



### This Month's Program: December 16, 2021 **Disney and Avian Conservation** by **Dr. Jason Fischer**



Whooping Crane pair with juvenile. Photo: Jason Fischer

For Orange Audubon Society (OAS) December 16th program, we are pleased to host Dr. Jason Fischer, Conservation Program Manager for avian projects with Disney Conservation.

Dr. Fischer has been fascinated by birds and our relationship to them ever since he first started taking pictures of birds as a child. His graduate research focused on avian urban ecology, and he now brings this passion to managing Disney's avian conservation efforts.

His work involves supporting international avian conservation efforts with the Disney Conservation Fund.

He also develops research and engagement programs focused on the bird species that call Walt Disney Parks and Resorts home. See more at <https://thewaltdisneycompany.com/disney-conservation/>.

This is a YouTube Live online program and will be archived on [OAS' You Tube channel](#). To see the program live simply open YouTube and put Orange Audubon Society in the search field. Don't miss this interesting program

*Terry Piper, Programs Chair*

### **Christmas Bird Counts**

Audubon's 122nd Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will take place Tuesday, December 14, 2021 through Wednesday, January 5, 2022. The CBC began in 1900 as an alternative to hunters' seeing how many birds they could take. It was founded by ornithologist Frank Chapman on Christmas Day 1900.

CBCs have provided valuable data about the status of bird species which helps to inform conservation decisions. Birders of all levels are welcome to help. Those who are new to birding can assist by recording data. Going on CBCs is a great way to experience a variety of habitats with skilled birders.

The CBCs held in Central Florida are listed on p. 8. To participate, email the compiler with your contact information and your birding experience level.

### **Limited Edition Field Trip** **December 19, 2021**

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) next Limited Edition Field Trip will be Sunday, December 19th to St. Augustine Birding Hotspots. Our target species are three coastal sparrow species—Nelson's Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow and Saltmarsh Sparrow which can usually be found at Dr. Robert Hayling Freedom Park in St. Augustine at high tide. After we explore this park for coastal species, we will search for other rarities and seasonal birds at nearby parks. This trip will be led by Lorri Lilja and myself. It is limited to 12 participants and costs \$12 for OAS members and \$17 for nonmembers. Email me at [riglingkathy@gmail.com](mailto:riglingkathy@gmail.com)

*Kathy Rigling*



Nelson's Sparrow Photo: Lorri Lilja



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

Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September–June). In most months of the 2021-2 season, programs are held online through YouTube LIVE.



**Protect Net Metering**

An ongoing climate conservation issue is protection of the

policy of net metering, which since the 1970s has helped people afford solar by allowing utility customers to sell excess energy back to the utility at a fair price. Florida's investor-owned utilities are now behind [a bill, SB 1024](#), that seeks to uproot net metering.



A low proportion of Florida's energy, only 3.74%, comes from solar currently, but this has grown considerably—up from 0.99% in 2018. Without net metering, Florida's fastest growing job sector will disappear overnight, according to [Solar United Neighbors](#).

On November 9th, members of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) joined nearly 70 solar advocates at the Orlando Utilities Commission (OUC) meeting. We urged Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and OUC Commissioners to support solar by continuing net metering.

In part due to the solar coop movement, over the last five years in Florida rooftop solar installations have increased and prices have fallen 36% . "Mayor Dyer and OUC Commissioners must stand up against monopoly utilities and serve as our champions to protect rooftop solar," said Heaven Campbell, State Director, [Solar United Neighbors of Florida](#)

To stop the momentum toward solar is wrong, especially for a municipal utility—part of the City of Orlando—when the City has [committed to move Orlando to 100 percent clean and renewable energy by 2050](#). If OUC is your utility, consider writing to express your support of continued net metering.

