



"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis



*Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida*

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Reminder...

The 2003 OAS Birdathon is fast approaching! Join us in counting birds to help raise much needed funds for Orange Audubon Society. See p4 for details or visit the Orange Audubon web site for additional information at www.orangeaudubonfl.org

This Month's Program: March 20, 2003 - 7pm Eight Years of Wekiwa Bird Banding by Richard Poole, Ph.D.

For eight years, Richard Poole has been getting up before dawn and driving to Rock Springs Run State Reserve or Wekiwa Springs State Park to set up mist-nets to catch birds for banding. With his wife Christine, Bob Wheeler, and many other volunteers, Richard carries on what is currently the longest running bird banding station in Florida. A key feature about this station is its hospitality to any school groups who want to visit. Hear evidence about the wonders of songbird migration and about birds that keep getting caught in the same nets. Join us on March 20 for a fascinating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

February Field Trip Report DICK SMITH, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

The Orlando Wetlands Park is always a great place to bird, and Saturday, February 22, 2003, was no exception. We drove all the way around the Park and covered the entire North section. Although the wind was a little strong at times (this does not help when trying for the little warblers and other song birds), it was a godsend by keeping the temperature and humidity down and making it a very enjoyable day.

23 OAS members and our guests observed 68 species of birds and lots of alligators. Some of the more notable birds seen were American Bittern, Black-crowned Night Heron, Wood Stork, Bald Eagle, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin, Common Snipe, Belted Kingfisher, Purple Martin and five (5) species of warblers.

All in all, it was a great day to be in the great outdoors with good birding friends.

March Field Trip - Tosohatchee State Reserve

On Saturday, March 22, 2003, our field trip will be at Tosohatchee State Reserve in Christmas. This is a huge piece of property (34,000 acres) that offers a variety of birding habits. We will probably walk a 2 or 3-mile route at a very leisurely pace and return to the entrance about noon for a picnic lunch.

We will meet in the rear parking lot of the Burger King at E. Colonial Dr. (SR 50) and Alafaya Trail in time to sign in, get orga-

nized and leave at 7:30 a.m. Bring binoculars, field guides, water and your lunch. Just a reminder; it has been a cool winter and mosquitoes have not been a problem, but, with the temperatures rising, they are something to keep in mind. Bring your insect repellent!!

If you have any questions, please call me at 407-834-2197.

Dick Smith, Field Trip Chair

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00pm in the Camellia Room at

*Harry P. Leu Gardens
1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803-1537*

For directions, call 407-246-2620

President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

Happy Spring! Well, it feels and looks like it. Things are greening up and it won't be long before lots of time will need to be spent on the landscape. Before that happens, check the rare bird alert list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FLRBA/>) to see if the Eurasian Kestrel, first seen on February 26th in the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, is still hanging around and make some time to visit and see it. St. Johns River Water Management District staff unlocked the gate on Lust Road (just off Binion Road) at 8:30am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to allow visitors to go in to view the kestrel. There were about 100 people there Saturday and again on Sunday. On Sunday when Bob and I went, we saw license plates from as far away as Pennsylvania (via Venice, FL), Virginia (finishing a vacation down here, but staying around to see the kestrel), South Carolina and all over Florida (Broward Co.,

St. Pete and Tampa, Alachua Co., Volusia Co., etc). This is just one instance of how significant this Lake Apopka North Shore is as an Important Birding Area (IBA). What a boon to the economy if we can build on this and encourage birders to visit our area for extended stays. If you are as excited as we are about this, please call or contact Bob Stamps (407/886-2925; bob_stamps@att.net), Lake Apopka Nature Education Center Chair or me (407/886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) to volunteer to help with this committee. Thanks.

Other ways to get outdoors and enjoy it are to sign up for the three-hour, April 19th beginning birding class offered at Orlando Wetlands Park by Susan Moss or try the more extensive beginning birding class held four Saturday mornings (last 2 in March, first two in April) taught by Tom Williams. If butter-

flies are more to your liking, sign up for the Leu Gardens class taught by Randy Snyder and Mary Keim (part of the fee will be donated to Orange Audubon). Remember to take your cameras with you and try for that winning photo contest entry (see related article in this issue).

