



"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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September 2005

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This Month's Program: September 15, 2005 - 7:00pm Audubon of Florida's New Strategic Plan by Charles Lee

Audubon members throughout the state are dismayed by the destruction and alteration of bird and wildlife habitats and water resources to poorly planned sprawling development. Audubon of Florida has forged a new strategic plan with conservation campaigns based on ecosystems that are regionally significant and facing threats of fragmentation and degradation. Charles Lee, Director of Advocacy for Audubon of Florida, will report on this new strategic plan, as well as recent studies regarding the growth management crisis in Central Florida. Learn how we can work together to preserve the most critical areas.

Join us September 15 for this important program!
Deborah Green, Vice President

September Field Trip - Seminole Ranch



Time to fly again! Each year I look forward to the start of our Orange Audubon field trip adventures! These are times of fellowship, fun, and learning from some truly terrific birders. If you are new to our forays, relax about your birding expertise and come join us! You will find a friendly group that will welcome you and be most happy to lend their eyes and knowledge as you begin a lifetime of birding. You will not be sad that you "gave up" your Saturday "snoozing time"!

This month, your scouts have found a dry spot to bird at Seminole Ranch in east Orange county. We are pleased to also be helping the St. John's Water Management District with the Migratory Bird Count again this year. PLEASE NOTE!! There is no need to have any birding or bird count experience to join us on this trip. There will be plenty

of people along that know the birds that will not be "doing the count". So please come and enjoy the birds. Several areas have already noted (mid August) the arrival of some of our recently northern birds as they move south. By September 17th, we will have even more migrants moving through. This will be a walking field trip so bring water, binoculars, sunscreen, and bug repellent. We will hike until around 11am then return for a snack lunch (if you care to bring one) probably at the pavilion at Wetlands Park.

**Plan to meet at the Burger King at Highway 50 (E. Colonial) and Alafaya Trail in time to carpool and leave at 7:30 am. It is only 25 minutes to Seminole Ranch from there. Advanced sign up is not required. Questions: Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850 rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net. Saturday morning 407-619-4484.

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*

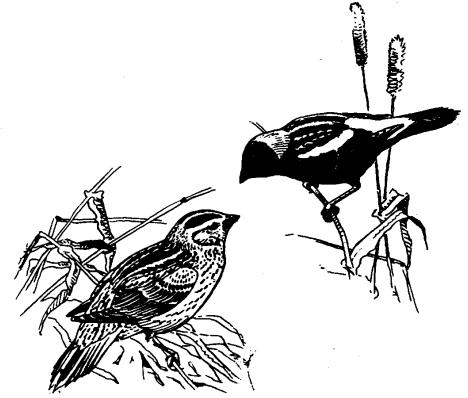
For directions, call 407-246-2620

President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Orange Audubon Society's 2005–2006 program year. Members of your Board of Directors have spent many hours planning for this year's events and we hope that you will find the programs and field trips inviting and interesting.

Because we print the brochure for the entire year, dates have been set for many events, but there are others that are yet to be determined and these will be announced through this monthly newsletter. Many details still need to be finalized and several committees could use your help. If you have a

particular proficiency that you could contribute or if you'd like to put some extra time to good use, please don't hesitate to contact me (407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) or any board member. Please remember that this is your organization and not only should you benefit from it, but you should feel some responsibility toward it. Regardless as to whether you have time or energy to commit to helping us, we hope that you will join us at our monthly meetings and/or field trips and other events. See you there!



Invitation to the Fall 2005 Florida Ornithological Society Meeting

The fall 2005 Florida Ornithological Society meeting will be held October 14 – 16, 2005 in the Mt Dora/Lake Apopka area. Orange Audubon Society and Seminole Audubon Society will co-host the meeting. The Friday afternoon field trip will feature a “behind the scenes” tour of Audubon's Center for Birds of Prey. The Flocking, Friday evening, will allow attendees time to socialize and to share their birding experiences. Saturday and Sunday morning field trips will include St Johns River Water Management District's Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area, Emerald Marsh, and Lake Norris Conservation Area and the banding station at Wekiwa Springs State Park.

