



This Month's Program: October 20, 2022 Protecting Eagles through Audubon Florida's EagleWatch Program by Shawnlei Breeding



Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is pleased to welcome Shawnlei Breeding to update us on Audubon Florida's EagleWatch Program, a statewide network of community science volunteers who monitor Bald eagle nests.

EagleWatch runs from October to May and provides valuable information on nesting activity and the current trends of Bald Eagle populations in Florida. Data collected is used by both the Florida Fish Wildlife Conservation

Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to enhance their conservation and law enforcement efforts.

Audubon EagleWatch is seeking volunteers to monitor Bald Eagle nests for the 2022-2023 breeding season. As of the 2022 season 620 volunteers were monitoring 1144 nests. EagleWatch Program Manager Shawnlei Breeding will inform us on the program and how you may get involved.

Join OAS Thursday October 20th at 7:00 p.m. for a fascinating program. Location below.

Paula Duenas, Programs Chair



Above, Bald Eagle. Honorable Mention Winner, Advanced Category, 2019 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest. Photo: Paul Eisenbrown. Below, Shawnlei Breeding with Paige, resident Bald Eagle at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. Photo: CBOP

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

Fall migration bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park, each Saturday in October are highlights of our field trip season. Unfortunately, Mead has experienced flooding from Hurricane Ian and on October 1st will be closed.

The walk October 8th and each consecutive Saturday are scheduled tentatively. Three ways to know if the October 8th walk is a go are 1. to check the [Mead Botanical Gardens website](#) (see banner at top of home page) for garden being closed, 2. check Orange Audubon Society's Facebook page, or 3. contact me at lmartin5@msn.com or (407) 252-1182. For the walks on October 15th, 22nd and 29th, watch OAS' mid-month update. Fingers crossed we can have fun looking for birds together this October.

Larry Martin, OAS-Mead Liaison

Backyard Biodiversity Day Mead Botanical Garden October 22, 2022

For the 7th year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is supporting the Florida Native Plant Society, Tarflower Chapter, and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. with Backyard Biodiversity Day. This event is an opportunity to buy native plants and learn from our Tarflower friends.

Assuming Mead has reopened it will be Saturday, October 22nd from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Walks, talks, vendors, music and food trucks will make it fun.

Email volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org or call 407-637-2525 if you would like to help OAS at our booth. Thanks.



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/





Storm Best Wishes

As we prepare this newsletter, we are still assessing damage to our own homes and yards. Our hearts go out to those in Southwest Florida worst affected by Hurricane Ian. We sincerely hope that you and yours are safe and that your property loss from Hurricane Ian is minimal. For those with families in Puerto Rico, we are thinking of you with all the pain from Hurricane Fiona.

Volunteer Needs

OAS' education efforts have been greatly expanded since we hired our part-time Education Coordinator Kathy Rigling in January (see report p. 3).

If you are a retired teacher, teacher's aide, or otherwise have experience working with schoolchildren or scouts, we can use you as a volunteer to expand what Kathy can do.

Email her at education@orangeaudubonfl.org to learn how to become certified as an Orange County Public School volunteer and to get on her call list.

For example, we hope to partner in bringing school trips to Magnolia Park but will need several trained people to do an adequate job.

OAS' other critical volunteer effort is on local conservation efforts. If you have a little time to write emails or letters, please contact OAS' Conservation Chair Susan Thome-Barrett at conservation@orangeaudubonfl.org to get on her call list.

And I still coordinate the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive (LAWD) Ambassador Program, where OAS volunteers pass out maps and give information to first time visitors to LAWD every Saturday and Sunday. Email me at volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org if you love that amazing drive and are willing to pitch in on OAS' effort to help keep it open.

Feel free to offer your services on other tasks based on your skills and time available, and as our projects develop we will probably be calling you.

Thank you!

Deborah Green, President

Encroach on Wekiwa Springs State Park?

MetroPlanOrlando is proposing a spur of the West Orange Trail into Wekiwa Springs State Park as part of a larger plan to complete the West Orange Trail.



