



"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis



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

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Reminders...

... Volunteers and donations are urgently needed at the Ann Young Wild Bird Refuge. See details on page 3.
 ... If you plan to make, bake, or grow an item to donate for the June silent auction, remember to contact either Teresa or Loretta. See page 2 for details.
 ... Don't forget to get your Birdathon 2006 pledge dollars in ASAP.

This Month's Program: May 18, 2006 - 7pm Conservation in the Green Swamp by Marian & John Ryan

The Green Swamp is one of the largest swamps in the United States but is more a poorly drained plateau than a "swamp" as we usually imagine it. It is considered the largest natural habitat core in Central Florida, with a vast array of wildlife. It also provides important water recharge to the Floridan Aquifer, and in 1974, the Florida Legislature designated approximately 187,000 acres in Lake and Polk Counties as an Area of Critical State Concern. Marian Ryan, Green Swamp issues chair for the Florida chapter of the Sierra Club, is working with legislators and local governments to continue conservation land acquisition in the swamp, incredibly difficult in this climate of land speculation. Marian with her husband John will inform us about the Green Swamp, update us on these efforts, and let us know what we can do to help. Join us May 18 for an interesting and informative program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

May Field Trip - South Brevard WTF, Viera FL

Saturday May 20th will be a great day for a driving tour of the Viera Wetlands Water Treatment Facility in Brevard County. Last year we enjoyed sightings of Black-bellied Whistling Duck and Crested Caracara along with Black-necked Stilts and may other bird species. This is always a nice trip because we can stay cool in our cars and not have to walk as we are allowed to drive on the berms. We'll meet on Saturday morning at the Burger King at the intersection of Colonial Drive (Hwy 50) and Alafaya Trail. It is in the southeast corner of the intersection and

we meet in the large back parking lot. Please be there in time to get car-pooling ready and leave at 7:30 am. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes (if you have one), sunscreen and bug repellent. You can also bring a snack lunch to enjoy around 11:30 when we stop and tally-up what we've see. We will return to the Burger king around 1 to 1:30 pm. Any questions before, call Bob Ferguson, 407-619-4484 and the day of the trip, Dick Smith 407-257-7361 (cell). Hope to see you there for the last trip of this season!

Bob Ferguson

April Field Trip Report BOB FERGUSON

April 22 brought a terrific birding day for 30 birders from Orange County to New York City. We enjoyed the ever-improving beauty of Mead Gardens and encountered over 40 species including American Redstart, Yellow-throated Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, as well as Black & white and Prairie Warblers. We watched a nesting pair of Pileated Woodpeckers make jaunts to and from their nest

and even were "buzz-bombed" by the male to let us know that we had watched enough! Otters cavorted on the boardwalk for us and a Wood Duck family swam by in the creek. Our team of experts of Sanders, Smith, and Wheeler led two groups around for four delightful hours. Thanks to all of you that made this a fun trip! Hope to see you for Viera Facility trip next month!

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

Thanks to all of you who continue to respond to Orange Audubon Society's once-a-year letter appeal campaign. Formal thank you letters will be forthcoming (as soon as my schedule permits!), but let me assure you that your contributions are very much appreciated and my tardiness in responding to your generous donations should in no way reflect on Orange Audubon Society. By remaining an all-volunteer society, all of your contributions can be used for the activities of the chapter; however, that may mean some delays will occur as we volunteers must prioritize our time to meet specific deadlines.

Speaking of deadlines, this month brings the deadline for the 18th annual OAS Chertok Nature Photography Contest. Entries must be postmarked or hand-delivered at our meeting at Leu Gardens on May 18th. Details may be obtained at www.orangeaudubonfl.org. By the way, if you haven't stopped by Colonial Photo and Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue in Orlando to see their display window featuring winning photographs from previous years' contests, don't let it disappear before you do.

There are still lots of activities this month to keep you outdoors and enjoying the pleas-

ant weather — and many of these are highlighted in articles in this issue; check them out. If you're looking for an indoor activity, you should consider attending the next session of the How Shall We Grow? campaign. The sessions will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd; you may access information about the sessions and make reservations for one of them at www.myregion.org or call 407-835-2443. This is your chance to tell them how you want Central Florida to grow. Don't miss this opportunity.

