

"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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Calendar of Events

Return to Roost Field Trip Cancelled

Please note that OAS' second Return to Roost Field Trip due to be held on Saturday February 25th has been cancelled.

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: February 16, 2006 - 7:00pm Landscaping for Wildlife by Neta Villalobos-Bell and Richard Poole

Wildlife needs water, food, shelter, and a place to safely reproduce. How can we provide these in a suburban environment? To answer the question, we have invited Neta Villalobos-Bell, state Audubon representative and Seminole Audubon Society Vice President, and Dr. Richard Poole, retired horticultural researcher, licensed bird bander, and past president of Orange Audubon Society. Neta and Richard (with help of their spouses) have turned their home landscapes into wildlife sanctuaries and now share their tips with others through workshops. Join us February 16 for an interesting and informative program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

February Field Trip - Join us at Orlando Wetlands Park

Once again this year our regularly scheduled field trip date, February 18th (the Saturday after the meeting), coincides with the date of the Orlando Wetlands Park Festival. Since OAS is one of the co-sponsors of this festival, we encourage everyone to come out and join us at OWP for a day of fun for the entire family.

Volunteers are needed to help out with t-shirt sales and to help with wildlife ID on the bus tours. If you can help out at this event, even if it's just for a couple of hours, please contact either Loretta Satterthwaite at 407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net, or Teresa Williams at 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

January Field Trip Report BOB WHEELER

A group of 29 birders met at the rear of the Burger King at Hwy 50 and Alafaya Trail to caravan to the coast for our field trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Our first stop was Veteran's Memorial Park in Titusville. Highlights here were Common Loons, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Turnstone, and 3 species of gulls.

We made our next stop at the roadside beach just past the bridge where we saw more Ruddy Turnstones and a Greater Blackbacked Gull before proceeding to Black Point Drive. Here we saw other species such as American Avocet, 11 species of ducks, a rare Snow Goose, and lots of Roseate Spoonbills displaying for us. Most of the group had lunch at the tower near Cruikshank Trail and afterwards we finished the loop, stopping to see the Bald Eagle nest where we saw both the parents feeding the (big) eaglet. We also spotted 3 Scrub Jays and a couple of hawks on our way out of the park. This brought our species total for the day to 79, not bad for a great day at on the coast!

President's Message Loretta Satterthwaite, President

You may have noticed that we've added a new feature to the OASis — the listing of new members. It goes without saying that we have always welcomed the new members, but perhaps we've needed a better way to show it. Please try to spend a little bit of time talking to new members and visitors at our monthly meetings — remember how it feels to walk into a crowded room where you don't know anyone? Let's help new attendees want to come back.

Springtime is coming fast, although as I write this it's another cool day (relatively speaking) here in Central Florida. With weather like this it's a perfect time to spend some time outdoors — and when you go, don't forget to take your camera with you. The May deadline for entering OAS' Kit and Sidney Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest (see related article this issue) will be here before you know it. Any type of film may be converted to digital for entry into this year's contest, so don't let the fact that

you don't have a digital camera stop you from entering the contest.

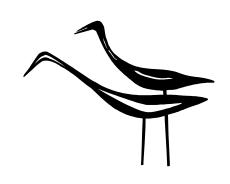
Let's not forget that the Florida Legislative Session will be underway soon. Watch for items that will effect our environment and contact your legislators to let them know how you feel. If any of you were able to attend the 'chat' with Carl Hiaasen on January 25th, you were exposed to some visions of what Central Florida could hope to be in the future. If we are going to maintain a favorable environment for a quality life, something must be done soon. Urban sprawl can not be allowed to spread like a cancer or there will be no Wild and Wonderful Florida to go to for photos for contests!! Together we can be a mighty force — let's try!! (See the related conservation article in this issue.) On a somewhat related note, it was especially disappointing news that the threatened Florida Scrub Jay was denied endangered species status by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) this past week. Such a listing could have afforded more protection to this endemic bird that is losing its 'high and dry' habitat rapidly to development. According to the Southeast regional director of the FWS, the decision wasn't really an opinion on the status of the species, simply that there wasn't enough information in the petitions for the review to continue. Bureaucracy at its best!! There are several Scrub Jay projects underway in this area; if you are interested in helping this wonderful bird, contact me for information (407/886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net).