White-tailed Deer at Wekiwa Springs State Park, in the endangered longleaf pine sandhill habitat. *Photo: Mark Meifert*

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is very involved with Wekiwa, conducting monthly bird surveys at the park over the past 4 years to compare with surveys conducted in the 1990s, before the past 20 years of prescribed burning.

Wekiwa has the largest expanse of the endangered longleaf pine sandhill habitat in the state park system. The park provides habitat for 12 protected wildlife species along with numerous rare plants.

Visitation numbers are greater than most National Parks. Wekiwa offers peaceful solitude for those who hike or bike the back country trails which are accessible from the main park entrance.

The OAS conservation committee thinks the West Orange Trail is beneficial but should definitely not enter the park. This spur would cause the destruction of 12 to 14 acres within this pristine state park.

We need your help with two things:

1. Submit a public comment. The comment period is now open and closes October 20th. The link to comment is bit.ly/RSRWOTSurvey3. When you click on the link you will see a video about the realignment of Rock Springs Road. If you click NEXT, you can watch the video about the proposed West Orange Trail extension. The portion that would negatively affect Wekiwa Springs State Park is the Welch Road Trail Spur.

2. If you care deeply about this wonderful park, please join OAS' efforts. Email conservation@orangeaudubonfl.org, and we will put you on an action alert list. Thank you!

OAS Conservation Committee



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 OAS*is* (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: membership@orangeaudubonfl.org

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Education Coordinator Update

September was a busy month for the Orange Audubon Society (OAS) education program. We had our first meeting of the Zellwood Birding Club at Zellwood Elementary on September 12th. The students were so excited to be able to use brand new Celestron binoculars which we bought through a FLEDJE grant from Audubon Florida/National Audubon. Prior to using the binoculars, they were taught to focus by looking at items in their classroom.



Zellwood Elementary Birding Club first meeting with new binoculars. Photo: Pam Owens

OAS' monthly Zoom programs to share easily-applicable resources with educators began in September with the "Feathered Friends" curriculum. Several teachers from around Florida attended and were enthused to learn about activities they can do with their students related to birds throughout the year through this engaging program created by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The recorded webinar is viewable on the OAS YouTube channel at [this link](#).

OAS' free teacher webinars are from 7:00-7:30 PM on the first Wednesday of the month. Upcoming topics include Audubon Adventures on October 5th, Feeding Birds and Project Feeder Watch, November 2nd; and Counting Birds for Science, December 7th. To register, use [this link](#). You need register only once and will be sent the Zoom link to the webinar each month. Most of these resources we are profiling are available nationally, so feel free to share with teacher friends or relatives outside our area.

Please email education@orangeaudubonfl.org to book a classroom or after school visit, to let us know you have binoculars and field guides to donate, or to volunteer to help us with education efforts. Thank you!

Kathy Rigling, Education Coordinator

Eastern Bluebird: A Pugnacious Beauty

Petite, colorful thrushes, Eastern Bluebirds forage often in Phelps Park in Winter Park. I see them on my morning walks fluttering about the meadow. This species lives in mature open woods and suburban parks with sparse cover where they can easily find food. They swoop down to grab crickets, beetles, grasshoppers and spiders, or they catch insects in midair. You can see small flocks flying low to the ground with fast irregular wingbeats, then perching on long-leaf pines so plentiful in the Park. These birds are prevalent year around throughout the Southeastern U.S., and you can often find them at Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Christmas almost any time.

The male Eastern Bluebird has a rich blue upper plumage with a bright rufous throat, breast and flanks, a white lower belly and under tail coverts, and a red or orange chin. The female has blue-gray upper parts with a gray-brown wash across its back, dull blue wings and tail and paler orange underparts. Both sexes have a short, stout black bill with a slight notch at the tip.

Eastern Bluebirds nest in natural cavities by selecting woodpecker holes in dead pines or oak trees 50 feet off the ground and they readily take to man-made nest boxes. (Because of their affinity for boxes, and their open foraging techniques, these birds have become a model species for the field study of fundamental questions in ecology, evolution, and behavior. This is a bird that humans often watch and study.)

