



"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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Florida Birding Needs Help!

If you've ever been birding in our state, we need your advice!

Please take this 15-minute online survey, setup by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, to share your experiences and insights about Florida birding. Your input will help shape the future of the Great Florida Birding Trail and demonstrate the value of birds and birding to Florida communities. All responses are anonymous and cannot be traced to your email address, so there is no chance of spam from this survey.

www.surveyyroom.com/birdtrail/list

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

This Month's Program: November 18, 2004 - 7:00pm Search for the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker by Jerry Jackson, PhD

Dr. Jerry Jackson, professor emeritus at Florida Gulf Coast University, is the world's leading authority on the history and biology of the ivory-billed woodpecker. North America's largest woodpecker needs vast expanses of bottomland hardwood forest to survive. With logging of our forests, ivory-billed populations crashed in the 1930s, and there had not been a verifiable sighting since the late 1960s. Then in April 1999 in the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area in southeastern Louisiana, a Louisiana State University grad student saw a pair. Zeiss Sports Optics is sponsoring an intensive multi-year search for this elusive bird in the Pearl River area, with Dr. Jackson as an advisor. Meanwhile from his home near Naples, Dr. Jackson continues to ply the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve in search of this "ghost." Join us November 18th for a fascinating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

November Field Trip - Lake Apopka North Shore

It's exciting to look forward to the delightful birding at the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area! (LANSRA) St. Johns River Water Management District agents Jim Peterson and Paul Ek have been kind enough to give us their Saturday time and lead us on our trips to these fields and marshes that always yield great birding. It seems we are also treated to regular sightings of rarely seen birds when we visit this area. Past trips have given us birds such as Tropical, Western, Cassin's and Gray Kingbirds, Smooth-billed Ani, Vermillion Flycatcher, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Blue Grosbeak, and many members of the Hawk family. This is a terrific area that allows us to view woods, fields, and marsh habitat all in one morning. It is truly a treat and privilege that the SJRWMD allows us to tour the restoration while in progress. Come join us on Saturday, November 20th at the "Lust Road Gate" entrance. Any questions, call Bob Ferguson at 407-644-7850 (H) / 407-699-4134 (pager). We will meet at the gate and be ready to leave

for the trip in carpools at 7:30am. Be there early so that we can leave about 7:30am. This is a good trip to bring the older kids or any friend that is mobility impaired, as we will be driving on good berm roads and doing very little walking. See you there!

DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy 441 north from Apopka to Mt. Plymouth. The traffic light on the north end of Mt. Plymouth is Binion Road (Hwy 437). Turn left at the light and cross the rail road tracks continuing through the "S" curve on Binion Rd. You will quickly see a street sign on the right for Lust Road. Turn right onto Lust Rd and travel until you reach the locked gate at the LANSRA entrance. If you are going to be late due to travel problems, call me so we won't "lock you out"! 407-619-4484 (cell for Saturday) ***FYI—there are no rest rooms at the gate or on the berms (other than "natural" ones), so come "empty" and bring supplies if you desire.***

Bob Ferguson, Field Trip Chair

President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

What great weather we're enjoying at this time. While you are doing so, don't forget to start taking some photos to enter into Orange Audubon's 17th annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest.

The weather was wonderful for the Members' Picnic at Wekiwa Springs State Park; we would have liked to see more of you come out to enjoy it. People went swimming, canoeing and hiking (birding and butterflying). Even at the pavilion we were able to do some bird watching and saw Black and White Warbler, Northern Parula, Downy Woodpecker, American Redstart, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, to name just a few. Thanks to all who came to help and to enjoy the adventure. The turnout was disappointing for this first attempt at an annual

picnic. We know how busy this time of year is, and it didn't help that the field trip to WSSP was cancelled, but we really expected a few more members to participate. Maybe next year!

There are more opportunities to participate in other Orange Audubon events. By the time you receive this, fundraising at Lake Eola (Nov. 6 & 7) should be completed. However, we will have items for sale at the November meeting on Thursday, the 18th. The merchandise makes excellent holiday gifts, so bring your check book and support Orange Audubon Society (OAS) by purchasing a nature t-shirt, tote, sign, or book.

We have also confirmed that OAS will participate at the Winter Park Farmers' Market on December 4th (parade day). This will

be the last opportunity before the holidays for those special nature purchases from OAS. [If you'd like to volunteer to help at this event, please contact me by email at LNS-OAS@att.net or leave a message on the recorder at 407-886-2925.]

By the time this reaches you, the voting will be over (but maybe not the re-counts!). Whatever the results, stay in touch with your elected officials. Keep them apprised of the environmental issues that will keep our planet safe and livable for the next four years. Let's make the next four years better than these last four have been by making our voices heard and holding those in power accountable for their actions.

