



*"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"*

# OASIS



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

VOLUME 41

JANUARY 2006

NUMBER 5

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### **This Month's Program: January 19, 2006 - 7:00pm Birdsong by Don Stap, PhD**

Chickens, ducks, and hawks tend to make calls that are inborn, but songbirds learn their songs from their fathers, uncles, or neighbors. Variations in timing, pitch, and pronunciation in local populations (dialects) make the scientific study of birdsong a rich field. Don Stap, English professor at UCF, enthralled us several years ago with his story of a birding expedition to Peru. This month he will describe the lives of Gregory F. Budney of Cornell University and Donald E. Kroodsmas of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst as they study the phenomenon of birdsong. Professor Stap's 2005 book on this subject will be available for sale and autographing.

Join us January 19 for a fascinating program.  
Deborah Green, Vice President

## Welcome New Members!

David Alcin, Darrin Beyea, Alan Blythe, Eva Coldwell, Mary S Conger, Paula Costantini, Thelma Ellington, C. Michele Ensign, Lawrence C Fisher, Michael Green, Robert Hadsall, Teri M Jones, Amy Luek, F. J. Martin, Acey Mixon, Kathleen Neely-Mullinix, Mr&Mrs Bruce Neslaw, Valerie Nichols, Karen Peterson, A. W. Pollard, Mrs Robert Pynes, James G. Russ, Ruth Schlarf, Gaye & Tes Smith, Sherry R. Stake, Celeste Wallace, and Ella K. Webster.

*Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

## January Field Trip - Merritt Island NWR, Titusville FL

Eighty three species seen on this trip last year! If you missed last year's field trip, don't be left out this time!

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge is our world class duck headquarters that always provides great encounters. We will see many types of waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders. Migratory species abound. This is a delightful driving tour on the Black Point Drive that offers leisurely views with binoculars and scope views of hundreds of birds. So join us and add to your life list on January 21st.

We will meet in the rear parking lot of the Burger King located at Hwy 50 (Colonial Dr) and Alafaya Trail in east Orange County in time to sign up, get assigned to a

vehicle for carpooling and leave at 7:30am to caravan to Titusville. It takes about 40 minutes from the meeting point at Alafaya Trail and Colonial Drive to get to the Refuge. Bring your binoculars, spotting scopes if you have one, field guides, a jacket, and a snack/lunch for the end of the drive lunch time gathering. If you have questions before the trip, Bob Ferguson can be reached at 407 644-7850. The day of the trip, any need for info or directions via his cell phone 407 619-4484. You do not need to sign up in advance. Hope to see you there!

NOTE: This is a driving trip with NO hiking involved so mobility impaired members are encouraged to attend.

Happy New Year! Did you get a chance to participate on one of the local Christmas Bird Counts? I haven't heard any reports yet of the numbers of birds seen, but let's hope the numbers are still high. We finally have seen American Goldfinches at our feeders. It did seem like it took much longer for them to appear this year than normal. Others were also experiencing a 'lack of birds at their feeders' if my phone calls and emails are any indication; several persons contacted me wondering what had happened and why they weren't seeing birds this season. Let's just hope that the migrants, for whatever reason — plentiful supply of food, nicer than normal weather, etc. — took their time leaving the northern environs to head south. Hopefully it's not due to loss of habitat. I was just reading that loss of habitat is blamed for the decline in the Northern Bobwhite population in Florida. As a result, plans are underway to change land management policies to bring about an increase in their numbers [and coincidentally the Crested Caracara,

### Bird Watchers' Delight

It was announced at the December program that birders' were 'flocking' to the Lake Apopka Restoration Area (North Shore) to catch a glimpse of some Scissor-tailed and Fork-tailed Flycatchers. As of the OASis deadline (Dec. 23rd), the birds are still present. Best chance to see them is in the mid- to late afternoon, on the East side (and looking East) of Binion Road (CR437) where the Hooper Farms Road dead ends into Binion. Good luck; no one knows how long they will stay in the area.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Burrowing Owl, Eastern Meadowlark and some Sparrow species].

While National Audubon Society is marking its 100 years of conservation, this month marks the 40th anniversary of the incorporation of Orange Audubon Society (OAS). In July the board of directors talked about doing something special this year to commemorate the occasion, but that hasn't gotten off the ground yet. Would anyone care to make suggestions? You may contact me if you have any ideas about it.