**Energy Efficiency Win**

In early December, the Florida Public Service Commission voted 4-1 to approve modifications to Duke Energy Florida's energy efficiency programs. The proposed program expansions

are the result of a July 2021 settlement between Duke Energy and Vote Solar, The CLEO Institute, and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE). Under the new program guidelines, Duke's Home Energy Check program will provide energy assistance kits to up to 20,000 low-income households per year through 2024. The kits—which include energy-saving tools like LED light bulbs and smart power strips—will help low-income households reduce energy consumption and lower their utility bills. 250 additional Duke customer households will receive energy-efficient home improvements through Duke's Neighborhood Energy Saver Program with weatherstripping, water heater wraps, and digital thermostats, a five percent increase over current program enrollment.

OAS used Toyota TogetherGreen funding in 2015-7 to carry out a low income energy efficiency project with the City of Winter Park that [showed quantitative energy reductions through energy efficiency retrofits \(see p.4\)](#).

"Meaningful energy efficiency programs are key to lowering power bills for customers - and easing the energy burden shouldered by underserved families," says George Cavros, Florida Energy Policy Attorney for the [Southern Alliance for Clean Energy](#). The agreement also included a commitment by Duke Energy not to disconnect power due to nonpayment during extreme heat or weather events like hurricanes. See [this link](#) for more information from Vote Solar.

*OAS Conservation Committee*

**Orange County Wetland Conservation Code and Other Ordinance Changes**

On December 14th, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners allowed Public Comment on the importance of Wetlands in Orange County. This is the first step to update Orange County's Wetland Conservation Code to be adopted July 2023. The session reviewed the history of conservation determination guidelines, how they are implemented, the stakeholders who will be involved in the conversation, and the timeline for completion.

*continued next page.*



Orange Audubon Society (OAS) mission: To promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it; foster the recognition of the tangible and intangible values in the remaining natural areas of Florida and the world, and our responsibility for the conservation of the Earth's natural ecosystems.

Orange Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 941142  
Maitland, FL 32794-1142  
[www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org)

President and OASis Editor:  
Deborah Green  
[info@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:info@orangeaudubonfl.org)  
(407) 637-2525

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

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

For other membership information, contact: Mike Daley  
[miked129e@gmail.com](mailto:miked129e@gmail.com)  
(407) 417-7818

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LIKE OAS' [FACEBOOK](#) PAGE

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Continued from p. 2.

The Orange County Environmental Protection Division (EPD) contact is Tim Hull, email: [Tim.Hull@ocfl.net](mailto:Tim.Hull@ocfl.net).

**Other Ordinance Updates**

Orange County's Updated Fertilizer Ordinance, that Orange Audubon Society has sent letters to support, is working through the adoption process. EPD contact is Julie Bortles, email: [Julie.Bortles@ocfl.net](mailto:Julie.Bortles@ocfl.net).

The county's Tree Protection Ordinance will be brought to the County Commission on January 11th. The EPD contact for this Ordinance is Jane Gregory, email: [Jane.Gregory@ocfl.net](mailto:Jane.Gregory@ocfl.net).

Contact these EPD staff members to ask to be put on the stakeholders' mailing list for upcoming meetings

**Advocate During the 2022 Florida Legislative Session**

The 2022 Florida Legislative Session begins on January 11, 2022 and wraps up on March 11, 2022. [Sign up for the Audubon Florida Advocate](#) email newsletter and please respond to Audubon Florida's calls to contact your state legislators.

**Corps of Engineers New Plan for Lake Okeechobee**

To determine how much water from Lake Okeechobee goes east, west or south, a new water management framework called the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual (LOSOM) will replace the older water regulation schedule from 2008.

The new schedule is designed to eliminate harmful releases to the St. Lucie estuary under normal conditions and decrease harmful releases and improve flows to the Caloosahatchee estuary. It will increase freshwater flows south through the Everglades National Park.

These otherwise positive changes will result in Lake Okeechobee being held at much deeper levels, compromising current lake ecology.

