



**This Month's Program: September 15, 2022**

## Rehabilitating Birds of Prey by the Avian Reconditioning Center



Birds of prey (raptors) suffer accidents with powerlines, poisoning and other hazards. The Avian Reconditioning Center (ARC) works with raptors that have been inactive for an extended period of time while recovering from illness or injury. This not-for-profit rehabilitation and education facility, located on 10 acres in Apopka, uses falconry techniques to evaluate a bird's chances for survival in the wild after recovering and to teach young birds to hunt. For Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) September program, ARC rehabbers will share how this is done.

ARC will bring its resident Short-tailed Hawk, Crested Caracara, Southeastern American Kestrel and Barred Owl for us to see closeup. With education on raptors in mind, ARC opens to the public on Saturdays and offers off-site education programs for schools and community groups. Visit <https://arc4raptors.org/> for more information.

Join OAS Thursday September 15th at 7:00 p.m. for a fascinating program, suitable for all ages. Location below.

*Paula Duenas, Programs Chair*

## 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) with 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](#).



Miss Q, ARC's resident Crested Caracara.  
Photo courtesy ARC

## Dragonfly Identification at Orlando Wetlands Park September 10, 2022



Golden-winged Skimmer, Orlando Wetlands Park, Photo: Mary Keim

Orange Audubon Society is offering a Dragonfly Identification Field Trip on Saturday, September 10, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Orlando Wetlands Park and adjacent Seminole Ranch.

Instructors are OAS members and dragonfly enthusiasts Mary Keim and Randy Snyder ([rssmhk@gmail.com](mailto:rssmhk@gmail.com)).

Cost is \$12 for Audubon members; \$17 for non-members, payable to Orange Audubon Society.

The field trip is limited to 15 students with registration required. Contact Teresa at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or (407) 718-1977. You will be sent more details upon registration.

## Monthly Field Trip: September 17, 2022 Lake Louisa State Park

Orange Audubon Society's first monthly field trip of the season will be to Lake Louisa State Park in Clermont. Purchased starting in 1973 through the state's conservation land acquisition programs, Lake Louisa now spans over 4,000 acres.

We will look for upland species like Northern Bobwhite, migratory songbirds and resident and migratory waterfowl on the lake. This trip is limited to 15 participants. You must reserve a space the week before by contacting me at [lmartin5@msn.com](mailto:lmartin5@msn.com) or (407) 252-1182. Details of meeting time and place will be provided. We hope you join us.

*Larry Martin, Field Trips*

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

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

### Harry P. Leu Gardens

in the Camellia Room at 1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando, FL 32803

For map and directions, visit:

[www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/](http://www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/)





## President's Message

Welcome to a new Orange Audubon Society (OAS) program year.

Those of you who are OAS members and are on our mailing list will be receiving OAS' annual print mailing with my President's Letter Appeal by about September 10th. The mailing includes the new season's brochure with our many great trips, programs, and other events listed.

If you don't receive the mailing, email [membership@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:membership@orangeaudubonfl.org) to check on your membership status. When you receive the appeal, I hope you donate generously to support efforts of our chapter. Thank you!

*Deborah Green, President*

## Considering Going Solar?

Are you considering adding solar panels to your home? Going solar generally pays off over the course of years, as reduced electric bills make up for the initial purchase or leasing costs. It's not an inexpensive choice at first, but new legislation will make it easier for you.

The recently-passed **Inflation Reduction Act** includes several incentives for both individuals and tax-exempt organizations to go solar. For individuals, it includes a larger tax credit for solar panels and an entirely new tax credit for battery storage systems. There's also a tax credit for purchasing electric vehicles and grants targeted at underserved and rural communities.

Finally, for communities and tax-exempt organizations like churches and municipalities who don't pay taxes, the bill provides direct rebate payments.

There's more information in this [article written by Solar United Neighbors](#).

If you're considering going solar, now is a good time. There are big benefits to the climate and environment!