See you soon. Meanwhile, keep those binoculars and cameras close by.

Conservation News PEGGY COX

Econ River Faces New Threats

The Econlockhatchee River in southeast Orange County is facing new threats from development proposals being promoted in conjunction with the Innovation Way plan. Orange County has amended their Comprehensive Policy Plan to provide for development in the southeast area of the county between the airport/Lake Nona area and the Econ River. This plan amendment has been sent back from the State with various findings of deficiencies and inadequacies. The idea of Innovation Way, with its specific development criteria and other elements, was originally confined to a corridor area that would be several miles wide along an extension of Alfaya Trail south of the Beachline Expressway, then routed west to the

Narcoosee Road area.

Orange County has now revised their proposed Plan amendment and it will be heard by the Orange County Commissioners on May 23rd. The revised plan, as it now reads, will be that part of southeast Orange County between SR417, east to the Econ River, south of the Beachline to the Osceola County line as the Innovation Way Study Area Overlay. In the revised plan, new development within the Study Area Overlay will be allowed if it supports and furthers a Compact Village Conceptual Urban Form Scenario that is also detailed in the amendment. The original Innovation Way Corridor Village plan appears to now be able to be placed anywhere within the 32,000 acre Study Area Overlay. Any new development will have to go through a plan amendment process as this overlay district will not change any of the existing land use designations currently in existence.

Language from the existing Econ River Protection Ordinance has been incorporated into this new amendment as it regards possible crossings of the river. Preservation of environmentally sensitive lands will be necessary, but how that will be accomplished is not well defined. Only species that are listed as Threatened or Endangered would be a trigger for habitat preservation.

At the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on April 20th, Audubon member Marge Holt and I spoke of our concerns with the revised amendment. The revision

seems to open up the entire I-W Study Area to the possibility of new development in the Village Urban Form Scenario. I spoke on several issues; that the revised plan could cause unending sprawl in this area, with the possibility of tens of thousands of residential units being built, not tied to job creation, or square feet of built commercial/office space. The preservation of listed species must include species of special concern, as these species reside in critical habitat in the Study Area. Preservation of sensitive habitats must be better defined and the mechanisms for doing so need to be identified.

You can read this revised amendment on the Orange County website: www.orangecountyfl.net. It is Future Land Use Element Amendment #2006-1-B-FLUE-2 (Innovation Way).

This plan allows for building of thousands of residential units, with large amounts of commercial/retail building in this area, with no defining criteria for need or actually tied to the creation of high tech jobs that are necessary to expand Orange County's economic base. Sprawling overdevelopment impacting one of our last sensitive riverine habitats is not necessary to accomplish building a high-tech corridor from the new UCF Medical School campus to the main UCF Campus. If you are concerned about the impacts of the I-W amendment, please tell your County Commissioner, and attend the public hearing on the amendment at the May 23rd BCC meeting.

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>

2006 Ft. DeSoto Field Trip Report Another Great Day of Birding!

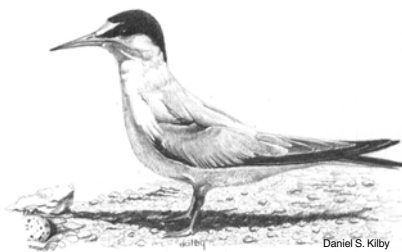
On April 8, 2006, 25 members of the Orange Audubon Society participated in the annual field trip to this marvelous park in Pinellas County. Although the migrants did not show up as desired, we had a wonderful day because of the tremendous numbers of shorebirds and seabirds and a little bit of dumb luck. Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good. Altogether, we had 63 species including the following: Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk and Sandhill Crane. Shorebirds included Black-bellied Plover, Semi-palmated Plover, Killdeer, American Oystercatcher, Willet, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Least Sandpiper and Dunlin. We had five (5) tern species; Royal, Sandwich, Common, Forster's and Least, along with Black Skimmer.