Impacts to Snail Kites, Great Egrets, and other water birds will need to be monitored. Audubon Florida is recommending the Army Corps build in operational flexibility to mitigate real-time environmental conditions or events and is recommending consideration of "recovery modes" for natural resources that may experience harm as a result of the new lake schedule.



Baby Manatee Doo Doo Doo—Manatees. Honorable Mention Novice Category, 2021 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest. Photo: Steven Madow

**Manatee Deaths... What Can We Do?**

As we close the end of Manatee Awareness Month, it is with a sad note that ~1,000 manatees have died this year, most due to starvation as eel grass beds die off due to overgrowth of surface algae.

What can I as an individual do over this critical time period?

- Observe manatees from a distance (this helps to limit disturbances)
- DON'T feed or give water to manatees (this is illegal and can put them at risk)
- Report sightings of injured, entangled, orphaned, or dead manatees to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-FWCC (3922), #FWC (Cellphone) or send a text to: [tip@MyFWC.com](mailto:tip@MyFWC.com)
- If you are a boater, please be sure to follow guidelines and obey manatee protection zones (which go into effect every fall, though exact details vary by county). Waterway signs and maps mark these designated manatee protection zones.
- More information is available online at [MyFWC.com/Manatee](http://MyFWC.com/Manatee) (Click on "Data and Maps.")

Consider reducing the area devoted to turf grass and eliminating turf grass fertilization during the rainy season.

I was surprised that one of the speakers at the Orange County Fertilizer Ordinance meetings that were recently held, like me, does not use anything on her grass. Keeping your grass mowed and trimmed regularly hides many imperfections. And switching to battery powered mowers and trimmers reduces your carbon footprint.

*Susan Thome-Barrett*

**Overnight Trips and Festivals: Register Early**

Following a September South Carolina trip and 5-day NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL (p.6-8), Orange Audubon Society (OAS) plans five more overnight trips. 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](mailto: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](mailto:riglingkathy@gmail.com).

**Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County**

Dates: April 11-12, 2022. 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](mailto:riglingkathy@gmail.com).

**Northwest FL Panhandle Birding**

Dates: April 13-17, 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@orangeaudubonfl.org).



Bird feeders at Lorri Lilja's house. Photo: Deborah Green.  
Painted Buntings are being reported more often visiting feeders in Central Florida. Photo: Steve Shaluta



## Project Feeder Watch

Enjoy feeding birds at your home? No matter how small or large your feeding station, 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. Any age or skill level is welcome. It is a great way to engage children with observing nature. 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, and data supports conservation actions.

Project Feeder Watch started November 13, 2021 and continues to April 30, 2022.

To participate select an area that is easy to observe from your home. You can choose the frequency and duration of your counts, but your count must be conducted two consecutive days.

There is even a [mobile App available to help you record data](https://feederwatch.org), but paper forms are also accepted. To learn more about this worthy and fun project visit <https://feederwatch.org>.

## Plants for Birds

It's possible to attract birds through bird-friendly plants, and winter is a good time to plant. [Some top bird-friendly trees](#) are Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*), Cabbage Palm (*Sabal palmetto*), Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*), Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*), Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), Sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), and Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*).

The [Florida Native Plant Society \(FNPS\)](#) has extensive resources.

## Young Birders Club Trip January 22, 2022

Orange Audubon is excited to have started a Young Birders Club. Our first bird walk was September 25th at Mead Botanical Gardens followed by the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive on November 13th. Our next trip is January 22nd to Orlando Wetlands Park. If you have a child or grandchild aged 7 to 17 who would like to participate in the Young Birders Club, please contact me at [riglingkathy@gmail.com](mailto:riglingkathy@gmail.com).

*Kathy Rigling, Education Chair*

## Big Day at Fiesta in the Park at Lake Eola

On November 7th, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) had a lovely day of outreach in downtown Orlando.

There were many dogs and some people enjoying the day around the lake. It was a great opportunity to share our cause and do some fundraising, resulting in our best sales day ever. It helped that the weather was a little chilly enabling us to sell some long-sleeved shirts and hoodies in addition to our fabulous short-sleeved shirts, mugs, signs, hats, and totes.