Soon the annual election for OAS' officers and board of directors will be upon us. All officer positions and five board of director positions will be filled at that time. In that regard, attendance at the Audubon of Florida's Audubon Academy at Eckerd College in March might be productive. Discussions/workshops will focus on how to help your chapter in several different capacities. To serve on the board, you need not attend this workshop — most of us have learned by being elected and doing what we can;

however, the workshops can certainly be useful and you may want to consider attending. Watch for details on this event.

Have you seen the numerous articles in various publications — newspapers, e-news, magazines — regarding how global warming is affecting our planet? From a small rodent species in the western U.S. whose habitat has moved further up on the mountains to the Greenland coastline that is becoming more and more submerged (studies of both of these were reported in December 2005), nothing is immune. There is no doubt that the human species is having an effect on this big Earth of ours. We must continue the fight to conserve and preserve. Your help is needed — now! Please do what you can each day to help in the battle. To paraphrase the philosophy of the environmental movement: every victory is for that battle alone (note the recent victory for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — again), but every defeat is forever. Best wishes for a healthy, happy, safe and environmental 2006!

### Holiday Cheers

A big thank you to everyone involved with our December meeting set-up and tear down. It was certainly a challenge to rearrange everything into the two smaller rooms at Leu Gardens (the large Camellia room was needed for a special holiday party). Our rearrangements were hampered even more by the very late delivery (that evening) of one of our t-shirt orders. Special thanks to Teresa Williams and Milton Heiberg for their efforts in getting those shirts inspected, folded and ready for sale. I was busy and didn't see everyone who helped, but do know that Mary Anne Freyer, Chris Gandy, Mary Keim, Dick

Smith and Bob Stamps were kept busy, too. And, as always, thanks to Tom Williams who consistently does a great job with hospitality. All in all, it was a good meeting — an excellent speaker, good attendance, great hospitality goodies and worthwhile sales. The only drawback was that we were so rushed with everything that we didn't have a chance to relax and enjoy everyone's company during this special holiday time of the year. Thanks again to all of you who helped OAS in this 'transformation'.

Loretta Satterthwaite

### Volunteers Needed for Orlando Wetlands Park Festival

Saturday, February 18th 2006 (9–3 p.m.) marks the official date and time for the 6th Annual Orlando Wetlands Park Festival, co-sponsored by the City of Orlando and Orange Audubon Society (OAS). That can mean just one thing. We need your help from 8–3:30 p.m. to make the event happen.

OAS informally "adopted" Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) several years ago and since that time has proudly co-sponsored the festival by providing expert guides for bird watching and nature photo treks through the park as well as other nature activities. You can help with a variety of activities that includes: leading guided bus and walking tours, providing information at environmen-

tal education tables, selling t-shirts at our fundraising tables, instructing children in making nature collages and other duties.

OWP is a model example of wetlands engineering at its environmental finest. Located in Christmas, Florida (near Ft. Christmas) this 1,650 acre "park" has become an oasis for flora and fauna, particularly of the feathered kind. Volunteers are guaranteed time off to enjoy the activities, so bring your binoculars and help OAS make this event a success. For more details and to reserve your volunteer time slot, contact Teresa [407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com] or Loretta [407-886-2925; lns-oas@att.net]. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

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

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

## February's Great Backyard Bird Count Encourages First-Timers!

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) returns for its ninth season February 17-20, 2006. The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology encourage everyone to COUNT BIRDS WITH A BUDDY! Bird enthusiasts of all ages can share their love of birds with a friend, a child, a scout troop, a class, or a co-worker—opening new eyes to the joy of birding and the fun of creating a unique snapshot of winter bird abundance and distribution across the continent. Every pair of eyes is needed and everybirdy counts, whether in a backyard, on a high-rise balcony, in a park, or on any of the 730 million acres of public lands.

In 2005, participants sent in more than 52,000 checklists, with a record-breaking 613 species and more than 6 million birds counted. These millions of sightings generate what would be impossible otherwise – continent-wide information about where the birds are and how their numbers compare with those of previous years. Anyone with Internet access can see the results in maps and charts as the sightings pour in.