The "birds of the day" were the ten (10) Yellow-crowned Night Herons and five (5) nests in the rookery that we found in the East Beach Woods. They just sat there and

watched us as we stood in awe and watched them. What a sight! Their yellow crowns were so vivid that they looked like neon! This was just a spectacular sight! The Black-hooded Parakeets put on a show for us most of the day; chasing each other around and screaming in that loud call that they have.

So, even though we did not get to see a lot of migrants as we had hoped for, it turned out to be a wonderful day of birding with good birding friends.

Dick Smith, Field Trip Leader



Orange Audubon Society's Spring Fiesta

It was hot, but dry and there were many dogs whose feet were dancing on the blistering pavement. Conflicting activities kept the usual number of participants from descending on Lake Eola's Spring Fiesta in the Park, but Orange Audubon Society was able to do reasonably well at the event considering everything. Sincere thanks to Bob Stamps, Teresa Williams and John Winfree for helping set up the tent and tables for the weekend event. Thanks also to Mary Keim and Randy Snyder for, once again, the loan of the tables. Intrepid warriors that withstood the heat all day Saturday were Chris Gandy and Ayme Smith and Sunday were Milton Heiberg, Teresa Williams, Ellen Rocco, Chris Fenninger and Claire Hilliker. Thanks to all for your fortitude at our last big fundraising event of the fiscal year. Lots of interest was generated at the nesting box display and many people took photo contest entry forms, so perhaps we'll see some of those people again; we hope so!

Loretta Satterthwaite

Local Rehabber in Need of Help

Mrs. Ann Young, the Director of the Ann Young Wild Bird Refuge is in need of caring adults to care for orphaned, wild baby birds. Caring for wild birds is a unique experience and one which is not offered by most cities. The refuge is a non profit shelter aimed at rescuing injured and orphaned wild birds. It is located in Ann's home. Each year, Ann (Licensed by the state and federal governments), rehabilitates and releases hundreds of wild birds brought to the refuge by caring people. Ann has nurtured birds for 25 years. She works very diligently, at times around-the-clock, assisted by a small team of volunteers. Her work has become vital to these fragile creatures whose survival is being threatened. The refuge is in need of help, especially now in the spring and summer since birthing season usually occurs between March and the end of August. Please consider donating some of your time or money to this worthy cause.

*The refuge needs quiet, bird loving volunteers to work at least 2 hours, one time per week to feed baby birds. (nestlings need to be fed every 1/2 hour)

*Scheduling: Volunteers are asked to go by the refuge and sign up for a time slot. Be prepared to volunteer at this time, as this is the height of the birthing season and Ann may need you then. Please do not phone the refuge as Ann does not have time to answer the phone.

*Snacks: Please bring your own snacks. (Ann runs the refuge on donations and does not have a car.)

*DIRECTIONS: Ann's home is located at 205 Robin Road, Altamonte Springs 32701

It is off of Hwy 436, between Hwy 17-92 and the Railroad Tracks.

Specific directions from Hwy 17-92:

Go West on Hwy 436

Go though 2 stoplights (passing Circuit City on Left)

Left at Robin Road (at Calico Corner Fabrics)

Ann's home is behind a stone wall on the left at the bend.

Any donation would be gratefully appreciated. Please feel free to phone me with any questions. The critters and I thank you for all of your efforts in their behalf. Kaye Yonge 407-273-7733; email: Patriot070@aol.com

Chertok Photo Contest Deadline is May 18th

Don't forget the deadline for postmark or hand delivery of entries in Orange Audubon Society's 2006 (18th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest is May 18, 2006. Winners of this digital competition will be announced at Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual covered dish dinner and program presentation of contest entries and awarding of prizes on June 15, 2006.

You may pick up entry forms in person at OAS' May 18th meeting at Leu Gardens, Orlando (where you may also hand deliver your entries), or at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. You may also download and print entry forms from OAS' official website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org or contact Teresa, mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796, to have forms mailed to you.

