a miracle!

Highly territorial, breeding male Painted Buntings vigorously defend their areas by fighting other males and pecking, grappling and striking each other with their wings. These battles can result in lost feathers, wounds, eye damage, and sometimes death. Males also attack females by driving them into the ground and pulling at their feathers.

The Painted Bunting, like many birds, has been affected by habitat loss as urban development has destroyed the swampy thickets and woodlands where they breed. The North American Breeding Bird Survey estimates a species decline of 62 percent between 1966 and 1995. (These numbers may have stabilized since 1995.)

Once popular cage birds, Painted Buntings have often been trapped and sold illegally, especially in Mexico and the Caribbean, a practice that has hastened their decline. In the U.S., trapping protected birds is punishable by fines and jail time. The [Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918](#) makes it unlawful to capture, kill or sell the 1,100 species listed as migratory birds. Violators could face federal penalties of up to \$2,000 in fines and two years in prison.

Eastern breeding Painted Buntings winter in shrubby or grassy habitats in Florida and the Northern Caribbean. They migrate south as early as mid-August but may arrive in Central Florida in early October. You can find them by searching for sources of seeds in weedy fields or at bird feeders. I hope to see a few at Mead Botanical Garden this month during the annual OAS fall bird walks.

Attract them to your yard by providing a seed feeder, water, and creating a habitat with low, dense vegetation to provide cover. I hear they especially like white millet. Or better yet, plant seed-producing native plants like Forked Bluecurls (one of their favorites) and some native grasses.

Enjoy their splendid plumage and sweet song!

Linda Carpenter



Painted Bunting male and female.
Photo: Joyce Stefancic

**Backyard Biodiversity Day
Mead Botanical Garden
October 16, 2021**

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.



Backyard Biodiversity Day volunteer explaining about bird boxes. *Photo: Deborah Green*

This year's event takes place Saturday, October 16th 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 fun.

If you would like to help at OAS' event table, please contact Deborah at volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org or 407-637-2525.

**Youth & Family Photo
Workshop, Mead Botanical
Garden, October 16, 2021**

The Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest has a Youth category for young photographers.

Award-winning photographer Susan Kirby enjoys sharing photo skills with young people and will lead this workshop at Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park. Since plants and bugs are easier subjects for young people than many birds, plant and bug expert Mary Keim will accompany the group on its short photo walk.

Date/Time is Saturday, October 16, 2021, 1:00–4:00 p.m. Youth, ages 10–17 are FREE with registered adult. Adults, \$7. Contact Teresa Williams at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 718-1977 to register.

Audubon EagleWatch

No new EagleWatch volunteers are needed this winter season, but everyone please watch for Bald Eagle nests. Check with me (eaglewatch@audubon.org) to make sure the nest is documented. If not, I will work with you to add it to the map for monitoring. The Greenwood Cemetery eagles moved after owls took over their nest. Eagles are seen in the area but the location of their nest is a mystery. We're hoping to hear from someone one day about that nest. Thanks! *Shawnlei Breeding, Audubon EagleWatch Program Manager*

**It's Fiesta Time!!
November 6–7, 2021**

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival is Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) biggest public outreach event and will be November 6–7. We have the chance to speak with many new people and sell our nature merchandise. We really could use your help!

Saturday and Sunday (8:00–6:00 each day) consists of setting up and taking down of merchandise and, the fun part—helping to sell merchandise and talking to people about OAS. Please mark you calendar and help OAS meet its financial goals and reach out to new members. To volunteer, please contact me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Thank you! *Teresa Williams*



Young photographer in Youth and Family Photo Workshop at the January 2020 NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL *Photo: Tina Pruitt*

**The Nature of Oaks:
The Rich Ecology of Our Most
Essential Native Trees
by Dr. Doug Tallamy**

Wisconsin-based Wild Ones: Native Plants, Natural Landscapes promotes environmentally sound landscaping practices to preserve biodiversity. Wild Ones is hosting entomologist Dr. Doug Tallamy talking about his new book *The Nature of Oaks* on Tuesday, October 5th, 7 p.m. EDT. Here's [the link to register](#) for this free webinar by one of our favorite speakers.



Myrtle Oak. *Photo: Mary Keim*

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](#).

Bird Chats with OAS

Orange Audubon Society continues its fun weekly "Bird Chats" 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](#).



Hunting Island lighthouse; Sanderling with banded Piping Plover. Photos: Pamela Ford. Bottom, birds on the beach. Photo: Paula Duenas

Trip participants birdwatching. Photo: Pamela Ford. Red-eyed Vireo. Photo: Paula Duenas. Immature Reddish Egret. Photo: Craig Watson.