We'll need solar power both on individual homes and businesses and at the "solar farm" or utility-scale level to tackle climate change. The Inflation Reduction Act helps us achieve both.

*Sonia Stephens, Climate Chair*

## Western Drought — Can It Happen Here?

Reading about the 23-year drought underway in our Western states, it's hard not to think about the movie *Mad Max*, set in an apocalyptic desert, where water is fought over and hoarded.

The Colorado River and its reservoirs, water sources for seven western states and Mexico, are at an all-time low. Farmers are being paid to disk over crops, and hydro-electric power production is at serious risk. The drought effect is compounded by massive growth with subsequent increases in water use.

The US Bureau of Reclamation, the entity in charge of managing this common water source, recently established limits that will see Arizona's water supply from the Colorado River cut by 21 percent, Nevada's by 8 percent and Mexico's by 7 percent.

To deal with the worsening water shortage, municipalities are taking steps to ban turf grass. Last year Las Vegas banned non-essential turf grass in public areas. If it's not a ball field, or play area, no grass will be planted. Those strips of grass in front of apartment buildings are being torn out and replaced with red yucca and desert spoon. Cities and counties in California are now paying residents \$3 to \$6 per square foot for residents to remove turf grass and replace it with drought-tolerant native plants.

In Florida, we think our summer rains will save us! And yet, everywhere in Central Florida we see new houses, apartments, even industrial storage warehouses popping up. Turf grass and the ubiquitous crape myrtle, non-native and thirsty, decorate entryways and lawns.

How much of our potable (drinking) water goes to irrigation? According to a 2015 study published by the University of South Florida, 64 percent of the drinking water used by homes in central Florida goes to irrigation.

That figure rises to 88 percent during the summer. We have been lucky recently, but in the not so distant past, Florida experienced large wildfires during times of drought.

If you were here in 1998 you lived through the "Florida Firestorms" when several thousand wildfires wreaked

*continued on p. 3*



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

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

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

For other membership information, contact: [membership@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:membership@orangeaudubonfl.org)

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*continued from p. 2*

havoc on native and rural/urban areas of the state. You may remember getting out of work and smelling the smoke and seeing the gray skies from the many large fires that burned for weeks. The importance of water rises at times like those.

For Florida at this time, any changes for turf grass reduction will need to be done at the local level and/or by individuals.

Do you have areas of turf grass that can be reduced or replaced with native plantings or ground covers? If you have intermittent shade from a large oak, can you do without irrigation or with reduced irrigation? It may be a good time to review your yard and get ahead of the game by replacing thirsty non-natives with more drought tolerant native plants for a good looking landscape that is good for birds and the future of our water.

*Susan Thome-Barrett*



Chestnut-sided Warbler with caterpillar.  
Photo: Joseph Mileyka

### Plants for BirDS/Saving Water

Learn more about recommended native plants for Central Florida landscapes in [this yard tour video](#) by OAS president Deborah Green. Sited with the appropriate soil type and sun/shade levels, these natives are drought tolerant. And learn about the [Caterpillar Connection](#) in Deborah's Florida Native Plant Society Lunch and Learn and check out [Dr. Doug Tallamy's 2021 talk for OAS](#).

### Orange County Tree Ordinance In the Works

Orange County staff have been working toward an updated Tree Removal and Preservation Ordinance for over a year, with a series of stakeholders' workshops to help craft the concepts to turn into the ordinance. To see the August 9th presentation by staff, [click on this link](#) and choose Item 7 Tree Preservation. More information to come.

## Common Yellowthroat: Numerous but Declining

An angular black mask like a slash of paint across the eye and cheek, a white band around the top of the mask, then a brilliant yellow throat creates a dramatic contrast. Indeed!

The male Common Yellowthroat is one of the most beautiful warblers I have encountered. And ... we have opportunities to see them all year round in Florida and the lower Southeastern U.S. No need to wait for migration and the Hooded Warbler for a striking black-and-yellow beauty. Common Yellowthroats are here now!