Also with transition into Spring, local events proliferate and OAS is asked to participate in many of these (see related article in this edition) and please try to offer some help. Remember we have a special role as co-sponsors of the Orlando Wetlands Park Annual Festival, so we need many volunteers and, especially, we need you! Thanks. See you soon.

Audubon Academy 2006

The objective of Audubon Academy 2006 is to provide tools for effective chapter governance, communication, fundraising, conservation and community involvement. The Academy will offer a selection of eight participatory workshops, as well as field trips and social events. It will be held at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg from 5:30 PM Friday, March 24th to 1:00 PM Sunday, March 26th. Saturday evening will include the Annual Audubon Members Meeting that had to be cancelled because of Hurricane Wilma last October. Registration is \$25; meals and accommodations (off-site) are separate. Full details can be found on the Audubon of Florida website (www.audubonofflorida.org) or link to it from OAS' website (www.orangeaudubonfl.org). Make your reservations early so you don't miss out.

Orange Audubon Society has budgeted some monies to pay for registration for several members to attend. If you plan to attend and want details regarding the reimbursement of your registration, please contact me (407/886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net). Loretta Satterthwaite



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 P.O. Box 941142 Maitland, FL 32794-1142

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

http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org

Help the Baby Birds

It will soon be that time of year when we will receive lots of phone calls regarding 'abandoned' baby birds. Please remember that they may not be abandoned. If the birds are not injured, try to put them back in a tree or shrub out of harm's way (i.e. dogs and cats). The parents are usually around and will come back to take care of the babies or fledglings, so placing them back in the nest or tree/shrub is the best thing to do. Remember, the parents will not abandon them because they have been touched by human hands!! If there are injuries, the Orange Audubon Society website (www.orangeaudubonfl.org) does list some rehabilitators who may be contacted for help. If there is an injury or it's definitely an orphan, keep the individual warm (wrapped in a towel?), place it in a carrier (shoe box?), and transport it to the rehabilitator as soon as possible.

If you have a couple or free hours during the week, please remember that all of the rehabilitators need volunteers. Usually the hours are flexible; you may be able to contribute time during the day or night, during the week or weekends. Another point to remember is that they can always use supplies [absorbent cloth, paper towels, puppy food (which is often moistened and used to feed birds), jars of strained baby food/meat, etc.] and financial support. Especially remember this if you are taking a 'patient' to them — five or ten dollars is always appreciated. Let's help the regional rehabilitators who fill such a vital role in our community.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Nominating Committee Needed

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) bylaws state that there must be two non-board members of OAS serving on the nominating committee (composed of at least three members), whose charge is to bring a slate of candidates forward at the March general meeting for the positions to be elected at the April annual members' meeting. The committee is to be appointed in February and completes its service at the April meeting. The committee will have name and phone numbers of meeting attendees and others members who may be contacted regarding serving the Society by being elected to the Board of Directors. Are you willing to serve your Society by being one of he members on this short-lived committee? Please contact me (407/886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net to volunteer for this committee or for more information. Thanks for your help.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Welcome New Members!

Janet Adams, Diana Alexander, Julia F Barrett, Susan Batori, John Befgman, Andrew B Berry, Mac & Theresa Bledsoe, Julie Bojadzije, Jennifer Bolt, Jon Brill, Eleanor Burkley, D Cannarella, Gaylah R Cantrell, Leon R Cardwell, Melba Carr, Linda Chadwick, Angela F Charnley, Meredith Cohen, Erma Crummie, Kathleen Dale, Lynn Derrick, Mrs Theodore Dickelman, Gail E Dickinson, Tommy Dycus, George Ellers, Mr & Mrs Howard Evans, John Flora, Thomas Frazier, Katherine L Gadek, Kara Gill, R E Gleeson, Winnifred Haeling, Barbara Hart, Olive Higbee, Dennis W Hitz, Ansley Hodges, Melissa J Holt, Dorothy Houk, Lee Hursh, Viola Huttoe, Marcus Jason, Alicia Johnson, M R Jones, Mary A Kearney, Craddock and Kids, Joseph Lacy, Anne Landrum, Carolyn Lang, Jon Loudenslager, Sigyn Lund, Joan Masson, Heather McDonald, Shelagh McGillicuddy, Willard & Carol McQuerry, Barry Montville, R Neill, Matthew Oborn, Noah Pearlman, Sue Price, Thelma Y Prime, Bruce Racicot, Doug Ramsay, Natasha A Rey, Jack Rogers, Stephen Ryan, Reva E Shader, Heather Smith, Elizabeth Spitzer, David Stange, T H Stanton, Harold Stoll, Timber Creek H.S., Ann L Tuke, Mr & Mrs Brad Wallace, Chris Wedge, Verla White, Wanda Whiteford, Alyce Whiteside, Anna Wilson, and John Worling.