For something that needs no real training, volunteer for our t-shirt/kids' art events (two related articles in this issue!). And, there is never a slow down in conservation issues, so keep a watchful eye and ear and let us know about them. If you have a little more time to dedicate to the cause, see the article in this issue regarding Board of Director nominations. We can use your help — either on or off the board. Whatever you do, enjoy Florida's natural areas and help us fight to preserve what we can of them. Hope to see you at the meeting on the 20th.

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

"Blueways and Greenways" a presentation by Roger VanGhent, Conservation Chair of St. Johns Audubon and regional representative to the Audubon of Florida Board will be the next OAS Conservation Committee meeting on Monday, March 10th. The meeting will be at Leu Gardens, the Rose Room, starting at 6:30pm. Please come and join us to learn about these preservation techniques for environmentally sensitive lands and water resources.

Orange Audubon is opposing the City of Apopka's proposed annexation of 941 acres from Rock Springs Road to the Lake County line, including 500 acres inside the Wekiva River Protection Area. These 941

acres represent all the parcels of land recommended for acquisition as conservation lands by the Wekiva River Basin Task Force in their final report on the Western Beltway design and alignment. The proposed annexation also would rezone the mainly rural lands for higher density development, eliminate the recommended green space buffers and land use recommendations of the Task Force. These lands are currently in Orange County, who has given tentative support to the Task Force recommendations for the Beltway and land use designations in north-west Orange County. The blatant move by the land owners of these parcels and the City of Apopka threaten to undo the excellent plan for the Beltway and lands in the Wekiva basin put forth by the Task Force recommendations. OAS will state our letter of opposition at the public hearing scheduled for March 5th, 1:30pm in Apopka.

In other transportation news, the Orange County Mobility 2020 plan will be presented at neighborhood public hearing in each county district during April. These meetings will provide opportunity for public input and questions. The exact schedule will be published in a few weeks. OAS has asked county commissioners, with favorable responses, to eliminate new roads from the project list that would impact the Econ River and increase development in east Orange county (to the east of the Econ) outside the Urban Service Boundary. OAS members will be following the Mobility 2020 progress, and

be attending some of the public hearing on the initiative.

Scrub-Jay survey in Lake county will begin this month. Several OAS members have volunteered to be survey participants. If you are still interested in being a volunteer, you can call or email John Kruse, with Lake County Water Resource Management to get involved. John's phone is: 352-343-9739, or email: jkruse@co.lake.fl.us.

* Birdathon *

Breakfast With the Birds

Come and join the team having Breakfast With The Birds on Saturday, April 5th, at my home in rural south Lake County. Breakfast will be served from 7:30-9am, and birding will start as soon as you arrive! The 8 acres and adjacent marshes are alive with birds of all kinds, from warblers to wading birds and sandhill cranes. After we identify and count as many birds as possible on the property, we will visit a neighboring nursery were there are Eastern Bluebirds and Scrub-jays just starting to build their nests (at the time of this writing). I hope you'll come and join the Breakfast team and have an enjoyable morning watching and counting our beautiful feathered friends. It will be necessary to limit the number of team members to 15 or less, so please call and let me know if you will be joining the Breakfast team by March 29th. Peggy Cox, pegcox@att.net 352-429-1042

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) promotes the understanding of and an interest in wildlife and the environment, recognition of the intangible values in the remaining natural beauty of Florida and the World, and the responsibility for the conservation of these remaining resources.

Orange Audubon Society
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Maitland, FL 32794-1142

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The OASis is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Audubon of Florida's Internet Advocacy Center

Communicating to public policy makers is an integral part of democracy. Audubon of Florida has created an Internet Advocacy Center on the Audubon of Florida web site- www.audubonofflorida.org - that makes it easy to fax, email, or download pre-loaded letters (to mail) on important issues you care about. Want to personalize the letters? No problem, you can edit letters to fit your own perspective.

Using the latest Internet technology, the Advocacy Center provides concerned citizens with a personalized web page that assists in taking action at key times and tracking critical conservation issues around the state. The Advocacy Center keeps track of issues you take action on (what are the results of your action?), issue updates, and a secure personal workspace allowing you to update your contact information, and receive one or both of Audubon of Florida's e-newsletters, Restore and Audubon Advocate.

If you do not currently participate in one of Audubon of Florida's citizen advocacy networks take advantage of this great opportunity to help move Florida conservation move forward! Visit www.audubonofflorida.org and click on the 'Advocacy Center' or 'Take Action' links. When you sign-up you have the option to participate in either of the citizen based advocacy networks- Audubon's Florida Conservation Network or the Everglades Conservation Network. Email or call Audubon of Florida if with any questions. 800-753-5499 or advocacy@audubonofflorida.org

Let the Nominations Begin!