Birding along the South Carolina Coast

In mid-September, an intrepid group of 15 Floridians traveled with Orange Audubon to the salt marshes, rivers, forests and beaches of the beautiful coastal area near Beaufort, South Carolina, for a long weekend of amazing birding. We saw 102 species and walked 15 miles!

Our first official birding stop was the gated community of Harbor Island, a neighborhood that values wildlife and habitat. One of the community members guided us over magnificent dunes to the water, where Marbled Godwits actively probed the sand for crustaceans and insects.

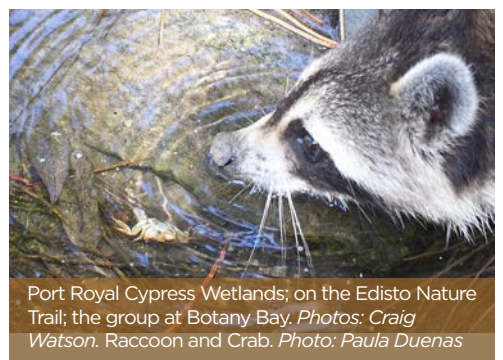
Around the parking lot of Pinkney Island National Wildlife Refuge, Red-eyed Vireos, Brown-headed Nuthatches, and Painted Buntings flitted low, back and forth, in and out, eating pokeweed and pepper vine berries.

At sunset in the Port Royal rookery, thousands of White Ibises and other species of wading birds mobbed a small,

moated refuge, squawking, circling, squabbling and jostling for position. The din was incredible.

The following morning, we were greeted by the graceful half-black, half-white lighthouse at Hunting Island State Park. There we began a trek of more than a mile toward the Edisto River and toward literally thousands of shorebirds resting along the beach and sandbars. Our guide Craig Watson, who studies the winter habitat of the endangered Piping Plover, pointed out several “PIPLs” to us. One was banded and Craig learned that it was hatched this year on an island in Lake Michigan! In addition to pipers, we saw Wilson’s, Semi-palmated, and Black-bellied Plovers, immature Reddish Egrets, and a plethora other shorebird species.

Back on dry land, our next encounter was in the wooded Edisto Nature Trail, with ghosts of its slave and logging history, disused rice fields, and hints of a vanished phosphate factory. Lots of forest species called to us, and one showed itself boldly,



Port Royal Cypress Wetlands; on the Edisto Nature Trail; the group at Botany Bay. Photos: Craig Watson. Raccoon and Crab. Photo: Paula Duenas

at eye level and up front: a magnificent male Hooded Warbler.

Our final stop was Botany Bay, where salt marsh met beach, and Ruddy Turnstones climbed the bones of tree skeletons whose sand foundations had eroded by 6 feet or more. A raised sand path led us through marshland, where fiddler crabs and periwinkle snails languished, to the ocean. Low tide offered the only access to the beach, where huge numbers of shorebirds, including some 20 Red Knots, made for the trip’s grand finale. It was a terrific OAS trip! I highly recommend this one to you, perhaps next year?

Terry Piper

Volunteer for a Bird Survey, continued from p. 4

species and is a great place to view a winterwaterfowl haven. The next OWP survey will be October 23rd.

Lastly, Wekiwa Springs park biologist Paul Lammardo is beginning a new survey that will encompass Rock Springs Reserve and the Lower Wekiwa River Preserve. This will be a quarterly

survey which will involve three routes that will be by vehicle and three routes that will be conducted on foot. The hiking portions will be through Pine Flatwoods and Sandhill and will involve a hike of about 2.5 miles. The first of these surveys will be held on October 26th.

Surveys are open to OAS members. Guests and out-of-town visitors may participate in one survey a year but beyond that we ask that you update your [OAS membership](#). For more information or to register, please email Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Bird Chats with OAS via Zoom

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

- 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

- Birding Ecuador by Tammy Martin

October 28, 2021

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

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

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

October 16, 2021

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

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

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

Rock Springs Reserve/Lower Wekiwa River Preserve Quarterly Survey

October 26, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Audubon Assembly Field Trips, Central Florida

October 30, 2021

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

November Wekiwa Monthly Survey

November 6, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Fiesta in the Park, Lake Eola

November 6-7, 2021

Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

Creatures of the Night Tram Ride, Orlando Wetlands Park

November 13, 2021

Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

Young Birders Field Trip, Lake Eola

November 13, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Limited Edition Field Trip to Lake Apopka North Shore, Clay Island

November 14, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

November Program: Native Florida Snakes by Chris Stalder (tentatively in person)

November 18, 2021

Contact Terry at (321) 436-4932

November Field Trip: Lighthouse Point Park, Ponce Inlet

November 20, 2021

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

Orlando Wetlands Park Monthly Survey

November 21, 2021

Contact Jeffrey at jeffreyg@knights.ucf.edu

NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL, Lake Apopka

December 2-6, 2021

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525