Reed Bowman, Archbold Biological Station, will moderate the scientific paper session, Saturday afternoon, at Lake Receptions in Mt. Dora. Presentations will include:

- ❖ “Unsung Heroes: A Tribute to Common Birds”, Katie Sieving, University of Florida
- ❖ “Population Dynamics of a Highly Successful Urban Bird”, Christine Stracey, University of Florida
- ❖ “Urbanization and the Population Dynamics of Birds in Florida”, Scott Robinson, Florida Museum of Natural History
- ❖ “Considering Connectivity in Conservation Planning at Multiple Scales: A Focal Species Approach”, Reed Noss, University of Central Florida
- ❖ “A Geospatial Analysis of Wetland Restoration and Waterbird Assemblages at Lake Apopka”, Pam Bowen, St. Johns River Water Management District

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>

George Wallace, the American Bird Conservancy, will be the banquet speaker on Saturday evening. The buffet will include smothered chicken, fish, salad, wild rice, peas and onions, and dessert.

Early registration, postmarked by 9/29/05, is \$25.00 per person for the meeting (\$10.00 per student) and \$25.00 per person for the banquet (\$50.00 total for all events). The cost to attend just the scientific paper session is \$10.00 per person. You do not need to be a

Florida Ornithological Society member to attend. We welcome all who are interested in expanding their knowledge of birds in Florida!

If you would like to join us at the fall 2005 Florida Ornithological Society Meeting, please contact Pam Bowen at pbowen@netzero.com for a registration form for the meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Pam, in the evening, at 386-326-1340. We hope you'll join us!



Co-Host Volunteers Needed

Orange and Seminole Audubon Societies are helping to co-host the annual Florida Ornithological Society meeting in October (see related article.) Part of our commitment is to help with meeting registration and leading field trips to local areas. Seminole Audubon Society has volunteered to cover the registration table Friday afternoon and is sending volunteers to help with the Wekiwa Springs field trip on Saturday and with the field trips on Sunday.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has been asked to help with the following tasks: 1 more volunteer to cover the registration table Friday, 6:30-8:30 pm at Lake Receptions (Dot Freeman has volunteered to work this time slot). OAS will also be selling our t-shirts at this time, so extra help is welcomed for this time period. We need 3 more volunteers to help Harold Weatherman and Pam Bowen with the Lake Apopka field trips Saturday morning. (Meet at 7:30 am at Hampton Inn. Bob Sanders has volunteered as 1 of the 4 needed here.) We request 1 volunteer to help Sam Benedetto with the Emerald Marsh field trip Saturday morning (meet at 7:30 am at Hampton Inn.) and 2 volunteers to cover the registration table Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm at Lake Receptions. Once again, OAS will be selling items Saturday afternoon, so extra help would be appropriate. If you can help with any of the requests, please contact me (407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net) at your earliest convenience so that I can let the organizers know. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite

BIRD BANDING

Wekiwa Springs State Park

Volunteers needed for fall migration studies. Call either Bob Wheeler at 407-869-0303, Richard Poole at 407-774-9501, or e-mail Catbird@cfl.rr.com for details.

Fiscal Year in Review

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) ended fiscal year 2005 on a positive note, attributable primarily to fundraising efforts aimed at increasing the Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) endowment fund and building a reserve for the Audubon Adventures (AA) education program adequate to cover next year's cost.

OAS' financial success resulted from the efforts of a dedicated board and membership and other friends who donated the personal time and resources necessary to meet the fiscal 2005 financial goals. By attaining and sustaining a position of fiscal stability, OAS ensures its future and continued ability to be a strong voice for conservation and the environment. By focusing our efforts to ensure funding for education programs such as CNPC and AA, we help to ensure the longevity of those very activities that mold the next generation of environmental stewards.

Anyone interested in obtaining additional financial details should contact Teresa Williams, Treasurer, 407-644-0796; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Audubon Exhibit to Open in October at the Mennello Museum of American Art

The Mennello Museum of American Art proudly presents two exhibitions that showcase and celebrate Nature and Bird Life: John James Audubon: American Artist and Naturalist (October 14-January 1, 2006) and The Hudson River School (October 14-March 12, 2006). The Audubon exhibition will be of special interest to members of the Orange Audubon Society. It centers around Audubon's aesthetic and historic legacy by presenting a selection of rare works of art and artifacts from the Audubon Museum in Henderson, Kentucky, including Audubon's personal letters, rare books, original paintings, and 60 life-size hand-colored Double Elephant Folio engravings printed from 1826-1836 for *The Birds of America*. Florida birds represented in the exhibition include the Florida Jay, Great Blue Heron, Night Heron, Bald Eagle, and the extinct Passenger Pigeon.