Grammys, Oscars, Peoples' Choice — Orange Audubon Society (OAS) fits right in. OAS is now accepting nominations for our April election. There are six board of director positions available; one immediately (contact Loretta at 407/886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net), and five terms start at the end of June. Our only requirement is that you be a member of Orange Audubon; it goes without saying that you should have an interest in seeing that the goals and purposes of OAS are fulfilled, and that you would help work toward that end. If you are interested in serving as a board member, please call Leesa Sward (407/677-5374), Mike Daley (386/668-5021) or Randy Snyder (407/851-5416).

A slate of nominations will be announced at the March general meeting, at which time nominations will also be accepted from the floor. Any final nominations and closure of nominations will be at the April annual meeting just prior to the election and beginning of that month's program. Please call now. Thanks.

Leu Gardens Plant Sale First Time Participation!

You can make Orange Audubon's first-time participation in the Harry P. Leu Gardens Annual Spring Plant Sale a success by volunteering to help. The dates are Saturday, March 22nd (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) and Sunday, March 23rd (9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.). Garden staffers say the sale attracts 7,000 visitors who receive free admission to the Gardens when they come to buy plants, and other offerings. And come to buy they do, so let's be there to help! This should be a successful fundraising and new member effort with your help. Contact Teresa (phone 407-644-0796 or email mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) to sign up.

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park 8th Great Year

If you're unable to help at Leu Gardens, don't despair. You may lend a hand during Fiesta in the Park at beautiful Lake Eola in downtown Orlando, April 5th & 6th. As OAS heads into its eighth year of participation in this two-day arts and crafts festival, it remains our most successful fundraising event. Volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. each day.

Got no experience? That's no problem. None necessary to land the Lake Eola or the Leu Gardens job — or both! Come for an hour or come for the day. Help set up or break down our display, sell T-shirts, make children's nature art collages, and talk with event-goers about OAS membership, birding and other activities. If you want to help, please contact Teresa (phone 407-644-0796 or email mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

Spring Migration Field Trip to Fort DeSoto

We will be having a special field trip to Ft. DeSoto, in St. Petersburg, on the weekend of April 12, 2003. (This is in addition to the regular monthly field trip for April which will be on Saturday, 4/19/2003 at Mead Gardens.) The plan is to drive over, at your convenience, the afternoon or evening of Friday, April 11th and spend the night at Eckerd College in the Elderhostel. The rooms will cost us \$55.00 each, with accommodations for two (2) people per room.

The next morning we can then be at Ft. DeSoto bright and early to bird the entire day. Ft. DeSoto has always been a premier birding spot for returning migrants coming back across the Gulf of Mexico. It is also an excellent location for gulls and terns.

PAYMENT DUE BY MARCH 20, 2003

The cost is \$55.00 per room. Bring payment to the March meeting or send check or Money Order to:

Orange Audubon Society
P. O. Box 941142
Maitland, FL 32794

Dick Smith, Field Trip Chair.

Growing Native Email List

Growing Native is an email list devoted to the discussion of Florida native plants and their cultivation, propagation, and conservation. It is moderated by Rufino Osorio, author of "A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants." Anyone interested may join the Growing Native email list by sending an email to the following email address: growingnative-subscribe@yahoo.com.

DISCOUNT FOR EARLY RESERVATION by 3/31

Secluded North Carolina Blue Ridge Mt. vacation house, 50 acres, waterfalls

Heavily wooded mountaintop, 3,000 ft. elev., stream, waterfalls, close to canoeing, 40 min. SW of Asheville, 30 min. to Blue Ridge Scenic Parkway, Pisgah National Forest fishing, hiking & wilderness. 1,500 sq. ft home, modern kitchen, cathedral ceiling, wood stove. No smoking, no pets. Limit 6 people. Photos available. April-June \$380/wk. July-Nov \$420/wk.



(321) 951-1741

morganmt@earthlink.net

**Open
April-Nov.**



ENJOY SPRING IN THE LAND OF WATERFALLS!