Hit Us with Your Best Shots (Digital, that Is) Of Florida – Wild & Wonderful

Shutterbugs have ample time to enter Orange Audubon Society's 2006 (18th Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest – and plenty of incentive, too. The 2006 theme is 'Florida – Wild & Wonderful.' Subject matter must be native to Florida and cannot contain any significant trace of humans or human-made objects or artifacts.

Only digital images in *.jpg format (jpeg, joint photographic experts group) and XGA resolution (96 dpi [dots per inch] 1024 x 768 supplied on CDs are acceptable. You can have your prints, negatives or slides (transparencies) converted to digital images to enter this contest. Images may not be excessively manipulated.

The enjoyment of being in wild places, capturing beautiful images of Florida native nature is reward enough for some photographers, but picture yourself winning a prize(s) to boot! All winners will receive ribbons and recognition in OAS published articles. In addition to OAS's cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50, respectively, Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), Orlando, will award three in-store gift cards with values of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively, for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. All winning entries also vie for placement on the cover of OAS' next annual brochure and the opportunity to be featured in a store display(s) at CPH.

Deadline for entries is May 18, 2006 (postmark date) or via hand delivery to Teresa Williams at OAS' meeting at Leu Gardens that evening. Limit is 4 images per entrant at \$3 each for Audubon members (including contestants who join when submitting entries) or \$5 each for nonmembers.

Application forms with complete contest rules and regulations can be picked up at all future OAS meetings or at Colonial Photo and Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. You may also download and print the application form (PDF file) from OAS' official website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org using free Adobe Acrobat Reader. For additional information, contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

With so many prizes and recognition at stake and so much time in which to take your winning photographs, we encourage you to get out your cameras and head for the wilds of wonderful Florida.

Teresa Williams, Chair, OASCNPC

We Need Your Help

Opportunities abound for you to help Orange Audubon Society (OAS) become better known. We have received several invitations to participate in various local events, which would allow us to let others know about OAS. Below is a chart showing date(s), times and a short explanation of what sort of help is needed if we have enough volunteers to participate in these events. If you can help at any of these events, please contact me (407/886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net) or Teresa (407/644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). Thanks for your help. Loretta Satterthwaite

Event/Location	Date(s)	Time Span (2-4hr block would be appreciated)	Type of help needed
Orlando Wetlands Park Festival/ Christmas , FL (East on SR 50)	February 18, 2006	8:00 AM-3:30 PM	ID wildlife on bus tours/ membership recruitment/ conservation display/sales tables/(kids' art??)
Winter Park Garden Club Fair/ Mead Gardens	February 25, 2006	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Table top display/ membership recruitment/ sales tables
Wekiva RiverFest/ Wekiwa Springs State Pk	March 11, 2006	8:00 AM-3:30 PM	Table top display/ membership recruitment/ (sales tables??)
Dr. Kelly Park Day/Kelly Park, Apopka	March 25, 2006	9:00 AM-3:30 PM	Table top display/ membership recruitment/ sales tables
Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park/downtown Orlando	March 31, April 1-2, 2006	Friday eve. tent/table set-up; Sat & Sun 8AM–6PM	Sales tables/membership recruitment/(kids' art??)
Sweetwater Oaks Garden Fair/Sweetwater Square on Wekiva Springs Rd.	April 2, 2006	9:00 AM-4:30 PM	Table top display/ membership recruitment

Fort DeSoto Field Trip

The annual field trip to Ft. DeSoto Park to view the returning spring migrants is scheduled for April 8, 2006, but we may have to change the program somewhat. We have been informed by Eckerd College that the rooms which we have used in the past may not be available to us this year due to increased enrollment. So, read the following very carefully.

We will not know if the rooms will be available until the last week of February, but we have to start planning now. If the rooms are not available, we are putting together a plan to travel to the park by chartered bus early the morning of April 8, 2003. The bus would leave from a centralized location at approximately 6:00am. This would get us to the park about 8:30am. Box breakfast and lunch will be provided. The bus would leave the park at approximately 3:00pm and we would be back in Orlando by 6:00pm. Cost would be in the neighborhood of \$50.00 to \$60.00.

