



This Month's Program: November 18, 2021

Mysterious Lives of Snakes in Florida Gardens...Revealed by Chris Stalder



Yellow Rat Snake. Photo: Mary Keim

Would you like to know about some common snakes that you may encounter in Central Florida? Learn what precautions you should take exploring outdoors and what measures to take should you accidentally be bitten?

On November 18th at 7 p.m., Orange Audubon Society is pleased to host an in-person program in the verandah of the Camellia Room at Leu Botanic Gardens with opportunity to view some non-venomous local species up close and personal.

Our presenter is agronomist, beekeeper and reptile expert Chris Stalder, who did this presentation for us ten years ago. Chris promises to bring a Florida Pine Snake, Florida King Snake, Yellow Rat Snake, Red Rat Snake, and Florida Water Snake.

In his presentation Chris will educate us on harmless and beneficial garden snakes and also on the four venomous species found locally. He will share some of the important medical applications and uses for snake venoms.

Children are welcome. And bring your checkbook if you are still looking for holiday gifts. OAS will have its nature merchandise for sale.

Location: Harry P. Leu Garden, 1920 North Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803-1537.

Terry Piper, Programs Chair

Monthly Field Trip Lighthouse Point Park, Ponce Inlet November 20, 2021

Orange Audubon Society's Saturday, November 20th field trip will be to Lighthouse Point Park. This Volusia County park in Ponce Inlet has a nice hammock boardwalk where we will look for late migrant songbirds. When we exit onto the well-preserved dunes, we'll observe beach birds. On the Ponce Inlet jetty and scoping the mouth of the Halifax River, we will see gulls, terns, shorebirds and wading birds. The rare Purple Sandpiper and diving Northern Gannets are a few target birds.

Park entry is \$10 per car. Address is 5000 S Atlantic Ave, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127. Inside the park turn left toward the beach and look for us in the parking lot. We will meet there at 8:30 a.m. The trip is free but has a maximum number of participants of 15. Registration is required by contacting me at lmartin5@msn.com.

Larry Martin, Field Trips Chair

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, 2021.

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.

To volunteer, please contact me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Thank you!

Teresa Williams, OAS Treasurer

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). 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 in the Camellia Room at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando, FL 32803
www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/





Protect Net-metering

Orange Audubon has partnered with [Florida Solar United Neighbors](#) (FLSUN)

to publicize workshops on going solar, utilizing economies of scale and information sharing through solar coops. We have just learned that net-metering, the policy from the 1970s that has helped people afford solar by giving utility customers the ability to sell excess energy back to the utility, [is under attack](#). We are asked to attend a [November 9th meeting at OUC](#). Please consider participating to support solar.

Ocklawaha Update

Thanks to everyone who took the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) survey about the Ocklawaha restoration. Over 10,000 surveys were submitted by the deadline. Indications are that a large majority of respondents favor restoration over keeping the Rodman Dam in place.

Free the Ocklawaha River Coalition for Everyone (FORCE), is working with legislators on a bill, to be finalized in the next few weeks. It will contain three main items—1) Execution and funding of partial restoration, 2) An economic package for Putnam County, the county most impacted by reducing the Rodman Reservoir, and 3) Priority recreation infrastructure for Marion and Putnam Counties.

Additional letter writing to the Governor and key legislators will be helpful. OAS encourages everyone to sign up for updates from FORCE at <https://www.freetheocklawaha.com/>.

OAS Conservation Committee

Orange County to Revise Fertilizer Ordinance

Orange County held a series of meetings to discuss proposed changes to its ordinance governing fertilizer regulation and use (Chapter 15, Article XVII, Fertilizer Management Ordinance).

A study of Orange County's Wekiva Basin waterways (concluded September 8, 2021 and available online at www.ocfl.net/fertilizerresponsibly) found substantial surface and ground water impairment caused by excessive nitrogen and phosphorous.

These excessive nutrients result in increased growth of algae and reduction in oxygen levels in the waterways, detrimental to marine life and the health of the waterways. Testing showed double to triple the Nitrogen contamination at test wells/waterways during our rainy period (June through September) when compared to other months of the year.