Male Bluebirds attract females to nest sites by carrying material in and out of a hole, pecking and fluttering their wings until they attract a mate. Females then build the nests by loosely weaving together grasses and pine needles and lining them with fine grasses, horse hair, or turkey feathers. While these birds

have a reputation for being sweet, they are pugnacious defenders of their territories, mates, and nests and they fiercely compete with other species and with each other for nest cavities. Female Bluebirds may wound and even kill each other to obtain prime nesting sites!

Populations of Eastern Bluebirds increased between 1966 and 2019, primarily due to campaigns supporting the creation of Bluebird trails and nest boxes specifically designed to keep out larger aggressive European Starlings. Help sustain their recovery by posting nest boxes created to their preferences. When given a choice, for example, they much prefer snugger nest boxes about 4 by 6 inches square on the bottom with an entrance hole about 1.4 inches in diameter!

You can attract them to your yard by introducing native fruit-bearing plants. In fall and winter Eastern Bluebirds eat large amounts of fruit including sumac, pokeweed, juniper berries, wild holly, and mistletoe. Enjoy these beautiful birds year around. Connect with their preferred habitat and watch for a flash of brilliant blue, orange and white in meadows where they forage. Check out Phelps Park and Tosohatchee WMA. You will fall in love as I did with the splendid Eastern Bluebird! What a pleasure to bird in Florida!

Linda Carpenter



Female, above, and male, below, Eastern Bluebird
Photo: Joyce Stefancic

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

Kathy Rigling

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

The October 8th Bird Survey will be held at a beautiful time of year, with fall wildflowers in bloom and we will find fall migrants. To participate contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559 or riglingkathy@gmail.com.



Great Purple Hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*) on Slender Flattop Goldenrod (*Euthamia caroliniana*), Savage Christmas Creek Preserve, November 2012. Photo: Mary Keim.

Green PLACE Family Nature & Photography Hike, November 5, 2022

Orange County Environmental Protection Division will offer a guided nature walk led by Beth Jackson, Green PLACE program Environmental Program Supervisor, and Lee Ann Posavad, experienced photographer. The walk is at Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve, 11046 NW Christmas Road, Christmas, FL 32709, on November 5, 2022 from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

Savage/Christmas Creek Preserve encompasses 1,126 acres with pine flatwoods, cypress domes and a sandhill community. Bring your binoculars and cameras to enjoy an early morning hike focusing on native species identification and nature photography. Open to all ages and hiking experience levels. FREE but limited to 20 participants. Call Beth at (407) 836-1481 to register.

OAS Young Birders Club October Update

Orange Audubon Society's Young Birders Club had a wonderful fall migration field trip to Mead Botanical Gardens on September 24th. We found beautiful Cape May Warblers, Black-and-white Warblers, Red-eyed Vireos, Prairie Warblers, Northern Waterthrushes, American Redstarts and Northern Parulas. We even spotted a very well-hidden Swainson's Thrush high up in the trees at Warbler's Corner. Spotting that bird was like finding where's Waldo! We also got a beautiful view of a soaring Red-tailed Hawk in the pine area.

Other fun things that we spotted were Oak Toads near Alice's Pond and turtles and tadpoles. A big thank you to Mary Soule, Susan Thome-Barrett and Larry Martin for their leadership on this trip.



Young Birders trip to Mead Botanical Garden. Photo: Susan Thome-Barrett

The next Young Birders field trip will be to Orlando Wetlands Park, Saturday, November 13th at 8:00 am. We will be inviting other Young Birders around the state to meet us at this event. The field trip is free, and November should be beautiful weather for observing many of our winter resident wading birds, waterfowl and songbirds.

The Florida Young Birders Network, a program of the Florida Ornithological Society, is also hosting monthly free webinars about various bird related topics.

On October 15th from 4 to 5 p.m. there will be a webinar with Adam Kent about sparrows. Adults are welcome to join, but only Young Birders will be permitted to ask questions at the end.