A smallish, sturdy songbird with a chunky, rounded head, and medium-length tail that is often raised, the female version of this species is not as dramatic; they have a plain olive brown head, yellow throat and no black mask. These birds skulk around in low, dense, tangled thickets and open fields searching for small insects like flies, ants, termites, bees, wasps, dragonflies, butterflies and moths. Wherever there is marsh, grasslands or pine forest you may find Common Yellowthroats foraging. During migration, they are the most common warbler found in fields and edges, at times joining other similar species in mixed foraging flocks.

Most prevalent in wet areas with dense, low vegetation ideal for skulking and nest-building, they also are found in dry upland pine forests, palmetto thickets, ditches, orchard fields and river edges.

Their breeding range stretches across most of the U.S., Canadian provinces, and western Mexico. The male of the species arrives first on the breeding grounds in the spring and begins defending territory, intensely fighting rival males when the females arrive. The black mask signals to other males to engage in these competitive mating struggles.

Female Common Yellowthroats build a well-concealed nest in four to five days by constructing a platform of grasses and leaves, and then, gradually, developing a loose, bulky inner cup about two-by-two inches deep. Sometimes they even build a roof for the nest as Ovenbirds do!

This species has declined about 26 percent since 1966 according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, primarily because of habitat degradation and loss. Because these birds eat insects and often live in wetlands, they also are susceptible to poor water quality, pesticides, and other pollutants.

How to find the spectacular, charming Common Yellowthroat? Listen for its rolling, musical, distinctive, wichety-wichety-wichety song when strolling favorite birding hangouts like Mead Botanical Garden or the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. I saw a beautiful male at the Orlando Wetlands Park in March. It popped out of low shrubs to perch on a reed near the water. What a beauty! Florida's wildlife seems unsurpassed on a day like that.

*Linda Carpenter*



Top, Common Yellowthroat male, Rock Springs Run State Reserve. Bottom, Common Yellowthroat female, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge  
Photo: Mary Keim



Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Photo: Kathy Rigling

**Limited Edition Field Trip: Clearwater Lake, Ocala National Forest, September 18, 2022**

Limited Edition field trips will be kicking off Sunday, September 18th with a field trip to Clearwater Lake Recreation Area near Paisley in the Ocala National Forest. On this trip we will be hiking in the beautiful sandhill and pine flatwoods habitats searching for specialty birds.

This location is a known area where Red-cockaded Woodpeckers breed. In addition, the very difficult-to-find Hairy Woodpecker has also been spotted in the same location. Other species that we will be searching for include Summer Tanagers, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Bachman’s Sparrows and Red-headed Woodpeckers. We may even find some fall migrants!

This trip will be a moderate level of difficulty as we will be hiking on mostly sandy, sometimes uneven paths. Limited Edition field trips are limited to 12 participants. The cost is \$12 for OAS members and \$17 for nonmembers. To register please email Kathy at [riglingkathy@gmail.com](mailto:riglingkathy@gmail.com).



Spring 2022 Beginners’ Bird Watching Class. Photo: Susan Thome-Barrett

**Beginners’ Bird Watching Class October 15, 22, & 29, 2022**

Would you like to improve your bird identification skills? Take Orange Audubon’s Beginners’ Bird Watching Class starting October 15, 2022. It’s three Saturday mornings, and if you have to miss one, you can make it up in the winter series (January 8, 15 and 22, 2023). Instructors are Susan Thome-Barrett and myself.

All sessions are 8:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m. An “outdoor” classroom session and mini-field trip is October 15th at Orlando Wetlands Park. On October 22nd and 29th 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: \$50 members; \$65 non-members; \$10 youth (12 & under) with 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](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

For questions about the class, contact me at [riglingkathy@gmail.com](mailto:riglingkathy@gmail.com) or (407) 488-9559.

Kathy Rigling

**OAS Young Birders Club September Update**

Orange Audubon Society’s Young Birders Club enjoyed a great visit to the Audubon Birds of Prey Center on July 31st. The trip started with a surprise greeting by Daisy Fiore, Senior Education Coordinator who brought out a handsome young Red-shouldered Hawk for everyone to admire.