Orange Audubon Society 2003 Birdathon Fundraiser

The 2003 Birdathon is just around the corner, scheduled for the first Saturday in April, the 5th. Please use the enclosed Birdathon Sponsor Sign-up Sheet to obtain pledges to help with this annual OAS fund-raiser. We all love to get out birding, so why not use this great opportunity to help raise much needed funds for Orange Audubon. It doesn't take much to ask for a \$0.10 per species pledge, or a total dollar contribution - think of all the cookies, candy and wrapping paper you've bought over the years in support of local clubs and schools! Now it's time to help the birds and environment, locally.

Team activities planned for April 5th:

Breakfast with the Birds, Oak Island, Clermont, contact Peggy Cox at 352-429-1042

Bird ID course at Mead Gardens, Winter Park, contact Tom Williams at 407-332-5089

Orlando Wetlands Park Team, contact Sue Farnsworth at 407-281-9178

Lake Apopka Bird Survey, contact Claire Hilliker at 407-677-5374

... or form your own team! Just let Sue Farnsworth know, gather pledges, and go out and count on April 5th!

As in previous years, if you do not want to collect pledged money after the count, just send your pledge sheet to Birdathon Chairperson Sue Farnsworth at 419 Elkwood Court, Orlando, 32825, and she will contact your sponsors.

Thank you for all of your support of Birdathon!

Sue Farnsworth, Birdathon Chairperson

You can get additional birdathon information and pledge sheets on the OAS Web Page: www.orangeaudubonfl.org

Make checks payable to: Orange Audubon Society

Mail pledge checks to:

Sue Farnsworth

419 Elkwood Court

Orlando, FL 32825

Please send checks by April 15, 2003

Sponsor Name Last, First	Mailing Address Street, City, State, ZIP	Telephone Day / Evening	Pledge per species or \$ pledge
TOTAL:			

Beginner Birding Class

This 3 hour class will focus on the basics of buying and using binoculars/field guides and identifying birds by sight, sound, and behavior.

Location: Orlando Wetlands Park

Dates: March 8, or April 19

Time: 8 – 11 am

Cost: \$12 for Audubon members

\$15 for non-members

(or FREE as a bonus for joining Audubon at the introductory rate of \$20)

Class size is limited, and pre-registration is required. For more information and/or to register, contact Susan Moss, 407-243-9213, salticid@hotmail.com

Central Florida Butterfly Course

Harry P. Leu Gardens (HPLG) in Orlando is offering a 4-session course on the identification of Central Florida butterflies and their caterpillars. The course will be held on Saturdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 2003 from 2:30 – 5:00 pm. Each day will include a slide presentation and a garden walk. Instructors are long time OAS members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Orange Audubon Society.

Pre-registration is required. Contact HPLG (407-246-3621) for registration information.



Attention Birders!

OAS board member Susan Moss would like to establish an email group just for local birders. It would provide birders with an easy way to contact each other with news of current “hot spots,” unusual sightings, and birding trip reports. It would also be a great way to meet other local birders and find birding buddies. If you’d like to be a part of this email group, which will be called “The Flock,” please email Susan at <salticid@hotmail.com> with some basic information about yourself and your birding interests.

15th Annual Chertok Photo Contest Nears

The contest, theme titled Florida’s Native Plants and Animals, beckons you to get out your cameras, get out on those field trips, get close to nature, and yours could be the 2003 winning photo in Orange Audubon Society’s (OAS) 15th Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC)!

This is a 35-mm slide competition, open to all ages. The subject matter must be native to Florida. Here is a fun, and possibly profitable way to learn something about Florida’s native plant and animal life. Prizes are \$125 for first place, \$75 for second place, and \$50 for third place. First through third place winners, and those awarded an honorable mention, will also receive ribbons.

Deadline for postmark or hand delivery of entries is May 15, 2003, with winners to be announced at OAS’ annual potluck dinner and slide contest presentation at Leu Gardens on June 19, 2003. Winners need not be present. Contest entry forms with contest rules are available by contacting Teresa (phone 407-644-0796 or email mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or by visiting the OAS web site www.orangeaudubonfl.org. Good luck!