We need to know how many people would be interested in doing this. Therefore there will be two (2) sign up sheets at the February meeting. If you want to go on Friday and spend the night at Eckerd College as we have done in the past, sign that sheet. If you want to go and are willing to take the bus, sign that sheet also. In summary, if you want to go, and don't care which way we do it, sign both sheets.

As we have done in the past, no monies will be collected until the last week of March, but we need to know how many people are interested NOW! If you don't attend the meetings, please e-mail me at dick.smith@zep.mfg.com or call me at 407-257-7361. Dick Smith, Field Trip Leader

Nest Boxes!

January 1, 2006. Some members of Orange Audubon managed to rise early enough on New Year's Day to meet at the Audubon Lot (a.k.a. Holiday Highlands) to clear the trail and check 18 nest boxes. Most of the boxes were empty but two had Screech Owls, one gray, one red morph. Another box contained several Flying Squirrels. The next trip will be late March. If interested, contact Christine Brown, 407-774-9501.



OAS' Beginning Bird Watching Class Early Birds Get a Front Row Seat

To help you master the rewarding and fast-growing "sport" of bird watching, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is pleased to offer a Beginners' Bird Watching (BBW) Class with instruction by Tom Williams, past president of OAS and retired education curator for the Central Florida Zoo. Registration will be open to the general public later this month, so register now to guarantee your spot.

The course includes 2 classroom sessions on March 25 and April 1 (9 a.m.–noon) Rollins College; and 2 field sessions on April 8 (Mead Gardens) and April 15 (Orlando Wetlands Park), times TBA. Fee for Audubon members is \$25 and for non-members is \$40. Registration fee includes handout materials and parking at Rollins College.

Non-members who join the Audubon Society when they register for the BBW class get a super sweet deal! Pay \$45, which includes BBW class registration fee (member price \$25) and an introductory membership (promotional rate \$20 for annual 3-way membership in Orange and National Audubon Societies and Audubon of Florida).

Remember, space is limited. Register now by sending a check, payable to Orange Audubon Society, along with your name, address, phone number and e-mail information so we may contact you regarding parking at Rollins. Include a completed membership application form if you are joining OAS. Mail to: PO Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. For additional information, contact Tom (407-332-5089) or Teresa (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). Check OAS' official website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org for membership application form. Hurry, you know what they say about the early bird!

Birdathon 2006

It may not feel like it now, but spring is quickly approaching, and with it, spring migration. That can mean only one thing: our yearly **Birdathon** fund-raiser!

This year's fund-raiser will be held on *Saturday, April 8th, 2006*. Now's the time to start planning your schedule, your strategies...and get a team together. Not only can you be out in nature having fun, you can help Orange Audubon Society at the same time!

Next month's OASis will contain a pledge sheet so that you can begin obtaining pledges to help us raise much needed funds for Orange Audubon Society. Start thinking about which of your friends, co-workers, and local businesses you can ask for help. Claire Hilliker, Birdathon Chair



Central Florida Butterfly Course

A 7.5-hour, 3-session Central Florida Butterflies course is being offered through Harry P. Leu Gardens (HPLG) and will be held Saturdays, May 6, 13 and 20, 2006 from 2:30 - 5 p.m. The course will emphasize identification of local butterflies and their caterpillars and will consist of classroom and butterfly garden sessions. Recommended field guide is Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida by Glassberg, Minno and Calhoun. Instructors will be Orange Audubon members, Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. For registration and fee information call HPLG at 407-246-3621.

Tibet-Butler Preserve to Host Backyard Habitat Fest Saturday March 4th

Orange County Parks and Recreation's Tibet-Butler Preserve will host a Backyard Habitat Fest Saturday, March 4, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This day of outdoor fun and nature study is FREE for everyone. Explore some of central Florida's natural habitats and find out how your own backyard can become valuable habitat to native plants and animals. Activities include guided hikes, environmental programs and exhibitors, live music by Code Blue, face painting, live animals, children's activities, refreshments, and great door prizes.