Then her assistant brought out a Bald Eagle which was a great thrill to see in such proximity. We toured all the amazing birds at Audubon Florida’s raptor rehabilitation facility. The Young Birders were especially excited to try to find the secretive Eastern Screech Owls in their enclosure.

We saw a couple of migrant songbirds flitting about in some trees nearby. We ended our tour looking out from the lake gazebo enjoying the Ospreys and ducks as well as turtles.



Young Birders trip to Center for Birds of Prey. Photo: Daisy Fiore

The next Young Birders Club trip will be September 24th to Mead Botanical Garden. We are very excited to have top local birder Mary Soule joining us as a coleader to help the Young Birders hone their skills at finding migrating warblers and other songbirds.

The field trip is free to parents and Young Birders, but you are required to register in advance. Please email [riglingkathy@gmail.com](mailto:riglingkathy@gmail.com) to reserve a spot for you and your Young Birder. Loaner binoculars will be available upon request.

Kathy Rigling

**Oakland Nature Fest, September 24, 2022**

The first Nature Fest is being held September 24th, 10am - 3pm, at Oakland Nature Preserve! Enjoy meeting members of the environmental community, participate in animal interactions and guided hikes, learn more at interesting presentations, and much, much more! Admission is free, but donations are gratefully received, and will benefit the mission of Oakland Nature Preserve. Visit [the website](http://the website) to see the schedule and register for trips. Ones that will fill up fast are boat trips on Lake Apopka led by Jim Peterson of the St. Johns River Water Management District and Rusty Anchor Boat Tours. Orange Audubon Society will be there with a table. Stop by to say hi, and if you have time to volunteer, email [volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org).







Young Black-legged Kittawake on Newfoundland cliffs. Photo: Paula Duenas

## Orange Audubon Society's Maine Trip

Those of us on Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Maine Trip with Wildside Nature Tours had a fabulous time. We started in Portland, Maine and drove with our guides north to Camden. The second morning we boarded the Periwinkle, a sturdy lobster boat, and traveled about 20 miles into the Gulf of Maine to Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge. See OAS' Bird Chat on Maine Birding that includes the trip ([available at this link](#)).



Orange Audubon Society group on Wildside Nature Tours trip at Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge. Photo: Deborah Green

## Upcoming Trips with Wildside Nature Tours

During the Maine trip, the group was already thinking ahead to another trip with Wildside Nature Tours, particularly with Alex Lamoreaux, who is an amazing leader. Talking with Alex about his favorite trip locations we settled on Central California with another pelagic trip — several of us having gotten over our fears of pelagics while on the Maine trip. The California trip will be next August. Some of our members were interested in a trip to Costa Rica, and Wildside goes there, led by their wonderful Belizean guide Glenn Crawford. This trip will be late March/early April. Wildside Nature Tours is a sponsor of the [NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL](#) and donates to OAS' online auction. We enjoyed our Wildside trip to Puerto Rico in 2020 also.



Above, Courting Atlantic Puffins off Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge in mid June. Below, Puffins in Newfoundland adjacent to nest burrow, including Juvenile to left. Photos: Paula Duenas

## My Summer of Puffins

On Orange Audubon Society's trip to Maine in June, on Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge we saw many puffins. A few were doing courtship flights and one was carrying a fish. According to our guide Alex's [eBird list](#), we saw 475 puffins. We saw 21 species of other amazing sea birds on or around that island — including Razorbills, Black Guillemots, Arctic Terns, Common Terns, Great Cormorants, and so forth, but the puffins were my target bird.

My mother also really had wanted to see puffins, so — feeling guilty — I arranged an additional trip with her in August to Newfoundland to see them.

We flew from Orlando to Toronto and then to St. John's, the capital of Newfoundland. We rented a car and drove three hours to Elliston and Cape Bonavista, two puffin viewing sites on the Newfoundland coast.

