



*"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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## This Month's Program: January 18, 2007 - 7:00pm Dos and Don'ts of Wildlife Rescue by Ron Hardee

If you have an injured bird or mammal on your driveway or in your yard, how do you approach it? What do you do with it? Ron and Carol Hardee care for hundreds of injured or orphaned animals a year at their Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Christmas, one of the oldest facilities in Central Florida. Any animal brought to them receives care, which often means 16 to 18 hour workdays by the Hardees, assisted by loyal volunteers. In this month's program, while Carol is home tending to the animals, Ron will share tips learned over decades of wildlife rehabilitation. Ron has promised to bring his talking crow Poe and some other animals, so bring a child if you can. Join us January 18 for a fascinating program.  
Deborah Green, Vice President

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

On Saturday, January 20th, OAS will visit Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge near Titusville. The refuge is known for its wintering water fowl. Although this is primarily a driving trip along Black Point Wildlife Drive, we will hike about 1 mile.

Meet in the back parking lot of Burger King on S.R. 50 (Colonial Drive) just east of

S.R. 434 (Alafaya Trail) at 7:30am. Bring lunch, drink and birding gear (spotting scopes are very helpful).

Dress with wind across the marsh in mind. For more info call us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder  
Field Trip Committee

## Join us on the Fort DeSoto Field Trip - April 13-14, 2007

The Fort DeSoto Park Field Trip is scheduled for April 13-14, 2007. We hope you will include it in your calendar planning now. This park in St. Petersburg offers a premier location for birding during spring migration, offering a large variety of species in their spring breeding plumage. For many of us, it gives opportunity to view northern breeding birds as well. Bird species counts have traditionally been impressive for a one day excursion. The park itself is a beautiful location on the gulf coast, with lots of wonderful natural habitats to visit and explore.

Arrangements have been made for us to stay at the Continuing Education Center at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Friday

night, April 13th. This will allow us to get an early start for birding Saturday morning. You will need to provide your own transportation to St. Petersburg. The cost is \$80.00 per room, which can accommodate two persons.

Sign-up sheets will be available at each Audubon meeting beginning in December. We encourage you to sign up as early as possible, since there are a limited number of rooms.

If you have any questions concerning the trip, please contact Ted or Gaye Smith at (407) 249-3969 or email us at smith\_ted\_gaye@bellsouth.net.



*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*

## Great Backyard Bird Count combines the fun of bird watching with conservation

What mid-winter activity is fun, easy, free, and helps bird conservation? What can parents and teachers do with children that connects them to a whole new world of natural wonders? This February, the tenth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, will give everyone a chance to discover the birds in their neighborhood and "Count for the Record."

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count, February 16-19, 2007. It's fun, it's free, it takes as little as 15 minutes--and it helps the birds. People of all ages, from beginners to experts, are invited to join this event which spans all of the United States and Canada. Participants can take part wherever they are -- at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges. Observers simply count the highest number of each species they see during an outing or a sitting, and enter their tally on the GBBC web site at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc).

Visitors to the web site can also compare their sightings with results from other participants, as checklists pour in from throughout the U.S. and Canada. Together, these counts offer a real-time snapshot of the numbers and kinds of birds that people are finding, from Boreal Chickadees in Alaska to Anhingas in Florida.

"The Great Backyard Bird Count is a community celebration of birds, birding, and nature," said Janis Dickinson, director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "We often fail to notice how rich our surroundings are, but counting birds, even for just 15 minutes, is not only educational—it can provide a lasting source of enjoyment, turning a daily walk into a treasure hunt."

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the GBBC, and Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are challenging people everywhere to "Count for the Record," by participating in greater numbers than ever before. Greater participation, with more checklists submitted, provides more information about bird population trends -- and helps to better inform conservation efforts.

Last year, participants submitted more than 60,000 checklists -- and reported 7.5 million birds overall and 623 different species. The count helped chronicle the early spring migratory routes of Sandhill Cranes, documented lingering migrants such as Orange-crowned Warblers and Tree Swallows, revealed the ongoing range expansion of introduced Eurasian Collared-Doves, and recorded declining numbers of American Crows.

Excerpted from <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/press/news-stories/2007-gbbc>

## Bird ID Class Begins January 27<sup>th</sup> Teaches Basics and Beyond

What: Orange Audubon Society's Beginners Bird Watching Class with instruction by Tom Williams returns.