The biggest pollution source was found to be on-site sewage treatment (septic tanks) at 29%. Transitions from Septic to Sewer in the Wekiva area have begun. The next largest source was residential turf fertilization at 26%. Farm fertilizer made up 11% followed by sports turf grass fertilizer at 8%.

Changes to the Fertilizer Ordinance include adding a Prohibited Application Period which includes any time during a Flood Watch or Warning, a Tropical Storm Watch or Hurricane Watch, or if more than two inches of rain are forecasted within a 24-hour period by the National Weather Service or if the soil is visibly saturated.

In addition, fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorous cannot be applied during our rainy season, from June 1 through September 30. Micronutrient fertilizers that do not have nitrogen or phosphorous—often marked as “Summer Blend”—can be used during this time period.

A representative of the Sierra Club who attended one of these meetings pointed out that waterway studies in other Florida counties which passed similar ordinances have shown a reduction in Nitrogen and Phosphorous.

Retailers will be required to post notices about black-out dates. Banning the sale of these products during that time period goes against state law, according to the county representative. But education is the key to cleaning up our waterways.

We need to talk to our neighbors and friends. With the excessive manatee deaths caused by waterway pollution, this education should be readily accepted. Input is still ongoing. If you would like to request a copy of the proposed changes, email Jacques Werleigh, Orange County's Strategic Engagement Coordinator at fertilizer@ocfl.net.

*Susan Thome-Barrett,
OAS Conservation Chair*



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
(407) 417-7818

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LIKE OAS' [FACEBOOK](#) PAGE

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MEAD Trims Versus Removes Dead Trees

When birders noticed that dead pine trees in the picnic area at Mead Botanical Gardens were marked for removal, Mead Garden's liaison Larry Martin contacted Garden management to request that the bottom 30 feet of the "snags" be left for wildlife. When the tree cutters arrived to begin their work, this birder just had to ask if the request was being considered. Staff reported they would be leaving the bottom 30 ft for the wildlife! Score one for woodpeckers! *Susan Thome-Barrett*



Pileated Sisters. 2020 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest, Third Place Winner, Novice Category. *Photo Bill Hauck*

Hydrilla and Lake Apopka Water Quality

Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) is an aggressive introduced submerged aquatic plant that outcompetes native species and interferes with navigation. It is native to Asia and was released into waterways in the 1950s and 1960s from aquariums. It is now the most serious aquatic weed problem in Florida and most of the U.S. At a recent Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Public Meeting on Hydrilla and its management in Lake Apopka, staff reported that improved water quality in Lake Apopka has contributed to increased growth of this worldwide pest.



Sonar and GPS measurements show Hydrilla increased from 4,500 acres in 2020 to approximately 14,000 acres in 2021. A budget cut in Hydrilla control from a high of \$700,000 in 2020 to ~\$175,000 in 2021 has not helped. Hydrilla management funding

comes from real estate doc stamps, gas tax and boat registration sales.

Some fishermen think Hydrilla is good for fishing, but a FWC biologist pointed out that Hydrilla actually deters fish populations. Hydrilla needs less sunlight than native submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) and has an astounding growth rate of 6-8 linear inches/day up to 100 radial inches/day.

Native SAV, like eelgrass, is growing back from before the lake was polluted, as the lake restoration efforts have reduced nutrients in the lake and there is less algae to block sunlight. Native SAV totaled 200 acres (compared to 20 acres last year).

St. Johns River Water Management District (District) staff reported that native plantings continue on the North Shore both of submerged and emergent plants, like spatterdock. The band of spatterdock planted in 2013 helps clear the water by stabilizing sediments. It also breaks the impact of storm surge, like that of Hurricane Irma, on the main levee separating the lake from the North Shore marshes and provides habitat for fish and birds.

Hydrilla control methods include mechanical harvesting, which is not effective at a large scale since removal barely keeps up with growth rate. Boat paths cleared with mechanical harvesting in Lake Toho grew back in 2-4 weeks. An evaluation of using sterile carp to control Hydrilla is ongoing. The biggest problem mentioned is how to keep the carp from eating native plants.

At the current levels of Hydrilla in Lake Apopka, FWC and District biologists stated that spraying is the only effective treatment strategy to get it under control. Friends of Lake Apopka is actively petitioning FWC to control the Hydrilla. To counter the calls from fishermen to keep the Hydrilla, we also need to contact FWC to please keep up treatments before the entire lake is clogged. Contact me at 2904susan@gmail.com if you will help.