We appreciate your support of native nature photography. Good luck and good lighting, all participants.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Baby Owl/Mother's Day Shower

On Saturday, May 13th from 10:00-4:00, Orange Audubon Society will participate in the celebration at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey at 1101 Audubon Way in Maitland. Admission to the Center that day is free with the presentation of a 'baby gift' that can be used in caring for the birds at the Center. New or even slightly used items such as baby receiving blankets, king-sized sheets, heating pads and scrub brushes, or large garbage bags, multipacks of paper towels, bleach, laundry detergent, cotton balls, Q-tips, adhesive tape, rubbing alcohol and hydrogen peroxide are always needed. Likewise, office supplies such as writeable CDs, colored paper and pens are also needed. Food items for the birds, such as fish or rodents, might best be contributed by making a cash donation that can then be used to buy those items. For the complete 'wish list', contact the Center at 407-644-0190 or email tmarks@audubon.org. Orange Audubon hopes to host a kids' art table, but we need volunteers in order to provide this activity along with our t-shirt sales. If you can help for an hour or two, please contact me (407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net). Thanks.
Loretta Satterthwaite

Birdathon 2006 Numbers!

The total number of species seen this year during Birdathon was 149, which surpasses the 132 species seen last year (WOW!). If any of you still have sheets to hand in, please do so as soon as you can so that we can finalize our count and get those pledge dollars rolling in.

Thanks to all of you who went out in the field (boy was it hot!) to participate this year. For those of you who were not able to participate, consider a donation to those teams who went out counting and would be delighted to accept your donations! Also, keep in mind that we'd like to have all the \$ in by May 1st if possible so that we can announce the totals at the May meeting.

Claire Hilliker, Birdathon Chair

Congratulations Graduate Birders!

Sixteen novice and intermediate level birders earned their wings under the direction of naturalist Tom Williams, who recently taught a four-week bird watching class for Orange Audubon. After two in-class sessions, students tried their new skills on field trips to Mead Gardens and Orlando Wetlands Park, where the variety of birds impressed everyone.

OAS extends thanks to Tom for sharing his tricks of the trade and to Renee Thomas for assisting in the field. We hope to see all graduates on future OAS field trips.

* * * * SAVE THE DATE! * * * *

Audubon Assembly 2006 October 19-21



Due to the cancellation last fall, we are gearing up for a great event this October! Plan on joining us for a weekend of networking, education, advocacy and birding!

Location: Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort

Special rate: \$89.99/night.

Reserve rooms now at 800-206-2724.

Special Audubon rate good through September 27 only.



Don't miss it! Plan to attend Florida's largest gathering of conservation-minded citizens. Join chapter leaders and members, Audubon staff, wildlife professionals, environmental advocates, scientists, students, agency and elected officials, and other Floridians to network and learn about the environment.

Details including Assembly registration information, programs, exhibits and field trips will appear in the summer Naturalist, and available online at www.audubonofflorida.org in July.

OAS' 2006-2007 Directors and Officers Elected at April General Meeting

Congratulations to Orange Audubon Society's newly elected directors and officers (see two leftmost columns of list below). Officers serve two year terms and directors serve three year terms. Once again, thank you to the nominating committee members (Betty Seegers, Dick Smith and Tom Williams) for their excellent performance in obtaining a slate of volunteers for the election at our annual meeting in April. Only the office of the President was vacant on the slate as the meeting began and that was capably filled when Dick Smith was nominated from the floor. The slate was then elected by acclamation. Thanks to each of the volunteers for offering your service to your Audubon chapter.

Dick and the board will keep Orange Audubon moving steadily towards its strategic goals with your support. With an excellent mix of those who have previously served and those who will serve for the first time, this board can be expected to direct the organization with new vigor. We all wish you well in your endeavors and pledge our support.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Officers and Directors List - 2006-2007

(year indicates end of term)

OFFICERS - 2008

Dick Smith - President
Leesa Sward - Vice-President
Deborah Green - Vice-President (Programs)
Mary Anne Freyer - Secretary
Teresa Williams - Treasurer

BOD - 2009

Mary Keim
Tom Rodriguez
Ted Smith
Gayle Smith
Randy Snyder

BOD - 2008

Susan Clary
Peggy Cox
Danielle Ponsolle
Bob Stamps
Pete Vogt

BOD - 2007

Milton Heiberg
Claire Hilliker
Susan Ledbetter
Ellen Rocco
Ayme Smith

Planning Makes June Program, Dinner & Auction Perfect

On the evening of June 15th following a scrumptious covered dish dinner, Orange Audubon Society will present its finale program of the season – the showing of the 2006 Kit and Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) entries and awarding of prizes to winners.

