



"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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Reminders...

....Plan to attend this year's Audubon Assembly in St. Petersburg on October 7-10, 2004. Assembly highlights include Dr. Stephen Kress, Dr. Peter Stangel, Dr. Jerome Jackson, Kenn Kaufman and more! Get together with old friends and make new ones. Exchange ideas on Chapter governance, conservation projects, education programs, fundraising, and other Chapter activities. Look for Assembly registration information in the Spring edition of The Florida Naturalist. You can also register for the Assembly now on-line at www.audubonofflorida.org

This Month's Program: May 20, 2004 - 7:00pm Kissimmee River Restoration by Loisa Kerwin

The Kissimmee River Restoration Project of the South Florida Water Management District is centered at the Riverwoods Field Lab, 20 miles southeast of Sebring on US98. Over forty square miles of floodplain are being restored, as the river is returned from a straight canal to the original meandering river. In our May program, Riverwoods Field Lab director Loisa Kerwin will tell us about research and monitoring in these restoration efforts. Join us May 20 for a fascinating program.
Deborah Green, Vice President

May Field Trip - South Brevard WTF, Viera FL

On Saturday, May 22, 2004, we will have our final field trip of the 2003-2004 year. We will travel to the South Brevard Water Treatment facility in Viera. This is a driving trip, as we are allowed to take vehicles up onto the berms. Last year we had really good luck and saw nine species of Shorebirds and four species of Terns among 55 total species for the day.

We'll meet on Saturday morning in the rear parking lot of the Burger King at the

corner of Hwy 50 and Alafaya Trail. Be there in time to sign in, get assigned to a carpool and LEAVE by 7:30AM SHARP. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, sunscreen, insect repellent, water and a picnic lunch. We will bird until approximately 11:30-12:00 then enjoy our lunch at one of the observation towers.

If you have any questions, please contact Dick Smith at 407-257-7361 (Cell) or dick.smith@zepamfg.com.

April Field Trip Report DICK SMITH, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

The "bird of the day" was the juvenile Barred Owl with one of the parents in the palm tree on the trail down by the creek. It sat out in full view and everybody was able to get a really good at it and the parent. Some people even took some pretty good photographs. The "butterfly of the day" was the Question Mark found and identified by Randy Snyder. Some of the species seen were: Wood Stork,

Wood Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red Shouldered Hawk (carrying nesting material), Carolina, House and Marsh Wrens, and nine species of Wood-Warblers. Although we only had 37 species for the day, Saturday, April 17, was a beautiful day to be in Mead Gardens and all of the 29 birders had a good time. All in all, it was a good day to be in the great outdoors with good birding friends.

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (Sept - June) 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

At the Orlando Wetlands Park Annual Festival, a college student surveyed several of us regarding our outdoors experiences, preferences, etc. One question asked was whether you consider yourself a novice, intermediate or expert birder. I answered that I was an intermediate level birder and then was asked how many birds I could identify readily. In an interview, there isn't time to start counting up how many birds you can recognize, and I hadn't given the issue any thought, so I guessed at about 30. Imagine my surprise when I did start naming the birds I knew and realized that I could easily identify over twice that many without a field

guide. I'm not a 'lifer' or 'life-lister' or whatever that group calls themselves; I don't jump on a plane and fly to Texas or Ontario to see an unusual bird, but I do enjoy spotting them.

Within the last couple of weeks, we've had some excellent sightings in our own yard — Eastern Bluebirds, Red-headed Woodpecker (the first time in 23 years!), Swallow-tailed Kite, and Chuck-will's-widows calling — to name just a few. This may be due to the destruction of habitat that the birds used to frequent, but we can't be sure that's the reason. Unfortunately, not all of these birds showed up on Birdathon day, but the excite-

ment of seeing them almost makes up for that — especially since other Orange Audubon team members did see some of these on their trips.

This story simply leads to the thought that you shouldn't let this beautiful weather disappear before you get out and enjoy it. Visit a natural (or not so natural) area and watch the birds or butterflies; maybe we'll see you at the butterfly ID course? By the way, don't forget to take your camera for getting your Chertok Nature Photography Contest entries — deadline is May 20th, the day of this month's meeting. See you there.

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

This year's session of the Florida Legislature will have ended by the time you are reading this, but there may still be some issues we will be asking Gov. Bush to veto or sign. The Wekiva legislation, sponsored by Sen. Lee Constantine in SB1214 has been reconciled with the House version and hopefully will be signed by the Governor. This legislation, can provide the necessary protection to the Wekiva springshed and sensitive lands in the Basin while allowing for the building of the final leg of a beltway around Orlando, the Wekiva Parkway. Gov. Bush should sign this legislation, please ask him to do so.

The DRI bill, SB1174, was changed dramatically into a bill entitled "The Planning and Development Study Commission". Needless to say, another Growth Management Commission was not well received, and with little support from the Governor or the House, this bill should be history by the end of the session.