Susan Thome-Barrett, Conservation Chair



Catherine Bowman of Tarflower Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society, leads sandhill restoration project walk. *Photo: Deborah Green*

Backyard Biodiversity Day 2021 Report

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) was again a co-sponsor of the annual Backyard Biodiversity Day (BBD) held on October 16th at Mead Botanical Garden (MBG) in Winter Park.

The big event of the day was a native plant sale by the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, the main sponsor of BBD, to benefit habitat restoration projects at MBG. Tarflower volunteers made plant recommendations to interested shoppers. There was a steady stream of visitors with an estimated attendance over 1200. Hikes and presentations about biodiversity were also featured at BBD. Interpretive hikes focused on pollinator insects, edible plants, herpetology, gopher tortoises and the ongoing sandhill habitat restoration project. Outdoor presentations included creating biodiverse backyard habitats with native plants which help support pollinators, other native wildlife and people. A nice addition this year was a drawing for habitat gardens, six collections of 6-10 plants for Bird-friendly, Pollinator, Dry-Shade and Rain Garden.

OAS volunteers staffed a table with plants for birds materials, answering questions about birds and where to see them locally and sold some of the last nest boxes made by our friend and former OAS President, the late Richard Poole.

Exhibitors representing many of Central Florida's conservation groups had a good exchange of ideas. It was good to see parents with children attending the short nature hikes. It was also very nice to see friends from the environmental community that we had not seen since the pandemic began.

Mary Keim, OAS member and "Pollinator Prowl" hike leader at BBD



Fall 2021 Beginners Bird Identification Class. Photo: Susan Thome-Barrett

Fall Beginners Bird Identification Class

This fall's Beginners Bird Identification Class was led by Susan Thome-Barrett and myself, and participants were treated to three half-day sessions of introductory birding skills and field practice.

Our first class was held at Orlando Wetlands Park on a drizzly morning. The rain fortunately brought in some beautiful warblers that we were able to observe right at our teaching pavilion. The students were off to a running start getting looks at Yellow Warbler, American Redstart and Prairie Warblers.

After direct instructions on using field marks, behaviors and other ID techniques, the students were ready to practice binocular use. Many were astounded on how well they were able to see birds when taught to focus correctly.

At the Orlando Wetlands Park a Common Yellowthroat popped up so everyone could view it. We saw newly arrived Palm Warblers, noisy Black-bellied Whistling Ducks and a Belted Kingfisher. The surprise of the day was a flyover by a Merlin!

Our second class was at Mead Botanical Gardens where we were treated to a pair of Barred Owls sleeping in a tree, Pine Warblers, House Wrens, Eastern Phoebe, Wood Ducks and a surprise Baltimore Oriole in an oak tree!

Our final class was on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive where we used walkie-talkies to help us observe 55 species among the great variety of birds there. Highlights included a Green Heron trying to eat a frog, a Cooper's Hawk perched on a snag, a Northern Harrier gliding over the marsh, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Ring-necked Ducks, Fulvous Whistling-Ducks and a newly arrived Northern Shoveler!

The next Beginners Bird Identification will be offered January 16th, January 23th and February 6th. If full, wait lists are available for the spring class, which will be March 12th, March 20th and March 26th. To register, contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 718-1977. *Kathy Rigling, Education Chair*

FLEDJE training

Audubon Florida and National Audubon Society have rolled out a new Equity and Diversity training program, called FLEDJE (Future Leaders for Equity, Diversity and Justice in the Environment) and Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is one of the chapters taking part in the inaugural program. OAS is investing both time and intellectual capital for the education and ideas to help move our organization forward towards becoming a more diverse and equitable organization.

If you have ideas or connections that you think may be helpful during this 6-month journey, contact Susan Thome-Barrett at 2904susan@gmail.com with subject line "FLEDJE".

Limited Edition Field Trips

The next Limited Edition Field trip on November 14th to the Lake Apopka North Shore, Clay Island is already full. But you can still register for the December 19th Limited Edition Field Trip to St. Augustine Birding Hotspots.

The 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 email me at riglingkathy@gmail.com.