When going to see seabirds it is good to know that most of their life is spent at sea. Razorbills that nest on sea cliffs on coasts or islands had already nested and left when we were there. But there were still a lot of puffins on the coastal rocks close enough that sometimes they landed near us. Some of those we saw must have been juveniles as they had black behind their bills (see photo above near their nest burrow).

## Audubon's Project Puffin

Although Atlantic Puffins are not an endangered species (millions still nest in Newfoundland, Iceland, and Britain), they have been rare in Maine. They and other seabirds suffered from intense hunting for their eggs, meat and feathers for nearly 300 years following colonial days.

The National Audubon Society started Project Puffin in 1973 in an effort to learn how to restore puffins to historic nesting islands in the Gulf of Maine. When [Project Puffin](#) began, all the puffins nesting along the Maine coast were on just two islands—Matinicus Rock and Machias Seal Island on the U.S./Canadian border. These two colonies were vulnerable to a disaster, such as an oil spill or accidental invasion of predators such as rats or mink. Now puffin colonies have been established also on Eastern Egg Rock and Seal Island NWR. Colonies of terns have been reestablished on several other islands. Brian Cammarano, past Conservation Leadership Initiative participant, worked last summer on Stratton Island protecting the tern colonies, including the large colony of Roseate Terns. Hear all about it in his [Bird Chats for OAS](#) talk.



Brian Cammarano with Common Terns on Stratton Island. Photo: Brian Cammarano

We really enjoyed this trip to Newfoundland, which is not commercialized at all. Most places to stay are bed-and-breakfast. We enjoyed the seafood and the jams, with so many wild berries in the area.

I heard that the wayward Stellar's Sea Eagle from Asia — that delighted lucky viewers in Maine — is moving north along the Newfoundland coast, but I didn't have time to chase it.

To see that bird, get that shot, be bold, do your research, and go.

*Paula Duenas, OAS 2nd Vice President*

## Education Coordinator Update

Before becoming Orange Audubon Society's Education Coordinator, I had 35 years of classroom experience with Orange County Public Schools as well as 7 years as the nature coordinator at the Wekiva Youth Camp. I am available to visit K-8th grade classes providing standards-based science lessons, community science field experiences and guidance for planning and implementing native plant gardens—all free of charge. I am also available to do programs for afterschool groups including Boy and Girl Scouts as well as on campus clubs.

New this year will be free monthly educational webinars to share easily-applicable resources with educators. The webinars will be held from 7:00-7:30 PM on the first Wednesday of the month, starting in September.

Here is the list of topics and dates:

- Nature Connections with Feathered Friends Curriculum: September 7
- Audubon Adventures: October 5
- Feeding Birds and Project Feeder Watch: November 2
- Counting Birds for Science: December 7
- Supporting Student Investigations: January 4
- Participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count: February 1
- Gardening for Wildlife: March 1
- The City Nature Challenge and Using iNaturalist: April 5
- Sustainability: What is it all about? May 3

To sign up for the webinars please register at this link: <http://eepurl.com/he1VIL>. You will be sent an updated Zoom link each month.

Orange Audubon is currently accepting donations of gently used binoculars and bird field guides that students could use during school visits.

Please email [education@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:education@orangeaudubonfl.org) to sign up for classroom or after school visits or to donate binoculars and field guides.

Thank you!

*Kathy Rigling, Education Coordinator*

## June Challenge Winners

The June Challenge is an easy-going contest to get birders out in the field in one of the more difficult times to find birds. For several years Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has encouraged participation and publicized the winners. This year we held a Bird Chat in June about Summer Birding and [the June Challenge](#). We also held a kick-off field trip on June 5th in which we searched Orlando Wetlands Park for as many species that we could see. We found 40 species including an unexpected Yellow-billed Cuckoo thanks to young Haden Klinger's sharp eyes! We continued our new tradition of awarding a trophy to the top June Challenge birder from OAS. This year we added a trophy for the top young birder (under 18), and all the participants received a certificate.