To reach the Preserve from the downtown Orlando area, take Interstate 4 West to Exit # 68. At the end of the ramp, make a right turn onto S.R. 535. Drive through the first light (WDW Resort Area) and make a left turn at the second light (7-11 on left corner) heading north on C.R. 535 (Winter Garden-Vineland Road). Drive for approximately five miles and look for the Preserve's entrance on your right. For more information or directions, please call the Preserve at 407-876-6696.

Winter Park Garden Club Presents How to Garden in Florida.

The Winter Park Garden Club is pleased to host an informative session on How to Garden in Florida. The event will take place on Saturday, February 25, 2006 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Winter Park Garden Club Center at Mead Garden, 1300 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park, FL 32790 407-644-5770. Speakers will include Elaine Pawlikowski, President of The Rose Society; Cathy Brown, B. B. Brown Gardens, Clermont, FL, specializing in bird and butterfly habitats, hard-tofind native plants for Central Florida and educational seminars; and Marc C. Minno, Ph.D., Supervising Regulatory Scientist for the St. Johns River Water Management District, Palatka, FL. He will speak on how to install and maintain a butterfly garden for Florida's fabulous butterflies. He will also have available for sale and autograph his books, Florida Butterfly Gardening and Florida Butterfly Caterpillars and Their Host Plants. Plant vendors from various garden nurseries will also be present so come out, enjoy the morning and learn all about gardening in Florida!

Reservations (for planning purposes) by phone (407-644-5770) or mail are preferred, but not required.



Everglades National Park Weekend Photo Workshop with Milton Heiberg

March 3 - 5, 2006

Learn more at: http://www.miltonheiberg.com/Upcoming_Everglades.htm If you are interested please call Milton Heiberg at: 407-658-4869 home or 407-451-3661 cell

Have Fun with the 2006 Great Backyard Bird Count!

As in years past, Audubon, in conjunction with the Cornell Lab or Ornithology (CLO), wants to take a snapshot of North American bird populations and YOU can help them during the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) on February 17-20, 2006. Everyone's contribution is important. It doesn't matter whether you identify, count, and report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge.

All you need is basic knowledge of bird

identification and access to the Internet at home, a friend's house, local library, school, or anywhere you can get access to the web. Count the birds in your backyard, local park, or other natural area on one or all four count days. Then simply go to the GBBC web site (www.birdsource.org/gbbc) and enter your data. That's all there is to it!

You can do it at your leisure so it can be a fun family activity that even the kids can participate in. And the more people who participate in this project, the more data will

be able to be collected to help researchers help our feathered friends, so join us won't you?



Central Florida Conservation Consortium Debuts in Orlando

The Central Florida Conservation Consortium had its first meeting in December at the Herndon Library in Orlando. The group was formed to continue efforts to strength the bonds between conservation groups in Central Florida. To ensure participation, the board has asked that each organization name one delegate and one alternate to participate in meetings. The goal of the consortium is to share ideas, events, membership and discuss conservation issues in Central Florida to support one another in environmental efforts and ensure work is not duplicated. If you want to participate in the Central Florida Conservation Consortium or serve as a delegate for your organization, please contact 407-575-8036.

Award for OSWCD

Several months ago, Orange Audubon Board Member Susan Clary accepted the Diversity Award for Orange County from the Association of Florida Conservation Districts. She currently serves as the elected chairman of the Orange Soil & Water Conservation District. The board beat out 64 other districts with its strong programs, services, outreach and educational efforts. Now, the Orange Board has been nominated for the national Diversity Award given by the National Association of Conservation Districts in Washington DC. The Orange Board is one of two finalists for this prestigious award, which recognizes diversity in all aspects of its work. The Orange Soil & Water Conservation District also has a new website www.oswcd.com, which includes a link to Orange Audubon and other environmental groups.

ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006

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John Winfree (06)	
Gordon Wolfram (06)	407-855-9633

Calendar of Events

February 4, 2006 - Saturday

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

February 11, 2006 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Course #3 - LARA Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

February 11, 2006 - Saturday

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

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 18, 2006 - Saturday

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

February 24-26, 2006 - Fri-Sun

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

February 25, 2006 - Saturday

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

March 4, 2006 - Saturday

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

March 4, 2006 - Saturday

Tibet-Butler Backyard Habitat Fest; 9am-4pm. FREE! For info: 407-876-6696

March 11, 2006 - Saturday

Wekiva Riverfest at Wekiwa Springs State Park 8:00am-3:30pm

March 12, 2006 - Sunday

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

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