On October 17th, the Limited Edition Field trip was to the highlands of Lake County to visit Green Mountain Scenic Overlook. At the observation deck located at 132 feet above sea level, we looked down on the tree tops. We found 3 Indigo Buntings and our first of the season Ruby-crowned Kinglets dancing among the foliage. We observed lively Gray Catbirds and striking Black-and-white Warblers.



Eagle on nest seen during class. Photo: Susan Thome-Barrett

Next, we traveled by car just a short distance to Ferndale Preserve. This Lake County park, like the overlook, had been purchased through efforts of the [Green Mountain Scenic Byway](#) group.

The weather was perfect for hiking through the varied habitats at Ferndale. We found 40 species of birds including Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cape May Warbler, Ovenbird, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Brown Thrasher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk and to top it off a light morph Short-tailed Hawk!

Thanks to our leaders Gigi DelPizzo and Michael Brady for their sharp eyes and ears to help us to find these amazing birds!
Kathy Rigling



Great Blue Heron with Red Rat Snake. Photo: Sam Mitcham

Audubon Assembly 2021

Audubon Florida (AF) has always been given kudos for its annual Audubon Assembly, a gathering of AF staff and chapter leaders for field trips, educational presentations and networking. The Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) program to bring college students into the Audubon fold grew out of a brainstorming session at Assembly, and CLI has been part of Assembly for nearly 10 years.

In the COVID-era, organizing such events has been more problematic, so online state-wide presentations were held accompanied by one-day in-person regional events. Field trips and a networking lunch were held in three locations around the state.



On Lake Apopka on the lakeside route on the Audubon Assembly field trip. Photo: Deborah Green

On October 30th as part of Assembly, Orange Audubon Society's Kathy Rigling led a walking trip at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) while a trailer ride was led by OWP volunteers. Several Assembly participants joined the Mead Garden Bird Walk as their trip. I enjoyed showing people from around the state the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, with

help from Mary Soule in finding rarer birds. This was followed by a networking luncheon at the Center for Birds of Prey. It is always great to see the raptor ambassadors and AF staff and meet some of the AF board members.

Deborah Green

Global Big Day Report

On October 9, 2021, birders from around the world joined together to contribute to community science by birding in 253 countries to provide scientists a snapshot of the health of bird populations during migration.

By the numbers 32,670 people went birding, 78,024 checklists were submitted and 7,269 species were recorded. October Big Day truly showcased the power of birds to bring diverse people together.

Locally in Orange County 132 species were observed with the top hotspots being Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive with 66 species, followed by Mead Botanical Gardens with 65 species and the Orlando Wetlands Park with 56 species. The Beginners Bird Identification Class contributed 55 of those observations at Orlando Wetlands to the count! To everyone who contributed a checklist to eBird for Global Big Day, thank you for helping birds by reporting what you see. For more information about October Big Day, please visit: <https://ebird.org/octoberbigday>.

Kathy Rigling

Young Birders Club

Orange Audubon is excited that we have started a Young Birders Club with a successful first bird walk on September 25th at Mead Botanical Gardens led by Stephanie Nieves and myself. Our next planned event will be on November 13th on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. 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.

Kathy Rigling, Education Chair

Project Feeder Watch

Enjoy feeding birds at your home? No matter how small or large your feeding station is, you can provide valuable scientific data to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project Feeder Watch. You don't even need a feeder to participate as long as you have a bird bath or plantings to attract birds.



Painted Buntings on feeder at Mead Botanical Garden. Photo: Delsy Rodriguez

This is a great way to engage children with observing nature. Data can be entered online or mailed. Your data is saved for you to view from all the years that you have participated. From Feeder Watch data, scientists note declining populations such as the Painted Bunting in Florida, so that timely action can be taken.

Project Feederwatch runs from November 13, 2021-April 30 2021.

To participate select an area that is easy to observe from your home. The count must be conducted two consecutive days in a row. You can choose the frequency and duration of your counts. There is even an App available to help you record data, but paper forms are also accepted. To learn more about this worthy and fun project, visit <https://feederwatch.org>.