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

OAS members previously participated in several meetings organized by Orange County District 4 Commissioner Linda Stewart to give input on a proposed sector plan for environmental resources in District 4. A consulting planner was to be hired to put together a draft of all the stakeholder input for such a plan. With many government programs, etc., being delayed because of dealing with the hurricane impacts, the request for this consultant has just been put out for public notice. It has now come to our attention that this will not be a traditional Sector plan, as defined in growth management law, but has been labeled a study. The title of the study is a bit troublesome - "The Avalon South Economic Development & Environmental Resource Management Study". It looks like the extension of the Avalon Blvd.

through the International Corporate Park (ICP) site and then south to near the airport is a driving force in this study. The development of the old ICP site with new owners and a portion just being reserved for expansion of the Central Florida Research Park at UCF will certainly be a factor in this study. OAS will continue to participate in this process in the coming months.

The St. Johns River Water Management District held the first public meetings on their proposed Water Supply Plan 2005-2015, October 22nd. The timeline for the plan was introduced at these meetings. This plan will have a first draft available in November and the analysis of the first draft will be done in December. The draft plan will be published for public comment in May, 2005, with public comment to be submitted in June and July 2005. A revised draft will then be done after the public comment period and the final plan is scheduled for the St. Johns Governing Board approval in September 2005. We will try to get more details after the draft analysis is done in December.

Very important legislation in Congress is being considered now. The reauthorization of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 2000 (NMBCA). The NMBCA is part of the reauthorization of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, giving it a 3 year extension to continue the work on protection of neotropical bird species and preservation of their habitat in North and South America. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act has some added language to not extend protection to invasive bird species in the United States.

This important legislation has strong support in Congress, but public comments to our legislators are always a good idea to show them how important we think this legislation is in bird conservation. HR4114 and SB2547 are identical, and need to be approved by our Congressmen and Senators. You can go to National Audubon's legislative website for more information and to find your elected representatives. Go to www.capitolconnect.com, for more information; or contact NAS's Assistant Director of Government Relations, Mike Daulton, at mdaulton@audubon.org.

In Lake County, Audubon of Florida has officially endorsed the ballot referendum for a County public land acquisition program for protection of environmentally sensitive lands, greenways and trails. OAS member Terry Godts has led the effort to get this needed referendum on the ballot. In Green Swamp issues, a proposed charter amendment to the City of Groveland's charter to limit density on any lands they annex that are in the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern was endorsed by Audubon of Florida. The sponsoring organization, Citizens Coalition of Lake County, received the AOF endorsement to use in an informational campaign brochure promoting a Yes vote on the proposed charter amendment.

Both these referendums, if passed by the voters in Lake County, will be a major help in reducing the impacts of the urban sprawl engulfing most of Lake county. The Green Swamp amendment will stop the encroachment into the Area of Critical State Concern

....cont'd on p3

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.

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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>

Florida's Bald Eagles vs. Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne

After an unprecedented FOUR hurricanes in six weeks caused damage statewide, the Audubon EagleWatch Program, headquartered at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, is receiving numerous reports that Bald Eagle nests and nest trees are either damaged, completely down or the area has sustained considerable loss of the nest and all surrounding trees. This will be a challenging year for eagles in Florida as they return to their nest territories, survey the natural damage, and decide to repair their nests, rebuild in alternate trees or even utilize man-made structures such as cell and utility towers. Typically, eagle nesting season in Florida begins in October and extends through May.

Audubon is currently compiling data on these hurricane impacted nests and injured eagles. Preliminary information from EagleWatch volunteers reported in late September that of 102 territories in 23 counties, 45 eagle nests are gone, including the complete loss of 16 nest trees; 9 nests sustained damage and 16 nest trees are damaged. Additional statistical data is also being compiled by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Audubon members EagleWatch volunteers are encouraged to contact Center Supervisor Dianna Flynt (Dflynt@audubon.org) or Audubon EagleWatch Coordinator, Lynda White (Lwhite@audubon.org) at the Center (407-644-0190) with any information they may have on this issue. Florida wildlife rehabilitators have been cautioned that they may see an increase in eagles injured in territory fights as they compete for reduced nesting habitat. As always, the Audubon Center and EagleWatch will continue to provide assistance for eagle care and rehabilitation, as well as locating and monitoring active eagle territories.

The multi-hurricanes' resulting population impact on many wildlife species, including Bald Eagles, is currently unknown. Collecting and publishing data on what effect a natural disaster has on a species may help us to manage the remaining habitat more efficiently, as well as understand the potential population impacts of future natural or man-made disasters.

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey is a raptor rehabilitation and environmental educational center, open to the public, that admits 650 - 750 sick, injured and orphaned raptors (eagles, hawks, owls, falcons, kites and osprey) annually, including an average of 55 Bald Eagles. The Audubon EagleWatch Program is a statewide Bald Eagle nest monitoring program. Currently, EagleWatch volunteers monitor over 20% of Florida's nesting eagles, with 240 volunteers active in 39 counties watching 282 nests. EagleWatch data also supplements state and federal wildlife agencies' eagle nesting data. For information on joining EagleWatch and attending one of this year's workshops, contact Lynda White. For more information about the Audubon Center, visit www.audubonofflorida.org.