To register for the November 13th field trip or the October 15th webinar, please email Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Global Birding Weekend

Global Birding Weekend, October 7-9, 2022—sponsored by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Swarovski Optik—inspires people to get outside to enjoy nature and raises funds for BirdLife International for global bird conservation. It is an extension of October Big Day on October 8th in which people all over the world record their sightings on eBird to give a snapshot of bird movements. You can even join a global team or create your own team. Last year 51,455 people in 201 countries counted 7,673 species and submitted 132,350 checklists! Learn more about this event at <https://globalbirding.org/home>. For more information about getting started with eBird, visit <https://ebird.org/about>. To watch the OAS Bird Chat video on eBird, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-M66Fw7qpc0>.

A Leucistic Woodpecker

When March comes around, I'm most excited for the arrival of the Painted and Indigo Buntings at my feeder, but this past March, I spotted something even more spectacular than those marvelously colored buntings!

This particular day in March, I sat at my living room window, watching the bird activity going on at my front yard feeders, knowing that the colorful parade could start any day. A flash of white flew into my crape myrtle.

It moved to the suet cage, and at first I thought it was a migratory bird of some sorts, maybe a flicker I had never seen before.

I looked at the bird for a few moments before grabbing my binoculars. That's when I realized this was a bird that I know very well! Something wasn't quite right though.

The bird I was looking at was a female Red-bellied Woodpecker, but she didn't look like the Red-bellied Woodpeckers usually look.

The top and back of her head were red, but her body was covered in cream-colored feathers with some brown barring on her upper back. I did some research on color mutations and discovered the answer to her peculiar coloration. The statistics said that only 1 in about 30,000 recorded bird sightings have a color mutation and that this woodpecker has a mutation called *leucism*.

This mutation is different from albinism because leucistic birds and animals retain some color pigment, where albino animals do not have any color pigment. Mystery solved! I am so happy to have this rare and amazing girl in my yard! It's now September and she is still around. She has grown many colored feathers, her whole back is full of them now, but they are still not black. They're more of a chocolate brown color.

I'm very curious to see if she keeps those permanently, or if they fall out at a certain time of the year. She visits my yard multiple times a day, calling out loudly when she arrives. She loves nibbling on suet, but she will eat seeds from my feeder when the suet runs out. I hope she sticks around for good! She is so fun to watch!

Nikki Sefried, Orange Audubon Society member



Leucistic Red-bellied Woodpecker. Above two photos taken in March. Below, photo taken in September. *Photos: Nikki Sefried*

Limited Edition Field Trips

For Orange Audubon Society's first Limited Edition Field Trip of the season, we traveled to Clearwater Lake Recreation Area, part of the Ocala National Forest near Paisley.



Limited Edition Field Trip to Clearwater Lake. *Photo: Kathy Rigling*

The day started out overcast and, we only heard birds moving about high up in the trees. Finally we started seeing many Red-headed Woodpeckers, juveniles as well as adults. As the overcast conditions lifted, we saw and heard pineland species, including Brown-headed Nuthatch, Yellow-throated Vireo and Pine Warblers.

Later in the morning a Northern Bobwhite flew across the trail. As we were nearing the end of our hike, the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers started calling noisily, and we were able to get great looks of them feeding up high in the pine trees. A big thank you to Gigi DelPizzo for helping lead this trip

The next Limited Edition Field Trip will be October 16th to Green Mountain Scenic Overlook on the south side of Lake Apopka. Karen Hamblett will be co-leader as we search for fall migrants, including warblers, raptors, and songbirds, at this beautiful location. Limited Edition Field Trips cost \$12 for members, \$17 non-members and are limited to 12 participants. Spots are limited, so email riglingkathy@gmail.com to reserve yours.

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](#). Please SUBSCRIBE to our channel to show your support. To see the schedule of upcoming Bird Chats, see p. 8.

2022 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest Results

Winners of Orange Audubon Society's 2022 (34th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest were announced on June 16th in a [program on OAS' YouTube channel](#) where they and all other eligible entries may still be viewed. There were three competition categories—Youth, Novice and Advanced Amateur/ Professional—and the theme for subject matter was Florida Native Nature.

Winners' names and image titles, by category, are listed below. Images with an asterisk (*) are featured on OAS' 2022-2023 Annual Brochure.