“The level of energy created each February by Great Backyard Bird Counters is phenomenal,” said Dr. Paul Green, director of Citizen Science for Audubon. “What always amazes me are the new discoveries made by people across North America. Some bird watchers even send digital photos to back up their reports. Last year participants sent in more than 1,000 photos and many are

now part of the GBBC web site gallery.”

For nearly a decade, the GBBC has kept tabs on the ever-changing patterns of birds in winter. How far north will American Robins be reported this year? Will Sandhill Cranes migrate early or late? Introduced Eurasian Collared-Doves have been turning up in new states—where will they be this year? Native Red-bellied Woodpeckers have been spreading to the northeast—will this trend continue? Scientists also want more information on declining species, such as Rusty Blackbirds and Painted Buntings. While these species are suffering from the continued destruction of their preferred habitats, other factors, such as mercury accumulation in Rusty Blackbirds, and removal of Painted Buntings for the illegal cage bird industry, may make a bad situation worse.

“This project has become a major source of scientific information about North American bird populations,” said Dr. John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. “It is a classic example of the vital role citizens and the Internet now play in understanding our planet.”

In 2006, for the first time, the Lab of Ornithology and Audubon are launching an element of friendly competition. Awards will be given to localities that submit the most checklists, record the greatest number of species, or count the highest number of birds (last year's top numbers: 433 checklists from

Gautier, Mississippi, 169 species from Corpus Christi, Texas, and 291,246 birds from Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Missouri). A photo contest will also be held based on bird pictures taken during the event and submitted for posting on the GBBC gallery. Winners will be announced after all the data from the event have been submitted.

Everyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to seasoned experts. During the count, bird watchers can tally up birds for as little as 15 minutes, or for as long as they like, keeping track of the highest number of each bird species they see together at one time. People are encouraged to report birds from public lands and local parks, as well as from their own backyards. Participants enter their numbers online at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc) and can explore sightings maps, lists, and charts as the count progresses.

Year-round, anyone can view results from past counts and learn how to participate by visiting [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc). There is no fee or registration for the event, which is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited. For more information contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at [cornellbirds@cornell.edu](mailto:cornellbirds@cornell.edu) or (800) 843-2473 if in the United States; (607) 254-2473 if calling internationally; or contact Audubon at [citizenscience@audubon.org](mailto:citizenscience@audubon.org); (215) 355-9588 Ext. 16.

## Announcing OAS' Beginning Bird Watching Class

For most folks, the enjoyment of bird watching increases with the ability to name a species using sight, sound, behavior or a combination of these and other clues to identity. To help you master the rewarding and fast-growing “sport” of bird watching, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is pleased to offer a Beginner's Bird Watching Class (BBWC) with instruction by Tom Williams. The course includes 2 classroom and 2 field sessions:

\_Class Session 1: March 25th \* 9 a.m. – noon \* Rollins College.

\_Class Session 2: April 1st \* 9 a.m. – noon \* Rollins College.

\_Field Session 1: April 8th \* (Time TBA) \* Mead Gardens – session coincides with OAS' annual Birdathon event.

\_Field Session 2: April 15th \* (Time TBA) \* Orlando Wetlands Park.

Tom Williams is a past president of OAS and retired education curator for the Central Florida Zoo. He began the “sport” of birding in 1970 and has been sharpening his skills ever since. Through previous educational classes for OAS and Harry P. Leu Gardens, this well known naturalist has helped both novice and experienced birders sharpen their skills. Registration fees, which include handout materials and parking at Rollins College, are as follows:

\_Audubon members - \$25 registration fee,

\_Non-members - \$40 registration fee, or

\_Non-members who join OAS concurrently when enrolling - \$45 (\$20 introductory membership rate includes annual 3-way membership in Orange Audubon and National Audubon Societies and Audubon of Florida + \$25 registration fee.)

The course will be limited to 15 students. To reserve a space, send your check payable to Orange Audubon Society (and your completed membership application form if joining OAS), PO Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. For additional information, contact Tom Williams (407-332-5089) or Teresa Williams (407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com)) or check the OAS' official website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) where additional information and membership application forms are posted. Hurry, you know what they say about the early bird!