Planning is now underway for this three-hour extravaganza, which is sure to dazzle your visual senses, please the most discriminating palate and be over sooner than you wish. Past experience dictates that we restrict somewhat this year's silent auction activities to ensure the entire evening runs smoothly. To that end, this year's auction will consist of two components: donations solicited from local businesses and the popular Make It! Bake It! Grow It! Auction, featuring creations of your making. If you were saving "rummage" items for this event, do not despair. We will find another venue at another time to utilize them!

If you plan to make, bake or grow an item(s) to donate, please contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796) or Loretta (lms-oas@att.net or 407-886-2925) by May 31st and provide these details: your name and phone number, description of item(s), retail or appraised value, starting bid amount (if desired). All proceeds will benefit OAS' CNPC endowment fund.

If your talent is more organizational, please let us know how you wish to help during the planning and/or running of the June 15th event. Many thanks!

Teresa Williams, Treasurer



Lake Louisa State Park Nature and Field Day

Come to Lake Louisa State Park, located just south of Clermont on US Hwy 27, on Saturday, May 20th, 9am-3pm for the 2nd annual Lake Louisa State Park Field Day. The Friends of Lake Louisa, in conjunction with DEP, are sponsoring this earth friendly event to create awareness about Florida's ecosystems. Environmental displays, live animals, kid's activities, ranger led nature/bird walks and workshops will be taking place. A \$4 vehicle charge to enter the Park is the only cost.

Orange Audubon will have an informational display at the event and volunteers are welcome to help with our display. Please call or email Peggy Cox if you can help with this event (pegcox@att.net or 352-429-1042). Thanks and I hope to see you at this fun event on May 20th.

Peggy Cox

**ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2005-2006**

PRESIDENT
Loretta Satterthwaite (06) 407-886-2925

VICE PRESIDENT
Leesa Sward (06) 407-677-5374

VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS)
Deborah Green (06) 407-553-0028

SECRETARY
Mary Anne Freyer (06) 407-298-2642

TREASURER
Teresa Williams (06) 407-644-0796

BOARD MEMBERS
Susan Clary (08) 407-575-8036
Mike Daley (06) 386-668-5021
Bob Ferguson (07) 407-644-7850
Chris Gandy (06) 407-380-8704
Milton Heiberg (07) 407-658-4869
Claire Hilliker (07) 407-677-5374
Danielle Ponsolle (08) 407-658-5742
Ellen Rocco (07) 407-282-8547
Ayme Smith (07) 407-425-7504
Dick Smith (08) 407-257-7361
Randy Snyder (06) 407-851-5416
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

May 6, 2006 - Saturday

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

May 11-14, 2006 - Thu-Sun

Florida's First Coast Birding and Nature Festival
St. Augustine, FL
www.visitoldcity.com/birding_nature/

May 13, 2006 - Saturday

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

May 13, 2006 - Saturday

Baby Owl/Mother's Day Shower, 10am-4pm
Center for Bird of Prey 407-644-0190

May 18, 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

May 20, 2006 - Saturday

Field Trip: Viera Waste Water Treatment Plant
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850; rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net

May 20, 2006 - Saturday

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

May 27, 2006 - Saturday

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

June 3, 2006 - Saturday

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

June 10, 2006 - Saturday

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

June 15, 2006 - Thursday

Annual Pot Luck and Chertok Nature Photography
Contest, **6:00pm**, Leu Gardens.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

October 19-21, 2006 - Thur-Sat

Audubon Assembly 2006
Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Resort
www.audubonofflorida.org

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