Born in 1785 on the island of what is now Haiti, the illegitimate son of a French maid and a married French plantation owner, Audubon's life is the stuff of a ro-

mance novel. Adopted by his father and raised in Revolutionary France, he was sent to America for his protection. When Audubon arrived in New York from France in 1803, he spoke no English but already was a self-taught artist, drawing and observing birds. A handsome figure, he became a hunter and an outdoorsman who also gave dance lessons and taught music to earn a living. Soon he married an upstanding English girl and they both crossed the Appalachians to frontier Kentucky to begin married life and start a business. Here he observed nature and vanished into the woods for months at a time to draw bird life. In time, he lost the business but was determined to publish a new, improved ornithological study. With no financial backing, he took the risk of traveling to England with hundreds of life-size watercolor drawings to be engraved in a multi-volume work, *The Birds of America*, along with five volumes of bird biographies enhanced by authentic descriptions of pioneer life. Within weeks of his arrival there in 1826, he achieved celebrity as "the Ameri-

can Woodsman." He promoted himself tirelessly earning the money necessary for publication, but left his wife and children in America to fend for themselves. Letters were slow to arrive and John James and his wife, Lucy, almost lost each other in the three years of separation. In the end, his love endured and his work was both artistically and financially successful. Today his name is synonymous with that of premier American artist-naturalist.

The Mennello Museum of American Art will offer an outstanding array of programs to complement the exhibitions: The Museum, owned and operated by the City of Orlando, is located at 900 E. Princeton Street, next to the Science Center. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10:30am- 4:30 pm, Sunday Noon- 4:30 P.M. Admission: \$4.00 Adults, \$1.00 students, \$3.00 seniors. The Museum is fully handicapped-accessible. Programs are free. Reservations required for workshops. For information and a free brochure, contact 407-246-4278

Conservation Consortium to Begin Meeting in Fall

A Conservation Consortium comprised of leaders of all the Central Florida volunteer environmental organizations is being formed by the Orange Audubon Society to band together on issues, share ideas, events and other information. Letters went out a few months ago to many local chapters regarding the formation of this new inter-club council. The first meeting will be scheduled for the Fall, in advance of the next Legislative session. If you are the leader of a local environmental organization or know someone who should be involved and would like to be on the mailing list, please call Audubon board member Susan Clary at 321-217-7371 or email at susanclary@aol.com with the information on your club and a telephone number contact. It is imperative that you RSVP if you would like to be involved. We look forward to working with you!

AFCD Honors OAS Board Member with Award

Susan Clary accepted the Association of Florida Conservation Districts (AFCD) Diversity Award July 30, 2005 at the AFCD annual meeting held at Mission Inn. The AFCD represents all elected Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the state of Florida. Clary, a longtime board member with Orange Audubon, accepted the award as chairman of the Orange Soil and Water Conservation District. Orange County beat out 64 districts in the state for the award, which exemplifies the inclusion of minorities in all facets of the board's agricultural and urban conservation work. Members of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) representing 15 states were in attendance at the banquet. The new Orange Soil and Water Conservation District board took office in January. Although elected, they are unfunded and unpaid for their conservation work.

Volunteers Needed to Help with Hospitality!

Volunteers are always needed to help our Hospitality Committee with the lovely refreshments that are available at each OAS meeting. To find out how you can help, please call Tom Williams at 407-332-5089. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

2005 Photo Contest Results

Winners of Orange Audubon Society's 2005 (17th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest were announced on the evening of June 16th at Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, where members and guests met to enjoy dinner, a silent auction and a slide presentation featuring eligible contest entries.

The program began with the introduction of special guests including members of the namesake Chertok family, Patricia Brindley-Scott, Ft. Lauderdale (daughter) and Ema Scott, Orlando (granddaughter), who enjoyed the program and reminiscing afterwards with friends of Kit's. Also in attendance were 2005 contest judges Mauri Barnett and Cecie Catron, artist and naturalist, respectively.

The program was a virtual photographic journey that crisscrossed the state of Florida. Entries were taken in locales stretching as far northwest as Gulf Islands National Seashore, Pensacola to southernmost Key West then northeast to St. Augustine. Seventy or more different "hot spots" for Florida native nature were represented, many as wild as the Everglades, a few as tame as one's own backyard.

Contest winners were: 1st place, Sandhill Cranes by John D. Lucas, Miami; 2nd place, Wilson's Plover and Chicks by Kevin Doxstater, Port Orange; 3rd place, Reddish Egret White Morph by Jim Urbach, Longwood; honorable mentions: Spoonbill in Flight by Wayne Bennett, Altamonte Springs; Red Shouldered Hawk by Ken Blye, Orlando; Fern Fiddlehead by Randy Snyder, Orlando and Limpkin, also by John D. Lucas.