## Important Conservation News

PEGGY COX, CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Crotty's new strategy for economic development is to develop a "high-tech highway" connecting the University of Central Florida (UCF) to the Orlando International Airport (OIA) in southeast Orange County. The "Innovation Way" Corridor represents a development framework for the next 25 years. The Avalon Road South Extension, a new arterial road stretches south of the Beachline to Narcoossee Road. This new road is planned to be surrounded by residential, commercial, retail, hotel, industrial and "high-tech" development. Of the proposed scenario maps (1-6), Maps 2 & 5 are favored by the planning staff. To understand the magnitude of this proposed corridor, Map 5 depicts a projected build-out of 37,500 residential dwelling units; 18,980,000 sq/ft. of Industrial, office and "high-tech" buildings; 2,480,000sq/ft of retail/commercial, and 1,350 hotel rooms.

In 2004, Commissioner Linda Stewart initiated the Environmental Resource Management Study that encompasses over 90,000 acres for the ecological analysis in the area bounded by the Beachline to the north, the Osceola-Orange County line to the south, SR417/Narcoossee Road to the West and the St. Johns river to the East. This study includes the Innovation Way corridor. The Study indicates that 3 major north-south conservation corridors have been identified within the Innovation Way combined study area which contains approximately 41,505 acres of conservation lands. The first potential corridor is comprised of conservation lands associated with the St. Johns River along with the Tosohatchee State Reserve. The second potential corridor is in the central portion of the area and consists of conservation lands associated with the Econ River, and the TM Ranch Mitigation Area and Bank. The third potential corridor is within

the western portion of the study area and consists of Split Oak Nature Preserve, the World Gateway DRI mitigation area and wildlife crossing, the Henson Tract and wetlands north of Crosby Island Marsh.

Significant water features of the study area include 28,813 acres of the Econlockhatchee River Protection Area, originating in Osceola County and flowing into Orange county. The Econ River swamp serves as the headwaters for the river. The study area includes regionally significant upland habitat including protected species, gopher tortoises and red-cockaded woodpeckers, nesting and foraging areas. The Hart Hydrologic Basin containing Lake Hart and Lake Mary Jane contribute to the eastern headwaters of the Kissimmee River Upper Basin.

Orange County has conducted public visioning workshops and several presentations have been made to the Board of County Commissioners on this matter. Audubon members and Sierra Club members participated in the Community Planning Collaborative Conference that was held in late October and open to public participation, along with other meetings over the last year. The Amendments to the Future Land Use Element needed to implement the Innovation Way corridor were heard by the Orange County Planning & Zoning commission on December 15th, and they voted to transmit the policies. The Public Hearing by the Board of County Commissioners on these policies to amend Orange County's Comprehensive Policy Plan will be January 10, 2006.

Innovation Way and the magnitude of related future development will change the face of southeast Orange county forever. Future plans include a proposed UCF Medical school and 50-acres Healthcare Campus at Lake Nona, road extensions from OIA as

well as expansions to the airport property, a 5th Valencia Community College Campus in the Moss Park DRI property, and a possible VA hospital in the Innovation Way Corridor.

Some of us, who have read and studied the proposed Innovation Way policies, have serious concerns about the lack of specific language and undefined terms to guide this magnitude of proposed development. I urge you to go to the Orange County website for more details. After you go to the website, go to the site map and it will direct you to County Departments, Click on Growth Management, Planning Division, New & Topics. There are several documents and the proposed policies available to read. We are concerned that the current proposal will not successfully protect the natural areas and conservation lands, wetlands and floodplains, and bird and wildlife habitat in the area. This has the possibility to be a truly innovative planning tool for future development and attract companies and employers to diversify our local economy, or the possibility of being an engine for more fragmented urban sprawl without the needed public infrastructure in this area.

If you have specific questions, you can contact Commissioner Linda Stewart's office at: 407-836-7350 or [district4@ocfl.net](mailto:district4@ocfl.net). Please feel free to email or call me or Marge Holt with questions or concerns. Marge Holt: [Marjorie.Holt@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Marjorie.Holt@florida.sierraclub.org); Peggy Cox: [pegcox@att.net](mailto:pegcox@att.net) / 352-429-1042.

Please take the time to study the documents available on this proposal on the Orange County website and make your concerns known to Orange county, through your District Commissioner or Commissioner Linda Stewart's office.

This information compiled from reports from Marge Holt and Orange County documents.