Orange Audubon Society congratulates our June Challenge 2022 winners! (Numbers are listed as American Birding Association (ABA) countable and then the non-ABA countable species (not established).

### Young Birders category:

- 1st Place- Ethan Landreville- 100/2 Brevard County
- 2nd Place- Haden Klinger- 64/0 Seminole County
- 3rd Place- Alex Debear- 52/0 Orange County

### Adult Birders category:

- 1st Place - Terry Breese- 97/7 Orange County
- 2nd Place- Kathy Rigling- 97/2 Orange County
- 3rd Place- Susan Thome-Barrett- 88/3 Orange County
- 4th Place- Claudia Breese- 86/7 Orange County
- 5th Place- Lorri Lilja- 82/4 Seminole County
- 6th Place- Bert Alm- 76/3 Brevard County
- 7th Place- Lorri Lilja- 72/1 Orange county
- 8th Place- Whitney Breese- 57/7 Orange County
- 9th place - Bert Alm- 52/0 Orange County

To see all the results from Florida, [see this link](#).



June Challenge participants: Kathy Rigling, Lorri Lilja, Haden Klinger, Terry Breese, Claudia Breese, Susan Thome-Barrett, and Ethan Landreville. Photo: Vanessa Picariello

OAS June Challenge winners celebrated at Tucker Ranch Recreational Park and Nature Preserve with a bird walk on July 30, 2022. We even saw a few early migrants—Yellow-throated Warblers and Prairie Warblers. Congratulations to all our participants!

*Susan Thome-Barrett and Kathy Rigling*

## Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, September 10, 2022

To participate contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559 or [riglingkathy@gmail.com](mailto:riglingkathy@gmail.com).



Yellow-throated Warbler at Mead Botanical Garden. Photo: Sam Mitcham

## Fall Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden October 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2022

To celebrate fall migration, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will host bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden each Saturday in October.

Each walk will be led by an experienced birding guide. Walks start at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours with lots of stopping to look at birds.

Location is Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. We will meet in the parking lot.

If you have any questions, contact me at [lmartin5@msn.com](mailto:lmartin5@msn.com) or (407) 252-1182.



## Audubon Assembly 2022

Before the pandemic, Orange Audubon Society eagerly awaited the wonderful networking opportunity of Audubon Florida's Audubon Assembly. Well, Assembly is back October 13th-15th at the Luminary Hotel in downtown Fort Myers, with the theme "Birds Tell Us."

With learning sessions, a keynote presentation, awards, and field trips to some of the birdiest hotspots in the region, Assembly is a great opportunity to meet Audubon staff and volunteers across the state. [Click here for field trip details and registration.](#)

## Conservation Leadership Initiative

Audubon Florida's Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) brings college students into the Audubon fold. In this 10-year old program, chapter leaders are paired with students in mentor-mentee relationships, called co-mentorships, because both learn from each other. The hope is that students continue the relationship with the local chapter and become conservation leaders. Through grants, the program has been expanded for 2022-23 to fund students to attend events and to keep students interacting with their local chapter. Students can [apply at this link](#) (deadline: September 12th). Potential mentors should email [kristen.kosik@audubon.org](mailto:kristen.kosik@audubon.org).



## Latino Conservation Week

On July 17th, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) continued its annual participation in Latino Conservation Week, a project of the Hispanic Access Foundation based in Washington, D.C. The celebration this year, as the last two years, consisted of Spanish-speaking Ambassadors on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive welcoming newcomers. I happen to be fluent in Spanish having worked as an entomologist in Puerto Rico, so I served with Stephanie Nieves on second shift following Angela Gan and Pat Perez on first shift. We put up flags of Hispanic countries to spruce up the Welcome Shelter for the July 17th event. If any of our Latino members have ideas of how OAS can be more welcoming, please email me at [info@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:info@orangeaudubonfl.org). We are always trying to improve. Thanks.