Of course, the day would not have been a success without the help of our volunteers. Thank you to Rick Baird and Laurel Roberts, Anne Marie Merrill, Brent Mobley, Stephanie Nieves, John Parsons, Sonia Stephens, and Matt Wilfong for volunteering at this event. We couldn't have done it without you.

*Lori Parsons, OAS Volunteer*

## Birds of Prey Identification Class January 2, 2022

Winter is the time to see raptors on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, and on January 2nd popular instructor Bob Sanders will hold the first of two Birds of Prey Identification Classes, followed by a February 6th class. Before moving to Central Florida, Bob co-founded the Chimney Rock Hawk Watch in Martinsville, New Jersey. The trips are 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost for each day is \$7 (Audubon members) or \$12 (nonmembers) and must be paid online on the Orange Audubon Society website (bottom right "For Audubon purchases"). Meet at the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, 2850 Lust Road, Apopka in the parking area to the right. Bob can be reached at (407) 459-5617. See you there!



Red-shouldered Hawk. Photo: Joyce Stefancic

## 2022 Biggest Year Ever?

Do you keep a year list of birds you have seen? If you don't, have you been meaning to do so? For 2022, challenge yourself to see more bird species than any previous year. To kick off your Biggest Year Ever, join Larry Martin and Kathy Rigling on a morning field trip at the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive on Saturday, January 1st. Those who are willing can carpool, and our caravan will communicate with Orange Audubon Society's new walkie-talkies. The field trip will be Saturday, January 1st, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon at the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, 2850 Lust Road, Apopka. We will meet in the parking lot to the right of the entrance gate. \$10 donations per person will benefit Orange Audubon Society's nature and environmental education center fund. All skill levels are welcome. Loaner binoculars are available. Contact Kathy Rigling (407) 488-9559 or [riglingkathy@gmail.com](mailto:riglingkathy@gmail.com) to register.

*In Case You Missed It...*

## **Mysterious Lives of Snakes of Central Florida by Chris Stalder**

For the first time in almost two years, Orange Audubon held an in-person program last month. Our speaker Chris Stalder brought along several species of snakes from his own collection to share.

His presentation was primarily about harmless snakes of Central Florida, but he began by discussing the species of venomous snakes that occur here: Eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*), dusky pygmy rattlesnake (*Sistrurus m. barbouri*), Florida cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon conanti*), and the Eastern coral snake (*Micrurus fulvius*). The pit vipers (the rattlesnakes and cottonmouths) bite with two large folding fangs that inject venom, causing damage to the circulatory system with hemorrhage and necrosis. Coral snakes have short, permanently erect fangs in the front of the mouth and ensure envenomation by a “chewing” motion when biting. Chris repeatedly advised walking away from all snakes and enjoying them at a distance.

When the program turned to the snakes Chris brought, we were treated to a close-up view of most of them. The Florida pine snake was “bitey” that evening, so it was kept separate. We learned that pine snakes inhabit dry, sandy uplands, like scrub and pine flatwoods. They eat pocket gophers and may live 80% of their lives underground searching for them. As a defensive tactic, they are able to hiss loudly to startle potential predators.

The Florida king snake was a particular treat. They are uncommon throughout their range and rarely seen. Their black-and-white, chain-like pattern is especially beautiful. They prefer reptiles and reptile eggs, but eat a wide variety of prey items in a wide variety of habitats.

Chris also brought an Eastern ratsnake and a red cornsnake. Both are nimble climbers and enjoy the occasional birds’ egg, but they have a varied diet. Both common species do their part to keep rodent populations under control. The Eastern ratsnake has several subspecies and both species



Top, Chris Stalder holds a Pine Snake as he presents on Harmless and Venomous Snakes of Central Florida. Bottom, children holding the snakes Chris had brought. Photos: Deborah Green.

are variable in coloration.