In addition to ribbons awarded to all winners, \$450 in cash and other prizes was awarded to winners of 1st through 3rd place and the 1st place image will grace the cover of the Orange Audubon Society (OAS) 2005—2006 membership/program brochure. Winning images automatically vie for selection by Colonial Photo & Hobby to be enlarged and featured on in-store displays in their Orlando location.

To the photographers who competed in 2005, we express our sincere appreciation; your entries made for a high quality competition and a delightful, greatly anticipated awards ceremony, which would not have been possible without you. We look forward to your participation in the 2006 (18th Annual) contest. Please watch for contest information in upcoming issues of the OASis and on the OAS website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org or contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796).

Florida native nature exists for us to treasure, to protect and preserve, and yes, to photograph! The contest was created with those objectives in mind. Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Your Help Needed to Save Arctic Refuge!

The fight over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is heating up -- YOUR HELP NEEDED IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER! Audubon is making a big push to save the pristine wilderness in Alaska from destructive oil drilling, and you can help!

After 25 years of fighting, our last best chance to protect the refuge will be in the House of Representatives on a vote quickly approaching in September. In August, members of Congress that will be casting deciding votes will be back home talking with their constituents -- like you! All Audubon chapters and Audubon members around the country will be using this opportunity to weigh in with their members of Congress and fight at this critical time for one of the most pristine places left in America!

Critically important targets in the House of Representatives include: Bradley (NH), Ehlers (MI), Frelinghuysen (NJ), Ferguson (NJ), Smith (NJ), LoBiondo (NJ), Gilchrest (MD), Kelly (NY), Kennedy (MN), Kirk (IL), Gerlach (PA), Reichert (WA), Schwarz (MI), Ramstad (MN), Castle (DE), Bass (NH), Boehlert (NY), Johnson (IL), Shays (CT), Simmons (CT), Johnson (CT), Leach (IA), Saxton (NJ), Fitzpatrick (PA), Walsh (NY), Bartlett (MD), and Inglis (SC).

Even if your lawmaker is not represented above, please make a point to call, write or e-mail your elected officials today! Every member of Congress will be voting on this measure and right now, it's too close to call.

Log on to Audubon's special "Protect the Arctic" website -- accessed via www.audubon.org, or contact Desiree Groves in Audubon's public policy office in Washington, DC at 202-861-2242, x. 3038 (dgroves@audubon.org) to find out more about how you can help!

A Secret Panel of Three The CNPC Contest Judges Be

After seventeen years of successful nature photography contests orchestrated by a committee of volunteers, one gets the idea we've "done good!" In addition to attracting quality competition in growing numbers, the contest committee must also take steps to ensure contest integrity — from fair and unbiased standards in screening for eligibility, to the actual process of judging.

To that end, the names of judges remain under wraps until the contest deadline elapses. Prior to judging, entries are carefully screened by another panel of experts in identification of native species to ensure compliance with contest rules, specifically native Florida subject matter with no trace of humans. After screening, qualified entries are organized randomly then shown to an independent panel of judges consisting of an artist, a naturalist and a photographer. To ensure independence, among other restrictions judges may not compete in the contest and names of contestants may not be disclosed to them until judging has been completed.

This year's panel of judges included wildlife artist Mauri Barnett, Orlando; naturalist Cecilia (Cecie) Catron, Winter Park; and photographer Patrick (Pat) Clark, Sorrento. They accepted the challenge of judging a highly competitive field of entries in the 2005 (17th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC).

Artist judge **Mauri Barnett's** work was influenced early on by illustrators Mark Fredrickson and Dru Blair, of Mad Magazine and Star Trek fame, respectively. Hence it comes as no surprise that Mauri began his career as an airbrush caricature artist for Universal Studios Orlando and Disney's Pleasure Island. Later Mauri participated in a collaborative animation opportunity — creating the main character Davey, played by Adam Sandler in a SonyPictures feature animated film Eight Crazy Nights. Like nature itself, Mauri's art evolved as he embraced the influences of wildlife artists Daniel Smith and Robert Bateman and today Mauri's passion is in the area of wildlife painting.