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Beginner’s Bird Identification Course

Orange Audubon Society will conduct a Beginners Bird Identification Course to be held 9:00 am to noon on four Saturdays; March 22, 29 and April 5, 12, 2003. The first two classes will be held in a classroom in the Shell Museum at Rollins College. The two remaining classes will be held in the field - one at Mead Gardens and one at Orlando Wetlands Park. OAS member Tom Williams will be the instructor. There is a registration fee of \$25.00 and class size will be limited to 15 students. Please fill out the registration form below and make payment to Orange Audubon Society. Indicate on the check “Bird I.D. Course” and mail to Tom Williams, 111 Foxridge Run, Longwood, FL 32750. Please bring binoculars and your bird field guide to the first class. If you do not have a field guide, the first class will discuss available field guides. For additional information, contact Tom Williams at (407) 332-5089.

APPLICATION FOR BEGINNERS BIRD IDENTIFICATION COURSE

Orange Audubon Society

March 22 & 29, April 5 & 12, 2003

9:00am - noon

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

____ A check for \$25.00 made payable to Orange Audubon Society and marked “Bird ID Course” is enclosed.
Complete form and mail to Tom Williams, 111 Foxridge Run, Longwood, FL 32750

OAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

VICE PRESIDENT

Leesa Sward 407-677-5374

VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS)

Deborah Green 407-869-7762

SECRETARY

Terry Godts 321-436-4932

TREASURER

Teresa Williams 407-644-0796

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BIRDATHON Susan Farnsworth

CHERTOK NPC Teresa Williams

CONSERVATION Peggy Cox

EDUCATION Deborah Green & Mona Phipps

FIELD TRIPS Dick Smith

FINANCE Milton Heiberg

HOSPITALITY Tom & Ruth Williams

MEMBERSHIP Claire Hilliker

NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

March 8, 2003 - Saturday

Beginner Birding Class; 8:00am-11:00am
Orlando Wetlands Park, Christmas, FL
Susan Moss 407-243-9213
salticid@hotmail.com

March 15-16, 2003 - Sat-Sun

Pelican Island Wildlife Festival, 9:30am-4:00pm
Riverview Park, Sebastian, FL
<http://pelicanisland.fws.gov>
Event Info: 772-562-3909 ext. 258

March 20, 2003 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting to take place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

March 3, 10 & April 17, 24, 2003 - Saturdays

Beginner's Bird ID Class; 9:00am-Noon.
Tom Williams 407-332-5089

April 5-6, 2003 - Sat-Sun

Lake Eola Festival in the Park, Orlando, FL
Teresa Williams 407-644-0796

April 5, 2003 - Saturday

OAS Birdathon, Central Florida
Sue Farnsworth 407-281-9178

April 5, 2003 - Saturday

LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

April 12, 2003 - Saturday

Spring Migration Field Trip, Fort DeSoto, FL
Dick Smith 407-834-2197

April 17, 2003 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting to take place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

April 19, 2003 - Saturday

Beginner Birding Class; 8:00am-11:00am
Orlando Wetlands Park, Christmas, FL
Susan Moss 407-243-9213
salticid@hotmail.com

May 3, 2003 - Saturday

LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

May 3-10-17-24, 2003 - Saturdays

Central Florida Butterfly Course; 2:30pm-
5:30pm. Harry P. Leu Gardens 407-246-3621
Instructors: Randy Snyder & Mary Keim

Orange Audubon Recognizes Outstanding Young Scientists

Two local students were named as this year's recipients of OAS' Special Award for the 2003 Orange County Regional Engineering and Science Fair (OCRESF).

"Pesticides from our Backyard", by **Adam Tazi** was chosen as the most outstanding project in the junior category. Adam investigated the use natural pesticides. His research was very extensive but in summary, he found that as little as a 3% concentration of mistletoe extract (made from unripened berries) was an effective pesticide against

mosquito larvae. Adam is in the 7th grade at the St. Andrews School in southwest Orlando. His project also won a Butler Chain Conservation Association award.

Marissa Styne, a junior at Lake Highland Prep was chosen as the recipient for the most outstanding project in the senior category. Her project, "Does Storm Water Increase the Growth of Potentially Toxic Cyanobacteria in Florida Lakes?" examined 4 different lakes over a period of 5 months. Her results proved that the increase in nu-

trients brought into the lakes by stormwater did increase the amount of cyanobacteria in those lakes. Melissa's project also won second place overall at the OCRESF, as well as an Orange County Soil and Water Conservation award, the Stockholm Junior Water Prize, a Butler Chain Conservation Association award, and an Awesome Guide - AP Environmental Science award.

Congratulations to these promising young scientists for excellent research and presentations!

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