Many audience members approached Chris for a friendly, hands-on experience with a live snake, a rare treat in this world. Chris shared a lot of information—especially the reminder to the snake-phobic to just walk away. Greater knowledge and understanding about snakes can reduce fear of them and needless persecution. We thank Chris for sharing his expertise and marvelous animals!

*Terry Piper, Programs Chair*

## **Clay Island Trip**

On November 14th Orange Audubon Society held a Limited Edition Field Trip to the North Shore of Lake Apopka, escorted by Paul Ek of the St. Johns River Management District (District). We drove throughout areas normally closed except to bicyclists or pedestrians. Gigi DelPizzo and Kathy Rigling led observation of 60 bird species. It was a cool fall day, and we saw several winter birds that had recently arrived including Blue-winged Teal, American Coot, Wilson’s Snipe, Eastern Phoebe, Bald Eagle, American Kestrel, Northern Harrier and Swamp Sparrow. One of the highlights was finding a Least Flycatcher which called frequently and gave us quick looks as it hunted for insects in the marsh. This northern breeding species that normally winters farther south

## **January Beginners Bird Identification Class**

The January Beginners Bird Identification Class will be held January 16th, January 23th and February 6th. It will be taught by Susan Thome-Barrett and myself, and registrants will participate in three half-day sessions on introductory birding skills with field practice.

Our first class is held at Orlando Wetlands Park, our second at Oakland Nature Preserve, and our third on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive.

Cost for all three sessions is \$40 for members, \$55 for non-members. If you have to miss a session, you can make it up in the March series, which will be March 12th, March 20th and March 26th. To register, contact Teresa at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or (407) 718-1977.

*Kathy Rigling, Education Chair*

## **Bird Chats with OAS**

In January Orange Audubon Society will resume Bird Chats. Were you aware that the Bird Chats team has created a rich resource of programs archived on our YouTube channel and has now [organized them into Playlists](#) to make it easy to find talks you missed or want to see again? To register so you are sent the Zoom link each week to participate live, click [here](#).

Help needed: If you have ideas for topics for programs or speakers, please email [info@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:info@orangeaudubonfl.org).



Least Flycatcher Photo: Delsy Rodriguez

was one of the highlight birds of the NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL two weeks later. The roads were in good shape, and we thank the District so much for making this trip possible, followed by the 5-day NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL

*Kathy Rigling and Deborah Green*

# 2021 NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL

December 2-6, 2021

5 days

270 participants  
from 13 states  
and many cities  
in Florida

60 field trips

50 leaders

172 species seen

Funds raised  
for Orange  
Audubon  
Society's  
Nature and  
Environmental  
Education  
Center Fund



## 2021 NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL

Orange Audubon Society's 6th NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL highlighted the St. Johns River Water Management District's 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore. Led by 50 great trip leaders, we also explored other parts of Central Florida in search of local specialty birds.

Our home base at beautiful Wekiwa Springs State Park in the Youth Camp allowed us to provide lodging for out-of-town trip leaders, to host Friday and Saturday night keynotes with dinners, photo workshops in the Youth Camp dining hall, and Owl and Woodcock walks as well as a star walk, led by the director of the Seminole State College planetarium.