## Rally for the Rivers - February 17-19, 2006

Plan to attend the second Rally for the Rivers, a three-day event to promote restoration of the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers, increase environmental awareness, teach the principals of smart growth, and empower activists. Interact with candidates running in the 2006 election and demonstrate the economic value of nature-based tourism in a festive and fun atmosphere. Sponsored by the Putnam County Environmental Council, most events are free and all are open to the public.

Scheduled events include a Smart Growth Workshop on Friday (space is limited; pre-registration is required. Call Margy Bielling at 352-685-2434 for more information.), Riverfest all day Saturday, Field Trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings (contact David Zeigler at [davidpzeigler@aol.com](mailto:davidpzeigler@aol.com), 352-546-4715, or check out the Florida Defenders of the Environment website at [www.fladefenders.org/riverrally.html](http://www.fladefenders.org/riverrally.html)), and the Ocklawaha River Wrap Party on Sunday afternoon.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Riverfront Inn in Palatka. Call 386-328-3481 to make your reservations at the event rate of \$60-\$75, good through February 2, 2006. Be sure to mention the Rally to ensure the conference rate. Go to the Florida Defenders of the Environment website at [www.fladefenders.org/riverrally.html](http://www.fladefenders.org/riverrally.html) for more information, including lists of camping and dorm-style accommodations, area restaurants, and field trips.

We hope to see you there!

## Return to Roost Field Trip #1

In years past, these guided trips with the team of Bob Wheeler and Dick Smith have been a favorite. They have kindly agreed to do two trips this year, the first of these being held on January 28th. If you have not been to Orlando Wetlands Park at sunset, it is beautiful! Add to this hundreds of birds returning to their night-time roosts and you have a special birding encounter. For this trip, bring your binoculars, a jacket, and you may want a small flashlight and possibly bug spray although this is not usually needed in January. This trip does involve walking and sitting at times so you may also want a small pad or even light chair to sit on. If you have questions, you can call Dick Smith at 407-834-2197 or Bob Wheeler 407-869-0303.

Day of the course info or directions Dick's cell# 407-257-7361 or Bob's cell# 407-739-0333.

Please meet at the Orlando Wetlands Park parking lot early enough to be ready to leave the lot at 5pm. The park is located in East Orange Country near Fort Christmas Park. To get there, take Highway 50 east to Christmas, Florida, turn north at the sign to Ft. Christmas Park. You will see the fort on your left in about 1.5 miles. You will quickly see Wheeler Road on your right after you pass the fort. Turn right on Wheeler Road (there is a sign for Orlando Wetlands Park) and travel about 1 mile down this small road. The park is on your left at the end of Wheeler Road. Hope to see you there!

## November Field Trip Report

BOB FERGUSON, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

Again, a wonderful trip was experienced by thirty birders on the levees at Lake Apopka Restoration Area (LARA) Jim Peterson from St. John's water management was a saint in leading us on what would have been a day off for him and his family. Thank you Jim!!

We were thrilled to have many new birders along for the ride as we found 64 species varying from palm warblers to great blue herons. The herons were feeding on rats in the fields along with the myriad of juvenile eagles, hawks, harriers, and vultures. This was an interesting behavior to watch as was watching the "gangs" of juvenile eagles congregating on the ground while resting from feeding. The birds of prey really gave a show as we saw everything from an early Bald Eagle pair on nest to Red Tails, Red Shoulders, Sharp-Shinned, Coopers, Merlin, Kestrel, and Harrier. After what I'm sure will become a traditional "relief-visit" to the rest

room at the Apopka lock, we also enjoyed the "marshes" on the north side of Lake Apopka. This was a new area to many of us, allowing us to enjoy some "Merritt Island like" birding. Here, we found hundreds of ducks including Ring Neck, Canvas Back, Mottled, and Teals, along with Yellowlegs, Snipe, and many Egrets.

I want to add that it was a great joy to see first hand how a memorial grant for Owl boxes has immediately led to the creation of six new Owl families on the property. What a delightful way to honor a loved one that loved birding!! I'm sure that St. John's would love for us to do more of this in the future. These kinds of dedications and memorials allow organizations to do things that tight state budgets don't allow.

From all of this I think you can see that it would be great idea to join Bob Sanders on one of his birds of prey courses to these

## Ft. DeSoto Spring Migration Field Trip

The annual Ft. DeSoto field trip this year will be the weekend of April 7-8, 2006. The cost will be \$75.00 per room for two (2) people. Provide your own transportation on Friday, April 7. We will be staying at the Continuing Education Conference Center Lodge at Eckerd College which is very close to Ft. DeSoto, allowing us to begin birding early Saturday morning.