Deborah Green



From top to bottom, male and female House Finches; female Eastern Towhee, male Eastern Towhee and Eastern Bluebird. *Photos: Margie Sullivan*

## Great Birding in a Hotel Parking Lot

I was surprised to discover the Embassy Suites (Harrison Avenue, Cary, NC) parking lot had lots of amazing birds! Each morning was an adventure where I attempted to use the skills and knowledge I learned in the Beginners' Bird Identification class taught by Kathy Rigling and Susan Thome-Barrett (p.4). The best time seemed to be between 7 to 7:30 AM. My camera came with me to breakfast, and I soon headed out to search and listen for birds.

The hotel parking lot turned out to be a birding bonanza. I saw Song Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, male and female House Finches, male and female Eastern Towhees (life birds for me), Eastern Bluebirds, Crows, Mockingbirds, Carolina Chickadees, Blue Jays, Brown Thrashers, and a Red-Shouldered Hawk on the hotel roof.

Thanks to photos and email, I was able to get help with identification. A special shout out goes to Kathy, who assisted in identifying a White-breasted Nuthatch (another lifer for me), also in the parking lot. By email, Susan helped me with identification of a young Brown-headed Cowbird (yet another lifer for me).

One morning I witnessed a crow flying with a huge slice of pizza. It landed on the roof of a car and was then mobbed by a blackbird. The crow wasn't in the mood to be bullied and quickly left the pizza on the car roof and took off. I'm sure the car owners were trying to figure out why there was a slice of pizza on their roof!

Another morning I watched a male Northern Cardinal look at his reflection in the passenger car window.

The next time you stay at a hotel with a parking lot that includes several trees, do some birding. You may be pleasantly surprised!

Margie Sullivan

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

Rachel Carson

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Bird Chats with OAS via Zoom

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

### - Red Knots by Greg Breese

September 8, 2022

### - The Florida Birding & Nature Festival by Ann Paul

September 22, 2022

### - Florida Shorebird Monitoring by Holly Short

September 29, 2022

### - Choosing Optics by Chris Hysinger

October 6, 2022

### - Nature Photography by Red Huber

October 13, 2022

### - The San Diego Bird Festival by Rick Grove and Jenn Hajj

October 27, 2022

### Nature Connections with Feathered Friends

#### Curriculum Webinar

September 7, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

September 10, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### Dragonfly Identification Field Trip, Orlando Wetlands Park

September 10, 2022

Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

### September Program: Rehabilitating Birds of Prey by the Avian Reconditioning Center

September 15, 2022

Contact Paula at [programs@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:programs@orangeaudubonfl.org)

### September Field Trip Lake Louisa State Park

September 17, 2022

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

### Limited Edition Field Trip: Clearwater Lake, Ocala National Forest

September 18, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### Orlando Wetlands Park Monthly Survey

September 18, 2022

Contact Jeffrey at [jeffreyg@knights.ucf.edu](mailto:jeffreyg@knights.ucf.edu)

### Nature Fest at Oakland Nature Preserve

September 24, 2022

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

### Young Birders Field Trip, Mead Botanical Garden

September 24, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### Audubon Adventures Print and Digital Resources Curriculum Webinar

October 5, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

October 8, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park

October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2022

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

### Beginners Bird Watching Class, Orlando Wetlands Park, Mead and Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

October 15, 22, 29, 2022

Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

### Audubon Assembly

October 13-15, 2022

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

### Limited Edition Field Trip: Green Mountain

October 16, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### October Program: Protecting Eagles through Audubon Florida's EagleWatch Program by Shawnlei Breeding

October 20, 2022

Contact Paula at [programs@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:programs@orangeaudubonfl.org)

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

October 22, 2022

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

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

October 22, 2022

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

### Orlando Wetlands Park Monthly Survey

October 23, 2022

Contact Jeffrey at [jeffreyg@knights.ucf.edu](mailto:jeffreyg@knights.ucf.edu)

### Oakland Nature Preserve Quarterly Survey

October 23, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### Rock Springs Reserve Survey Quarterly Survey

October 26, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