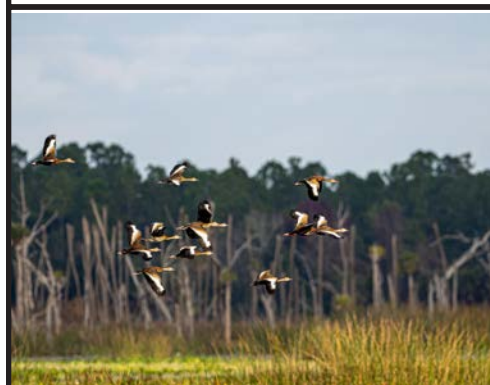
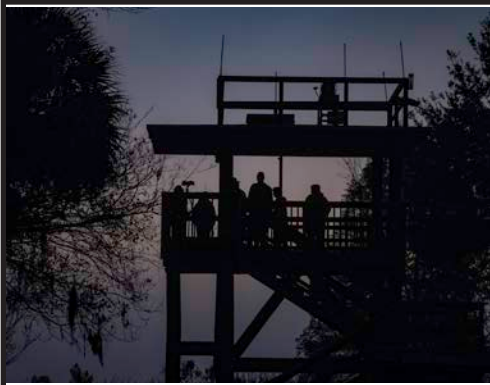
Audubon Florida Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) participant Robin Pitilon said "I was quickly immersed in the Lake Apopka North Shore birding scene through the "Birding for Millennials and Others" trip. As the top eBird hotspot in Florida, the North Shore has a dizzying variety of birds for a beginner like me. I am grateful for the experienced birders who took me under their wing and enriched my experience. David Simpson was particularly entertaining as he reported birds' movements with a sportscaster-like narration. Alex Lamoreaux kindly used my cellphone to take photos of the Vermilion Flycatcher through his spotting scope. I added over 30 birds to my birding "life list."

CLI participant Pierce Harding reported "The morning of the Orlando Wetlands Park birding trip started off with a heavy blanket of fog which was discouraging at first, but very soon into our trek it subsided and I was in awe of the sheer amount of species we were able to see. The wetlands were filled with groups of wading Purple Gallinules, Glossy Ibis, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, and American Coots to name a few. Near the start of the trip we turned a corner and spotted a female Snail Kite perched at the top of a dead tree looking very sleek and alert. We were also lucky enough to spot a timid Sora walking just outside the tall grasses as well as an American Bittern taking flight! Special thanks to our amazing leaders."

CLI participant Jeremy LaPlanche added "The Birding for Millennials and Others trip was as fun and exciting as I had hoped. Natasza and Robert were amazing guides who were super knowledgeable and made the trip come to life. It was great opportunity to meet experienced birders and really appreciate Central Florida's biodiversity." College students register for half price for almost all trips.

Thanks to our festival sponsors: Wildside Nature Tours, KOWA Sporting Optics, Seacoast Bank, Lake County Tourism Development, Birdwatchers Digest and [others listed here](#).

*Photos next page: Thursday Foggy Sunrise at the Lake Tower (Mark Hainen); Saturday Sunrise Trip with Reinier Munguia (Susan Thome-Barrett); Vermilion Flycatcher (Craig Watson); Black Vultures at Orlando Wetlands Park (Brian Miller); Snail Kite on Lake Apopka North Shore (Liz Stakenborg); Photographer shooting Roseate Spoonbill on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive in Reinier Munguia's Sunday field workshop (Jack Horton); Luis Gles leading Sunday Birding for Millennials trip (Deborah Green); Natasza Fontaine leading Saturday Birding by Ear trip (Deborah Green); the blue morph Snow Goose on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive (Lorri Lilja); Merlin (Liz Stakenborg); Mariah Hryniewich leading Sunday Birding for Millennials trip (Deborah Green); Thursday Neighborhood Lakes, accessible and inclusive trip (Lorri Lilja); Sunday Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Orlando Wetlands Park (Brian Miller); Friday Wekiwa Springs Sandhill Birding (Pam Ford); Sunday Barn Owl in palm (Paula Duenas).*



**2021 NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL Appreciation**

On behalf of Orange Audubon Society, I thank the amazing trip leaders and volunteers that made the 2021 NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL(NSBF) a success. Chris Newton scouted the week before and led trips each day of the festival, as did Kathy Rigling and Lorri Lilja. Karen Hamblett also did her birding-by-bike scouting, and let us know about good bird locations. Our other amazing trip leaders included Gian Basili, Andrew Boyle, Michael Brothers, Bruce and Cathy Brown, Brian Cammarano, Steve Coleman, Gigi DelPizzo, Derek Demeter, Lauren DiBiccari, Natasza Fontaine, Pamela Ford, Jeffrey Gammon, Reinhard Geisler, Jutta Geisler, Greg Gensheimer, Luis Gles, Robert Gundy, Mark Hainen, Mitchell Harris, David Hartgrove, Milton Heiberg, Jack Horton, Mariah Hryniewich, Luddy Lambertson,