YOUTH CATEGORY

1st PLACE

Lillian Frazer, Casselberry
**Green Anole After the Rain*

2nd PLACE

Ethan Landreville, Melbourne
Herring Gull Landing

3rd PLACE

Matthew Chin, Windermere
Pelican Stare—Brown Pelican in Black and White

4th PLACE

Matthew Chin, Windermere
Night Heron Sunrise—Black-crowned Night-Heron

5th PLACE

Lillian Frazer, Casselberry
Spooky Spider—Mabel Orchard Orb Weaver

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Ethan Landreville, Melbourne
Osprey Overlooking Lagoon

Nicole Chin, Windermere

Dragonfly Rest—Four-spotted Pennant on Lotus Bud

Lauren Chin, Windermere

Gotcha—Great Blue Heron

Ethan Landreville, Melbourne

Red-tailed Hawk Perched in Pines

Matthew Chin, Windermere

True Colors—Immature Purple Gallinule

NOVICE CATEGORY

1st PLACE

Maria Khvan, West Chester, PA
**The Catch—Belted Kingfisher*



Power—Forster's Tern. 2022 Chertok Photo Contest. Honorable Mention, Advanced Category. Photo: Laura Garza.

2nd PLACE

Bill Hauck, Winter Park
Two Beauties—Black-throated Blue Warbler on American Beautyberry

3rd PLACE

Lee Ann Posavad, Championsgate
Just a Little Eye-to-Eye—Little Blue Heron with Lil Crayfish

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Jan Pewsey, Ocoee
I Caught Ya! Now, What'll I Do with Ya? Cattle Egret with Grasshopper

Donald Martin, Melbourne
White Pelican Sunset—American White Pelicans

Caitrine Hellenga, Orlando
Sandhill Cranes

Maria Khvan, West Chester, PA
The Catch—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher with Spider

Donald Martin, Winter Park
Wood Storks in the Rain

Bill Hauck, Winter Park
Up and Away—Yellow-throated Warbler

Donald Martin, Winter Park
Happy Home—Great Blue Herons

ADVANCED AMATEUR/ PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY

1st PLACE

Tim Barker, Orlando
Reddish Egret Fishing

2nd PLACE

Marina Scarr, Sarasota
Screech Owl at Sunset—Eastern Screech Owl

3rd PLACE

Wei-Shen Chin, Windermere
Osprey with a Surprised Largemouth Bass

HONORABLE MENTIONS

Marina Scarr, Sarasota
**Barred Owlets' Antics*

Tim Barker, Orlando
Doing My Thing—Black Skimmer Skimming

Paul Rebmann, Ormond Beach
Anhinga Cypress—Bald Cypress and Anhinga

Tim Barker, Orlando
Belted Kingfisher with Fresh Catch

Marina Scarr, Sarasota
Male American Kestrel Feeding Young

Daryl Roston, DeLand
**Roseate Spoonbill*

Marina Scarr, Sarasota
Wet Barred Owlets

Laura Garza, Orlando
Power—Forster's Tern

Thank you to all photographers who entered. We look forward to your participation in 2023 when OAS will sponsor the 35th Annual Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, entry deadline: April 20, 2023. We also look forward to presenting the 2023 awards program in person on June 15th, 7:00 p.m., at Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando, Florida.

*Teresa Williams,
Chertok Photography Contest Chair*

Thanks to the 2022 Chertok Photo Contest Judges

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) was fortunate to have its 2022 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest judged by three gentlemen who are well-known for their expertise in art, the environmental and photography arenas.

Hal Stringer, this year's artist judge, is known fondly as the 'father' of the Winter Park Paint Out, a plein air festival at Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Garden that he founded in 2009 and has co-chaired for the past 14 years. He was also the director of the Crescent Beach Plein Air Paint Out. Hal and his partner, Kevin Miller, are collectors of Florida landscape paintings by contemporary and historical artists. Hal is also a member of the Florida Native Plant Society's Tarflower Chapter.

Ron Blair, this year's naturalist judge, is an architect and ecological consultant. He is vice president of Bowman and Blair Ecology and Design, Inc. and the past president of Florida Native Plant Society, Tarflower Chapter, with which OAS regularly partners on programs like the upcoming Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden. Ron and his wife, Catherine Bowman, devote much of their non-work time volunteering at natural lands throughout the state.