A sign up sheet will be at the January and February meetings, or you may telephone Dick Smith at 407-257-7361 or e-mail @ dick.smith@zepamfg.com to reserve your space.

Dick Smith, Field Trip Leader

areas in either January or February next year. LARA has truly become an incredible birding site. Bob and his November B.O.P. course found eight species and great numbers of many birds. They even had a Broad wing Hawk sited! On one count in mid November, over 100 Bald Eagles were observed!

And by the way, all the other birds don't hide themselves just because the hawks are the focus!

Thanks to all for coming and thanks to those of you that came and taught!

Also, thank you to several of you "regulars" that volunteered to lead trips for the Florida Bird Festival as well as a Space Coast trip. You bring real joy to many people and Orange Audubon really appreciates your kind help! (But we did miss you at LARA!)

See you in January if not on a count in December.

## Second Hawk ID Class

On Saturday January 14, Bob Sanders will hold another of his most excellent Hawk ID Classes at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area. We will meet at the Lust Road gate, which leads into the restoration Area at 8:30 AM. From U.S. Hwy 441, in Plymouth, take SR 437 south, to Lust Road, and turn right. The gate is about 200-300 yards straight ahead. Extra cars will be left inside the gate, and we will car pool to the selected viewing area. This is a driving and sitting class.

Bring binoculars, field guides, spotting scopes if you have one, water, a snack, and a folding chair. We will bird until approximately noon. There is no charge for this event. Call Bob Sanders if you need any additional information at 407-898-9798.



**ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2006-2006**

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<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	
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Bob Stamps (08) .....	407-886-2925
Pete Vogt (08) .....	407-855-4122
John Winfree (06) .....	407-302-6536
Gordon Wolfram (06) .....	407-855-9633

## Calendar of Events

### January 14, 2006 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Course #2 - LANSRA  
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

### January 14, 2006 - Saturday

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

### January 19, 2006 - 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

### January 21, 2006 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Merritt Island NWR  
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850

### January 21, 2006 - Saturday

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

### January 28, 2006 - Saturday

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

### January 28, 2006 - Saturday

Return to Roost Field Trip #1 . Contact Dick Smith  
407-834-2197 or Bob Wheeler 407-869-0303

### February 4, 2006 - Saturday

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

### February 16, 2006 - 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

### February 17-19, 2006 - Fri-Sun

Rally for the Rivers  
Karen Ahlers 352-546-3560  
www.fladefenders.org/riverrally.html

### February 17-20, 2006 - Fri-Mon

Great Backyard Bird Count  
www.Birdsource.org/GBBC

### February 18, 2006 - Saturday

Orlando Wetlands Festival, Christmas FL  
Mark Sees 407-567-1706, Olabisi Cox 407-246-2213

### February 24-26, 2006 - Fri-Sun

Everglades Bird Trek 2006, Everglades Nat'l Park  
Broward Co. Audubon Society 954-776-5585.  
www.browardaudubon.org/birdfest.htm

## Field Trips for Disabled Birders in Maine

The American Birding Association has become aware of the need for modified field trips designed for birders with limited mobility or limited endurance. Therefore, for the first time ever, the 2006 convention in Bangor, Maine, through the Physical Limitations Track, will offer three such trips. Two of these trips will focus on land birds that can be found in accessible "hot spots" near Bangor, and in the stunning Acadia National Park. The leaders for these trips will include Victor Emanuel and Barry Lyon from Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, and Rick Wright of Aimophila Adventures. The disabled birders will join the rest of the ABA group for the third trip, which will be a boat trip to the waters surrounding Petit Manan, a breeding island used by Atlantic Puffins and other seabirds. During this trip, we will have the expertise of Wayne Peterson of Field Guides Incorporated and Massachusetts Audubon, to guide our smaller group.

For detailed information about this June 19-25, 2006, Bangor, Maine, convention, please visit the official website at [www.americanbirding.org](http://www.americanbirding.org) (click on Bangor convention, then field trips, then scroll down to the Physical Limitations Track), or contact me, Darlene Smyth at [smythd@comcast.net](mailto:smythd@comcast.net) or 1-520-297-2315. I hope to see you there!

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