Paul Lammardo, Alex Lamoreaux, Mike Legare, Larry Martin, Cindy Monell, Reinier Munguia, Lee Ann Posavad, Gallus Quigley, Ralph Risch, Nyleen Rodriguez, Jack Rogers, Marina Scarr, Scott Simmons, David Simpson, Rebecca Smith, Mary Soule, Joan Tague, Susan Thome-Barrett, John Thomton, Craig Watson, and Bob Wexler. Leaders are the heart of a birding festival, and we are very fortunate to have these outstanding and enthusiastic folks.

Our dedicated volunteers were led by Teresa Williams doing essential behind-the-scenes NSBF work. Jennifer Coleman and Mary and Stephen Van Egmond took charge of the dinners. These volunteers were assisted by Terry Breese, Carol Hebert, Carole Johns, Pete Johnson, Terrie Leibler, David Marano, Reinier Munguia, Steffanie Munguia, Lee Ann Posavad, Nyleen Rodriguez, Victoria



Young trip leaders comparing notes after Alex Lamoreaux's Saturday keynote: Lauren DiBiccari, Alex, Luis Gles, Brian Cammarano, Mariah Hryniewich. Photo: Deborah Green

Schwartz, Susan Thome-Barrett, and Raquel Vasquez. Loretta Satterthwaite and Bob Stamps contributed to early festival web materials. Thanks also to Maria Zondervan and Brian Silverman of the St. Johns River Water Management District for working with us and facilitating access to normally closed areas. We all had a great time!!

*Deborah Green for the NSBF committee*

**DECEMBER/JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**December Field Trip: Participate in Local Christmas Bird Counts**

**Christmas Bird Counts:**

- **Zellwood/Mt. Dora:** December 16, 2021  
Contact Gallus Quigley at gallusq@gmail.com
- **Emeralda Marsh:** December 18, 2021  
Contact Barbara Gay at stkite52@gmail.com
- **Bay Lake/Disney:** December 18, 2021  
Contact John Thomton at jthomton@hotmail.com
- **Wekiva River:** December 18, 2021  
Contact Jay Exum at jay.h.exum@gmail.com
- **Kissimmee Valley:** December 19, 2021  
Contact Chris Newton at dexterdevon68@gmail.com
- **Econlockhatchee:** December 26, 2021  
Contact Lorne Malo at lornemalo@bellsouth.net
- **Clermont:** January 2, 2022  
Contact John Thomton at jthomton@hotmail.com

**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

**Your Biggest Year Yet Field Trip**

January 1, 2022  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

**Birds of Prey Identification Field Trip Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive**

January 2, 2022  
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

**South Florida Birding Adventure**

January 6-9, 2022  
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

**Oakland Nature Preserve Survey**

January 15, 2022  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

**January Wekiwa Monthly Survey**

Date TBA  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

**Beginners' Bird Watching Class: Orlando Wetlands Park and local areas**

January 16, 23, Feb, 6, 2022  
Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

**January Program: A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds by Scott Weidensaul**

January 20, 2022  
Contact Terry at (321) 436-4932

**Young Birders Trip, McDonald Canal**

January 22, 2022  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

**January Field Trip: Emeraldal Marsh Conservation Area, Leesburg**

January 22, 2022  
Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

**Orlando Wetlands Park Monthly Survey**

January 23, 2022  
Contact Jeffrey at jeffreyg@knights.ucf.edu

**Limited Edition Field to Gainesville hotspots - overnight trip**

January 28, 2022  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

*Best Wishes for a Healthy, Happy Holiday Season!*