When and where: Saturday morning in-class sessions (2) \* Rollins College \* January 27th and February 3rd; field sessions (2), \*Mead Gardens\* February 10th; and \*Orlando Wetlands Park\* February 17th. Dates coincide with spring migration.

Who should register: Beginning and experienced bird watchers.

Cost: \$25 for Audubon Society members; \$40 for non-members. Become a member when you sign up and pay just \$45 [includes registration (\$25) and 3-way membership in Orange and National Audubon and Audubon of Florida (\$20)].

Full details: Contact Tom Williams for course/class information (407-332-5089) or Teresa Williams for registration and payment information ([mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796). To obtain a membership application or read a detailed article about the class (December OASis), visit OAS' website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org). Hurry, you know what they say about the early bird! Teresa Williams, Treasurer

## Welcome New Members

Roseanne Amellal, Barbara Anderson, Peter B. Anderson, Albert G. Barbiero, Virginia H. Barratt, Jocelyn Bartkevicius, Susan Batori, Raymond Bayard, Lyn Berelsman, Paul Bergstresser, Robert M. Billy, Birdie E. Birmelin, Robert L. Blue, Robert A. Brand, Margaret Broadus, Chuck Brooks, Barbara Brown, Marguerite Cashen, Marcia Cockrell, Paula Costantini, Barbara Couillard, Donna Darnier, Eleanor Demetrios, Cynthia Dohal, Connie Dolan, Selma V. Elitt, Judith Elliott, Mary Y. Feaster, Ann C. Fedrdovich, Heather Fontana, Nancy J. Gajewski, Sharon Gary, James R. Glazebrook, Wayne Goff, Laura Harding, Carol Harman, Philip Hart, Renda Haynes, Deanna Hollister, Mary Hull, Patricia S. Hurley, A. Kaufman, Evelyn Keyes, Mike Kuhn, Jessica Larson, Linda Lucas, John Luposello, Kristen Machan, Terry Mackenzie, Janet March, Jane Meherg, Karon R. Michel, Joyce Mills, Cindy K. Mizelle, Gloria J. Moberg, Dawn Moody, Todd Mowry, John Oliver, Jackie Osburn, John Page, Linda Patterson, Paul J. Perrault, Ruth M. Pittman, Rochelle D. Plasse, Marie Pollard, Nora Popko, Margaret J. Reardon, Bobbijoe Rebrt, Jeff Rhodes, Terri Ricket, Ronald E. Ring, Andrew A. S, Barclay, Mayra Salgado, Monica Schmieler, Jack Schulze, Susan A. Sisson, Barbara Slough, Melissa Smith, Michael G. Stamey, James C. Staples, Paige Stewart, Paul E. Stocksdale, Barbara Tomlinson, John W. Topper, Penny Villemaire, Davie Vogel, Phil Wallis, & Tim Ward.

## Hog Island Audubon Impractical Final Exam II

Here are more bird name quiz questions from the Hog Island Bird Camp final exam. Did last month's issue convince you to sign up for camp? Answers on page 3.

What bird is a letter? Answer: Jay! Get the picture? Okay what bird is:

- Is a mammal?
- Is crazy?
- Is a flag?
- Has no hair?
- Is a German hunter?
- Is a ditch digger?
- Needs a shave?
- Was Lucille Ball?
- Is a card game?
- Is all alone?

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>

## 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.

It's easy and fun! To find out how you can help, please contact Tom Williams at 407-332-5089. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!



## 2006 Photo Contest Winners on Display

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will proudly ring in the New Year by launching a webpage featuring winning images from *Florida, Wild & Wonderful*, its 2006 Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC). The web display will be followed closely by a display at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), Orlando, which began co-sponsoring the contest in 2004 with donated prizes and expanded that role in 2006 by featuring a full window display of winning images from previous OAS photo contests.

To further OAS' CNPC objectives and popularity, winning images from the 2006 contest will be enlarged for in-store display with credits depicting photographers' names, descriptions of the subject matter, technical aspects (equipment, settings, techniques, etc.) and placement in the contest.

'Images' is the operative word. This year CPH anticipates featuring, not one, but all 2006 winning images on a continuing, rotating basis through May 17th (contest deadline) "because they are all so good," said co-owner Mike Rausch when asked to select just one.

To view the webpage, obtain entry forms and other 2007 contest information, visit OAS' website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) or contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). For a bird's-eye view of *Florida, Wild & Wonderful*; visit Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando. Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

## Volunteers Needed for Orlando Wetlands Park Festival

Saturday, February 24th 2007 (9–3 p.m.) marks the official date and time for the 8th 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.