Naturalist judge **Cecie Catron's** is a dedicated birder who, over the past 20 years has participated in monthly bird surveys, birdathons and local Christmas bird counts. She is a member of the Florida Ornithological Society, the Florida Native Plant Society and Orange Audubon Society (OAS), where she served as a past board member and field trips leader for three years. In Cecie's words she "scraped up" two bachelor's degrees from The University of Central Florida (liberal studies with coursework in plant taxonomy and biology, 1984, and legal studies, 1989), where she later studied graduate level ornithology with OAS's own Dr. Walter Taylor. Any wonder Cecie has a knack for nature?

Photographer judge **Pat Clark** has worked in photography over 25 years and for the past seven has been associated with Colonial Photo & Hobby, where he provides his expertise on photography equipment from 35mm up. Although he has worked in a variety of areas, his focus over the last 15 years has been large format black and white photography. In local competitions Pat has won numerous awards, including best of show for black and white photography at the Eustis Art Center. Pat's work has been exhibited in many familiar locations: Mt. Dora Center for Arts (a juried show) and Crealdé Community Gallery, where he has also taught or conducted seminars, and Orlando Museum of Art's First Thursdays, to name a few.

OAS expresses sincere thanks to these panelists who gave of their time and talent to benefit the photo contest. We are fortunate to have judges whose credentials match the high caliber of CNPC contestants.
Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Connect Children to Nature in your Community with AUDUBON ADVENTURES!

Do you know a student (grades 3-6) who might be interested in the environment, perhaps your child or grandchild?

AUDUBON ADVENTURES is an environmental education program for children in grades 3 to 6. Developed by professional environmental educators, AUDUBON ADVENTURES presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It comes to you packaged as a Classroom Kit (serving 32 students) or Individual Kit (serving 1 student). The program is used by classroom teachers, after-school program coordinators, special education instructors, language arts teachers, and homeschoolers.

The goal of AUDUBON ADVENTURES is to develop in young people an appreciation, awareness, and understanding of the natural world -- birds, other wildlife, and all living things; the habitats, systems, and interplay of forces that affect living things; and the connections between people and nature.

Sponsor an AUDUBON ADVENTURES classroom! A check in the amount of \$41.50, made payable to ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY will send a package of environmental lessons for the children, a teacher's guide, a poster, and other materials to the local classroom of your choice. Note on your check that the (tax deductible) donation is for AUDUBON ADVENTURES and mail it to OAS at the address listed on page 2.

Thanks!

**ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Calendar of Events

September 3, 2005 - Saturday

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

September 15, 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

September 17, 2005 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Seminole Ranch
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850
rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net

September 17, 2005 - Saturday

Lake Jessup Conservation Area Bird Survey.
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

September 17, 2005 - Saturday

Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193
dex@dexwine.com

September 24, 2005 - Saturday

Seminole Ranch Conservation Area Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

October 1, 2005 - Saturday

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

October 13, 2005 - January 1, 2006

John James Audubon: American Artist and Naturalist at the Mennello Museum of Art
407-246-4278 www.mennellomuseum.org

October 14-16, 2005 - Fri-Sat

Florida Ornithological Society (FOS) Meeting
Hampton Inn, Mt. Dora FL
Pam Bowen 386-326-1340

October 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

October 21-22, 2005 - Fri-Sat

Audubon Assembly 2005
Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Ocean Front Resort
Cocoa Beach, FL. www.audubonofflorida.com

October 22, 2005 - Saturday

Butterfly ID at Rock Springs Run State Preserve
Randy Snyder & Mary Keim 407-851-5416

November 12, 2005 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Course #1 - LANSRA
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

November 16-20, 2005 - Wed-Sun

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

**Audubon Assembly Goes to the Beach!
Saving our Birds, October 20-22, 2005**

Mingle with old friends and make new ones as you join birders and environmentalists from across the state at the 2005 Audubon Assembly. Help shape Audubon of Florida's legislative policies and take an active part in saving our birds, wildlife and habitats. Register by September 28 and pay \$99 for all receptions, meals, programs, and workshops. After September 25, this all-inclusive package is \$125.

The Audubon Assembly will be held at the Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Resort. Make your hotel accommodations directly with the Holiday Inn. Call 1-800-206-2747 or log onto http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/rates/coibe?&_GPC=AUA& Assembly participants receive a reduced rate of \$89.99/night, up to 4 in a room. The daily resort fee has been waived and parking is free. Special rate valid through September 28. Oceanfront suites and lofts can be reserved, if available, at prevailing rates.

Field Trips will be offered, courtesy of Space Coast Audubon and Orange Audubon Society. Look for detailed information in the upcoming Florida Naturalist as well as on-line later this month www.audubonofflorida.org. See you there!

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