Birds of Prey I.D. Course

Join Bob Sanders and his intrepid team of "hawk watchers" for some more instruction in identification of the exciting birds of prey that inhabit our Florida skies on November 13th. These courses are helpful to birders of all levels of experience. This time of year usually gives Bob many species to teach with as they soar and hunt the many fields of the Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area. The proximity of Lake Apopka also means that there are Eagles and Osprey in good number. Last year produced many Kestrels, Harriers, Eagles, Osprey, Red Tailed and Red Shoulder hawks, Coopers, Sharp-shinned, and Broad Winged Hawks, even Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were sighted. Bring your binoculars, scopes, folding lawn chair for sitting, bug repellent, water, snacks, and guides. There are no bathroom facilities at the gate, so "come prepared". This field trip will start at 8:30am at the gate and end around 12 noon. Directions to the gate may be found in the November field trip article on page 1.

Conservation...from p2

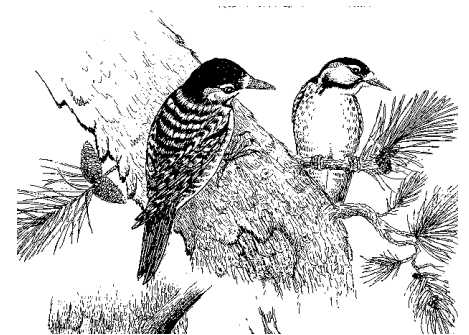
at a time when the Floridan aquifer is in need of protection more than ever.

Remember you can access information on important environmental issues at the NAS site; www.capitolconnect.com, and the Audubon of Florida website; www.audubonofflorida.org. Please feel free to contact me or any OAS Conservation Committee member with any environmental concerns you may have. (pegcox@att.net or 352-429-1042)

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP ENDANGERED SPECIES!

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is looking for volunteers to help monitor the endangered, red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCWs) living at the Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park in Orange County, Florida. RCWs are small black and white striped woodpeckers that live in areas with mature pine trees. Due to loss of habitat this little bird is in trouble. However, biologists have found that they can help the birds by installing nest boxes (called artificial cavities) in live pine trees and by translocating birds from larger populations into smaller ones. Such activities are taking place at the Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park, and volunteers are needed to monitor the progress (and hopefully the success) of these projects.

- You do NOT have to be experienced birders – we'll gladly train you!
- You will need to provide your own binoculars and/or spotting scopes.
- You will need to use your own vehicles – a 4X4 vehicle is best, but not absolutely necessary.
- You will need access to e-mail, since this is how assignments and reporting will be handled.
- You will need to be available a minimum of 1 day/week during spring and 1 day/month for the remainder of the year.
- You will need to be an early riser – roost checks are done right at sunrise (Hal Scott is at its most beautiful in the early morning so this is a PLUS)!!!!



If you would be interested in volunteering; know someone who would; or would like more information, please contact Maria Zondervan at (407) 659-4872 or mzondervan@sjrwmd.com.

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FIELD TRIPS Bob Ferguson
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MEMBERSHIP Mike Daley
NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

November 6-7, 2004 - Sat-Sun

Fiesta in the Park, Lake Eola
Teresa Williams 407-644-0796

Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850
rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net

November 6, 2004 - Saturday

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

November 27, 2004 - Saturday

Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long
Branch Park Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

November 13, 2004 - Saturday

Birds of Prey ID Class - Lake Apopka North
Shore Restoration Area, Zellwood
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

December 4, 2004 - Saturday

OAS Fundraiser - Winter Park Farmer's Market
7:00am-1:00pm. For more info or to volunteer,
call Teresa Williams 407-644-0796

November 17-21, 2004 - Wed-Sun

Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival
Neta Harris 321-268-5224 or
Laurilee Thompson 321-268-5000.
www.nbbd.com/fly

December 4, 2004 - Saturday

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

November 18, 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

December 16, 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

November 20, 2004 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Lake Apopka North Shore Res-
toration Area (LASNRA), Zellwood

January 15-17, 2005 - Sat-Mon

Everglades BirdFest, Everglades Nat'l Park
Broward Co. Audubon Society 954-776-5585.
www.browardaudubon.org/birdfest.htm

AUDUBON OF FLORIDA & ITS CHAPTERS ANNOUNCE AUDUBON ACADEMY 2005

WHEN: March 18 – 20, 2005

WHERE: Eckerd College in St. Petersburg just off of I-275

PROGRAM: A selection of 11 participatory workshops plus field trips and social events

WHO: Participation is open to Florida chapter officers and directors, committee chairs, other volunteers and future leaders

OBJECTIVE: To strengthen chapter leadership by providing tools for effective chapter governance, development of membership and funds, and communications. In addition, the Academy will strengthen the bonds between the chapters, Audubon of Florida, and National Audubon.

COST: The Academy is sponsored by the Florida Chapters, Audubon of Florida, and NAS. This allows us to have a registration fee for participants of only \$25 for the three days to cover refreshments during breaks. Participants are also responsible for their travel, meals, and accommodations.

CONTACTS: Joyce King, Chair of the Chapter Committee, AoF Board of Directors sjking@mindspring.com; 727-531-3440
Bill Lowrie, Chapter Coordinator, AoF flaudubon@earthlink.net; 850-224-7546

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