Kathy Rigling, First Vice President

Loggerhead Shrike: A Masked Bandit in Decline

A predatory songbird that mimics raptors, the Loggerhead Shrike is known as the butcherbird, white-rumped shrike, Spanish Mockingbird and thorn bird. This species has a broad black mask and black eye, a stout hooked black bill, gray-and-white body about 9 inches long and small white wing patches. The Loggerhead Shrike has a larger head (“blockhead”) than the Northern Mockingbird, quicker wing beats and a more direct flight. It is smaller than the Northern Shrike.

Like birds-of-prey, Loggerhead Shrikes perch conspicuously on power lines and fence posts to hunt in open habitats and grasslands throughout much of North America. Since they do not have a raptor’s talons, however, they skewer their prey on thorns or barbed wire or wedge them into tight places to eat later. This behavior of impaling prey represents a unique adaptation to the problem of eating large animals without benefit of the strong feet and talons of raptors.

These shrikes capture rodents or small birds their same size. They carry large prey in their feet and smaller victims in their beaks. Like a falcon, the shrike kills vertebrates by using pointy projections (tomial teeth) in its beak to paralyze animals with a jab to the spinal cord. They also kill poisonous prey like monarch butterflies and Eastern narrow-mouthed toads, then wait several days to eat them, allowing time for the poison to break down. How discerning!

Although these birds are fairly numerous in the South and Western U.S., their populations have fallen sharply in the past 50 years. Between 1966 and 2015 the species declined 3 percent per year, resulting in a cumulative decline of 76 percent according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. A 2014 State of the Birds Report lists them as a “common bird in steep decline.” Loggerhead Shrikes have been listed as endangered, threatened and of special concern in several states and Canada. Audubon has named them a priority bird or a species of concern. Their decline coincides with the introduction of chemical pesticides in the U.S. between the 1940s and the 1970s. Other likely causes of population decline include collision with vehicles, urban development and habitat destruction.

You can find them by scanning fence posts, power lines and other obvious perches in grasslands and open areas. Watch for hovering birds that appear smaller than American Kestrels. They sometimes hunt on cold mornings when insects are immobilized by low temperatures.

Males and females gather material for nesting and the female builds a nest about 6 inches wide. This amazing construction is a bulky, well-insulated open cup neatly woven of rootlets, twigs and bark strips then lined inside with soft flowers, lichen, grass, moss, feathers, fur, string or cloth.

I last saw a Loggerhead Shrike at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge many years ago. A friend reported recent sightings at Ft. DeSoto Park in Pinellas County and at Joe Overstreet Road in Osceola County near the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail.

Check it out! Another clever, handsome and fascinating bird! There is much to learn about Florida’s avian species.



Loggerhead Shrike with Cricket. Photo: Michelle Wilson

Linda Carpenter

Overnight Trips and Festivals: Register Early

Following a successful South Carolina trip, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) plans five more overnight trips plus a five-day festival (see next page). All are fund-raisers toward OAS’ nature and environmental education center fund or related educational programs. If interested, sign up early!

South Florida Birding

Dates: Jan 6-9, 2022. This trip is to introduce Everglades National Park, the Upper Keys and to find South Florida specialties with skilled guides Luis Gles and Mariah Hryniewich. A group rate has been secured for a hotel in Florida City. Trip cost is \$105 for Audubon members and \$125 for non-members and covers local expert guides and one lunch. For registration/lodging/other details, email Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org.

Gainesville hotspots, Alachua County

Dates: January 28-29, 2022. This Limited Edition Field Trip has expanded to include one night in Gainesville. Trip cost is \$70 members; \$85 non-members and covers local expert guides and one lunch. For registration/lodging/other details, email Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com.

Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County

Dates: April 11-12. Trip cost is \$70 members; \$85 non-members and covers local expert guides and one lunch. For registration/lodging/other details, email Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com.

Northwest FL Panhandle Birding

Dates: Apr 27-May 1, 2022. This trip is timed to see migratory and southern breeding songbirds and shorebirds. Cost is \$150 for members, \$170 for non-members and includes local expert guides, Wakulla Springs boat tour and some picnic meals. For registration/lodging/other details, email Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Maine Birding with Wildside Nature Tours

Dates: Jun 16-22, 2022. For registration/lodging/other details, email Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org.

NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL

The NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL on Lake Apopka in Central Florida, December 2-6, 2021, highlights the St. Johns River Water Management District's 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore, Florida's top eBird hotspot.