SB2774/HB1495 will most certainly be passed, and Audubon has some grave concerns about these bills. Under the guise of providing emergency 911 wireless service, the plan to locate thousands of new cell phone towers on public lands could become the law under these bills. All State lands will be treated the same and DEP and the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund (who hold title to the majority of State Lands) will have to give authority for leasing and approving lands for these towers to the Dept. of Management Services. Local government zoning and land use regulations will only be able to have administrative review, with no public hearings or input required. Cell Phone towers are one reason for significant deaths in migratory bird flocks, and so Audubon is concerned about the proliferation of towers on natural lands that are frequented by high numbers of migratory birds. Please check the Audubon of Florida website for further information on this issue and express any concerns about this to Gov. Bush. In Appropriations, most environmental issues were settled. Florida Forever will be fully funded for this year and so will Everglades Restoration projects. Bills establishing at least \$5 million of funds for the Rural and Family Lands Protection act are expected to become law. These funds will come mainly from excise taxes and help fund purchase of conservation easements and development rights on rural lands for preservation of wildlife habitat and open space.

Nationally, Audubon along with other conservation groups, achieved a big victory when on March 23rd, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that pollutants cannot be pumped into U.S. waters without a Clean Water Act discharge permit, regardless of

whether the pumping originates the pollutants or is conveying them from another location. Audubon and seven other environmental groups had filed an amicus brief in the case; the South Florida Water Management District vs. the Miccosukee Tribe. The Court's ruling found that the South Florida Water Management District's practice of pumping stormwater from a collection canal into a natural wetland area in the Everglades required them obtaining a pollutant discharge permit - and meeting the water quality standards that would allow them to pump pollutants, that originated elsewhere, into the natural wetlands. Exempting conveyance of pollutants from permitting would have opened the door to serious degradation of cleaner water bodies by pollutants pumped into US waters.

Orange Audubon has been participating in meetings called by Orange County District 4 Commissioner, Linda Stewart, to discuss developing a resource sector plan for most of District 4 inside the urban service boundary. The urban service boundary (USB) is the Econ River through much of eastern Orange county. Commissioner Stewart is concerned about the continued protection and preservation of our environmental resources in the face of continued pressure for changes to the Orange County Comp Plan to accommodate higher density developments in the southeastern section of the County. OAS suggestions for the proposed Sector Plan include: Prioritizing land acquisition of already identified sensitive lands, with emphasis on establishing wildlife corridors and open space buffers to identified ecosystems, no extension of the USB east of the Econ River, and making perma-

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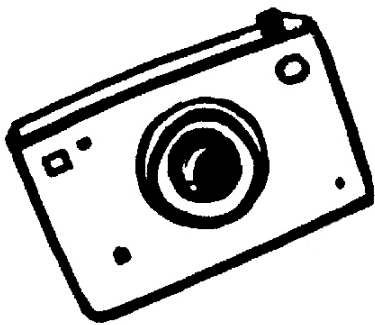
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The OAS is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Nature Photo Contest Deadline - May 20th

Don't forget the deadline for postmark or hand delivery of entries to the 16th Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest is May 20, 2004. Winners will be announced at OAS's annual potluck dinner and slide show of photo contest entries on June 17, 2004. Entry forms with rules for the contest can be obtained by giving your name and address to Teresa: phone 407-646-2611 (day), 407-644-0796 (evening), or e-mail me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com, or by visiting the OAS website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org to download a form. Good lighting and good luck, entrants!
Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair



Conservation... cont'd

nent policy on previous County Commission promises of no additional road or utility crossings of the Econ River to the east. Also the already approved extension of Alafya Trail, to the south, should be aligned as close as possible to existing development and transportation corridors, not go out further to the east into now rural lands. More emphasis on existing Comp Plan Conservation Policies that can be used to protect sensitive areas and influence road alignments. Remember, additional conservation information and actions that need to be taken are available online at www.audubonofflorida.org and nationally at www.capitalconnect.com (National Audubon's advocacy site).

The next Audubon of Florida regional conservation committee meeting for the St. Johns region chapters will be May 22nd in St. Augustine. All members are welcome. Call or email me for any information on it if you are interested. The OAS Conservation committee welcomes you. We usually meet during the first week of the month. Call or email me for information on committee meeting times and location.

Peggy Cox (pegcox@att.net; 352-429-1042).

OAS Birdathon 2004 a Success... Here are the results

OAS' intrepid Birdathoners were up and at it early on Saturday, April 17th, scouring several Central Florida areas, attempting to break last year's count of 120 species. Generously giving up of their time on a gorgeous Saturday, they looked high and low, near and far, some going for over 15 hours in the field, all to help raise much needed funds for Orange Audubon Society. When all was said and done, our birders beat last year's total by spotting **135 species!** Thanks to all who participated, either by counting species or by pledging, we couldn't have done it without you!

For those collecting pledges or donations (checks payable to Orange Audubon Society), please have your pledge sheets and collections sent in to Claire Hilliker, 615 Ellendale Drive, Winter Park, FL 32792 on or before the next OAS meeting on Thursday, May 20th, to be included in our results. All sponsors who provided an address will receive a Thank You letter from Orange Audubon Society, along with a list of all the species seen. Remember that donations could be tax-deductible, and go directly to support our local community.