Over the last 100+ years, OWP has undergone several career changes. The land was used as an open cattle range (late 1800s); a logging site for red cedar and pine (early 1900s); and a dairy farm (1940s). In 1986 the City of Orlando purchased the land, which was put to work as a wastewater reclamation system the following year. The rest is history.

OWP is now 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 and 'leathered' kinds. Wading birds, raptors, other bird species and gators abound and can easily be seen while traversing the 20+ miles of roads and woodland trails crisscrossing the park.

OAS informally "adopted" Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) several years ago and has proudly co-sponsored the festival ever since 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 environmental education tables, selling t-shirts at our fundraising tables, instructing children in making nature collages and other duties.

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](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com)] or Loretta [407-886-2925; [lns-oas@att.net](mailto:lns-oas@att.net)]. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

## Start the Tax Year off Right and Help Connect Children to Nature

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 \$45.65, 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 along with the teacher and school name to OAS at the address listed on page 2. Thanks!

### Answers to Hog Island Impractical Final Exam II

If you come up with any additional answers, email Deborah Green at [sabal@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sabal@cfl.rr.com). More next month.

Is a mammal? Catbird, Cowbird, Martin, Titmouse

Is crazy? Loon

Is a flag? Bunting

Has no hair? Bald Eagle

Is a German hunter? Jaeger

Is a ditch digger? Northern Shoveler

Needs a shave? Hairy Woodpecker, Black-whiskered Vireo

Was Lucille Ball? Lucy's Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker

Is a card game? Townsend's Solitaire

Is all alone? Solitary Sandpiper, Hermit Thrush

**ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Pete Vogt (08) ..... 407-855-4122

**Calendar of Events**

**January 6, 2007 - Saturday**  
LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.  
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870/pbowen@sjrwmd.com

**January 13, 2007 - Saturday**  
Wekiva River Buffer Conservation Area Bird Survey  
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

**January 13, 2007 - Saturday**  
Bird of Prey ID Class #3 - LARA  
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

**January 18, 2007 - Thursday**  
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.  
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the  
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.  
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

**January 20, 2007 - Saturday**  
OAS Field Trip - Merritt Island NWR  
Mary Keim 407-851-5416

**January 20, 2007 - Saturday**  
Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.  
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193  
dex@dexwine.com

**January 24-28, 2007 - Wed-Sun**  
Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival  
Neta Harris 321-268-5224 / 800-460-2664  
www.nbbd.com/fly

**January 27, 2007 - Saturday**  
Rock Springs Run State Reserve Butterfly Survey.  
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

**January 27, 2007 - Saturday**  
Guided Trip of Lake Apopka Restoration Area  
Mary Keim 407-851-5416

**February 3, 2007 - Saturday**  
LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.  
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870/pbowen@sjrwmd.com

**February 15, 2007 - Thursday**  
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.  
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the  
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.  
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

**February 17, 2007 - Saturday**  
OAS Field Trip - Orlando Wetlands Park  
Mary Keim 407-851-5416

**February 17, 2007 - Saturday**  
Bird of Prey ID Class #4 - LARA  
Bob Sanders 407-898-9798

**February 16-19, 2007 - Fri-Mon**  
Great Backyard Bird Count  
www.birdsource.org/gbbc

**February 17, 2007 - Saturday**  
Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.  
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193  
dex@dexwine.com

**February 24, 2007 - Saturday**  
Orlando Wetlands Park Festival, Christmas FL  
Mark Sees 407-568-1706

**Valencia to Offer Florida Birds Class in the Spring**

Are you looking for a supplement to OAS' Beginning Bird Watching Class? Are you or do you know a teacher that could use recertification points? Or are you just looking for an outdoor, interactive, and fun way to earn 3 biology credits and learn about birds in our state? If either applies to you, check out the Florida Birds class that will be taught this spring at Valencia Community College's Winter Park Campus by OAS VP Leesa Sward.

When:

Fridays: Feb 16 & 23 6:00p-8:00p  
Saturdays: Feb 17 & 24 8:15a-12:15p  
Saturdays: Marc 3 & 10 8:00a-2:00p

Where:

Winter Park Campus of VCC  
Area Parks (Leu Gardens, Mead Gardens, Merritt Island  
NWR, and more)

For more information on how to register for this class, please contact Patti Riva at 407-582-6845 (BSC 2933, CRN 23386). For more information about the class, please get in touch with Dr. Leesa Sward at LSward@valenciacc.edu or 407-582-6925.

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