At Orange Audubon Society's sixth annual festival, field trips will extend over 5 days, Thursday through Monday. Small trip size is part of built-in COVID-19 precautions. We will drive into parts of the North Shore otherwise inaccessible except on foot or bicycle and explore other areas of Central Florida in search of local specialty birds.

Our home base at beautiful Wekiwa Springs State Park allows us to provide lodging for some of our out-of-town trip leaders and to rent primitive cabins to out-of-town students utilizing the festival scholarships.

Owl and Woodcock walks as well as a star walk, led by the director of the Seminole State College planetarium, are made possible by being at the park. And we plan to serve dinner with keynotes on Friday and Saturday in the park's dining room. We are still finalizing arrangements with two caterers of delicious food.

This year more than ever there are trips and workshops for photographers (see those highlighted [on this list](#)). Reinier Munguia will give an indoor photo workshop on Saturday afternoon, followed by a field trip on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive on Sunday.

A new and unique offering is the opportunity to have your photos critiqued by award-winning photographer Marina Scarr, who enjoys helping people pick their best shots and make their photos better. Marina will be set up in the park dining hall Saturday afternoon (Trip 24) and Sunday morning (Trip 40) to help people in half-hour shifts. Registration is required for your half-hour slot. You will later submit photos for Marina's in-person feedback.

Lee Ann Posavad and Cindy Monell will lead a Youth and Family Photo Workshop at Wekiwa on Saturday afternoon. There are 59 trips and workshops this year, with a charge of \$10-

75, no additional festival registration fee. College students register for half price.

Proceeds support Orange Audubon Society's nature and environmental center fund and related educational programs.

Visit our new website <https://northshorebirdingfestival.com/> to see details and to register, and please Like our [Facebook page](#).

If you have any questions, email festival@orangeaudubonfl.org.
Deborah Green, Festival Committee Chair



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

Announcing the 34th Annual Chertok Nature Photo Contest

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) announces its 2022 (34th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, themed: Florida Native Nature.



Nesting in Flight—Anhinga. 2021 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest, Honorable Mention Winner, Advanced Category. Photo Bobby Van Mierop

Competing in this contest will sharpen your photo skills, increase knowledge of Florida's amazing wildlife and wild places and teach valuable ethical field practices.

Eligible photos may not include humans, human artifacts or introduced plant or animal species—*subject matter must be native to Florida*—and photos must be taken in compliance with the [NANPA code of conduct](#).

The deadline is April 21, 2022 (postmarked or electronically submitted by date). Participants will be notified of any disqualified entries and may optionally replace them at no charge by following instructions given when notified.

There are three skill level competition categories:

Youth—for photographers age 17 years or younger by April 21, 2022;

Novice—for new and less experienced photo hobbyists; and

Advanced Amateur/ Professional—for experienced photographers who have practiced and honed their skills over time.

Get outside with your camera and start shooting and preserving Florida's amazing native nature! Contact me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 718-1977 if you have questions.

Teresa Williams, OAS' Chertok Photography Contest Chair

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bird Chats with OAS via Zoom

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

- Healing Power of Birds by Kathy Rigling and Susan Thome-Barrett

November 4, 2021

- Raptors of Florida Rerun by Jeff Bouton

December 2, 2021

- eBird Reviewers by Gallus Quigley

December 9, 2021

Fiesta in the Park, Lake Eola

November 6-7, 2021

Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

November Wekiwa Monthly Survey

November 9, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Young Birders Field Trip, Lake Eola

November 13, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Creatures of the Night Tram Ride, Orlando Wetlands Park (Full)

November 13, 2021

Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

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

November 14, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

November Program: Native Florida Snakes by Chris Stalder (in person at Leu Gardens)

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

December Wekiwa Monthly Survey

December 11, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

December Field Trip: Participate in Local Christmas Bird Counts

December 15, 2021 to January 5, 2022

Dates to appear in December OASis

December Program: Disney's Conservation Programs by Jason Fischer

December 16, 2021

Contact Terry at (321) 436-4932

Orlando Wetlands Park Monthly Survey

December 18, 2021

Contact Jeffrey at jeffreyg@knights.ucf.edu

Limited Edition Field Trip to St. Augustine Hotspots

December 19, 2021

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559