Jack Rogers, this year's photographer judge, is an award-winning, widely published nature photographer who has been photographing birds and other wildlife for decades. Jack leads workshops and presents a variety of seminars in Florida each year and teaches nature photography at Valencia College in Orlando. A long-time Audubon member, Jack is a great supporter of Florida's conservation organizations. His images can be seen on their websites, pamphlets, and signposts across the state.

Thank you, Hal, Ron and Jack for your contributions of time and expertise in judging this year's Chertok competition and for your many other services to the Central Florida community.

*Teresa Williams,
Chertok Photography
Contest Chair*

NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL, December 1-5, 2022

The NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL on Lake Apopka highlights the St. Johns River Water Management District's 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore, Florida's top birding hotspot, and other Central Florida birding hotspots.

For Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) seventh annual festival, December 1-5, 2022, seventy field trips will extend over 5 days, Thursday through Monday. We suggest you visit the festival website at <https://northshorebirdingfestival.com/> to sign up for the mailing list to be notified of the start of registration, as many trips will fill quickly.

The great birding locations and the incredible trip leaders are what make this festival popular. Although we do not have an exhibit hall for vendors, the festival does bring together a critical mass of leaders and participants to catch up on their common interest— birding.

Before the pandemic, the NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL emphasized bringing participants from around the country, demonstrating the economic importance of birding and nature photography ecotourism. Out-of-town participants contribute to the local economy and may visit again after the festival. The 2019 festival had participants from 18 states and Canada, plus over 60 Florida cities.

The Fulvous Whistling-Duck, an interesting duck that has moved into Florida from the Southwest, is more easily seen on the Lake Apopka North Shore than anywhere else in Florida.

Out-of-state visitors enjoy seeing Limpkins, Purple Gallinules, Painted Buntings, Florida Scrub-Jays, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Snail Kites, Peregrine Falcons, Crested Caracaras and Bald Eagles. Local and in-state birders will also enjoy picking through the abundant waterfowl looking for rarities as well as seeing overwintering sparrows, all with the help of our expert guides. The start location for most field trips is the McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757.

Proceeds of the NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL support OAS' nature and environmental center fund and related educational programs. If you have any questions, email festival@orangeaudubonfl.org or call (407) 637-2525.

Fiesta in the Park, November 5-6, 2022

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival is Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) biggest public outreach event and will be November 5-6, 2022. 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 or (407) 718-1977. Thank you!

Teresa Williams



*Participants on A-B Canal Bridge. Photo: Elza Phillips.
Luis Gles leading trip near Clay Island. Photo: Deborah Green*

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bird Chats with OAS via Zoom

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

- Choosing Optics by Chris Hysinger

October 6, 2022

- Nature Photography by Red Huber

October 13, 2022

- The San Diego Bird Festival by Rick Grove

October 27, 2022

- NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL by the Bird Chat Team

November 3, 2022

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 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 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 Scenic Overlook and Trailhead, Lake County

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

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

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

Green PLACE Family Nature and Photography Hike Savage Christmas Creek Preserve, Christmas

Nov 5, 2022

Contact Beth Jackson at (407) 836-1481

Limited Edition Field Trip: Pine Meadows Conservation Area, Lake County

November 5, 2022

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

Fiesta in the Park, Lake Eola

November 5-6, 2022

Contact Teresa at (407) 718-1977

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

November 12, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Young Birders Club, Orlando Wetlands Park

November 13, 2022

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

November Program: History of Florida State Parks by Robert Brooks

November 17, 2022

Contact Paula at programs@orangeaudubonfl.org

Creatures of the Night Tram Ride, Orlando Wetlands Park

November 19, 2022

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

November Field Trip: Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park

November 19, 2022

Contact Larry at (407) 252-1182

Orlando Wetlands Park Monthly Survey

November 20, 2022

Contact Jeffrey at jeffreyg@knights.ucf.edu

NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL, Lake Apopka

December 1-5, 2022

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