Once again, Thank you to all of sponsors and volunteers for making Birdathon 2004 a success.

Claire Hilliker, Birdathon Chair

Another Audubon Election

As you know, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) held its annual election at the April general meeting. Now, it's time for OAS to cast its ballots for a chapter-nominated member for the National Audubon Society board of directors. This member will represent the chapters in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Nominations were due by January 31, 2004 for this position and only one nominee has been provided through the nomination process. William (Bill) McQuilkin, Jr. is currently serving his first 3-yr term as the Southeastern Regional Director and is willing to serve another 3-yr term. The officially designated nominee, as determined by the votes of all the chapters in the 7-state region, is then placed on the slate of candidates submitted to the membership at the next NAS Annual Meeting of Members.

At the May 20th OAS board meeting (beginning at 5:30, prior to the general program), one item on the agenda will be an official vote by the board regarding Mr. McQuilkin's nomination for the Southeastern Regional Director. Any member of OAS is welcome to attend the board meeting and participate in the discussion prior to the vote. Copies of the candidate's statement (one page) will be available at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may call me (407/886-2925) for information regarding the candidate's statement and to make any comments that you wish to have presented to the board prior to the election. Thanks for your participation.

Loretta Satterthwaite

OAS Nature Walks at ONP

On April 17th (Birdathon Day) and 18th, OAS members Peggy Cox, Loretta Satterthwaite and Bob Stamps, with help from Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP) board members Mike Brinkley and Jackie Osburn, led nature walks at ONP. ONP is a 128-acre jewel on the south shore of Lake Apopka, formerly the 2nd largest lake in Florida. Some of the highlights of the nature walks were up close and personal looks at nest building activities by Carolina Wrens, a couple of Purple Gallinules, several active Great Blue Heron nests, lots of Florida native Green Anoles, Pileated Woodpeckers, armadas of American Alligators, plentiful Osprey catching fish, plus Wood Ducks and Black-crowned Night Herons. If you would like to help out with future nature walks, become an ONP docent, or learn about this preserve, feel free to contact Bob Stamps at (407) 886-2925 or bob_stamps@att.net.

The Broken Laws of Ecology

Several members thanked me for including "The Five Laws of Ecology" in last month's OASis. Unfortunately, those laws were 'broken' as published in the newsletter. Because of switching from one word-processing program to another, column breaks caused some jumbling of the article. (I wish that were the worst way that they have been broken, but that's not the case. However, it's the easiest break to fix.) We have converted the article to a 'PDF' file and would be happy to email it to you if you wish an 'unscrambled' copy. Contact me at LNS-OAS@att.net for a copy or pick one up at the May meeting.

Loretta Satterthwaite

OAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FIELD TRIPS Dick Smith

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NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

May 1, 2004 - Saturday
LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

May 8, 2004 - Saturday
Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long Branch Park Bird Survey. Call Lorne Malo (407-349-2536)

May 13-16, 2004 - Thurs-Sun
FPNS Annual Conference
Hotel Royal Plaza, Lake Buena Vista, FL
Karina Veaudry 407-228-2875
veaudry@netzero.net

May 13-16, 2004 - Thurs-Sun
First Coast Birding & Nature Festival
St. Augustine, FL. 800-653-2489
www.visitoldcity.com/interests/nature/festival/

May 20, 2004 - Thursday
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.OAS
Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

May 22, 2004 - Saturday
Field Trip - South Brevard WTF, Viera, FL
Dick Smith 407-834-2197
dick.smith@zepamfg.com

May 29, 2004 - Saturday
Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long Branch Park Butterfly Survey. Call Randy Snyder (407-851-5416) or Lorne Malo (407-349-2536)

June 5, 2004 - Saturday
LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

June 17, 2004 - Thursday
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.OAS
Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

October 7-10, 2004 - Thurs-Sun
Audubon Assembly 2004
Hilton Hotel, St. Petersburg, FL
www.audubonofflorida.org

Double the Silent Auctions means Double the Fun in June

On June 17th OAS will present its final program of the year – and what a fun evening we have planned for you. You’ll enjoy a potluck dinner with culinary treats prepared by you and your Audubon friends - let’s face it, by Publix as well! You’ll also enjoy a slide presentation featuring entries in the 2004 (16th Annual) Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) at which winners will be announced and receive awards – it’s OAS’ traditional finale to a season of fantastic programs.

The evening won’t be complete without some friendly competition for items offered in the ‘Make It, Bake It, Grow It!’ silent auction. Once again they will be complemented by other items donated by sponsors from the community to benefit the CNPC Endowment Fund.

Are you a talented dessert maker or nest box builder? Do you wish to donate a creation to benefit OAS? If so, please contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796) by Sunday, June 13th with details to ensure that we’ll have adequate tables, bid sheets, etc. We need your name and phone number, description of item(s), retail or appraised value, starting bid amount (if desired) and the OAS fund to benefit from the proceeds – i.e., the CNPC Endowment or general operating fund. Note that you may either bring your item to the program on June 17th or make arrangements to deliver it to Teresa in advance, whichever is most convenient for you. Acknowledgments for tax purposes available upon request. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated. Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

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