



"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis



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

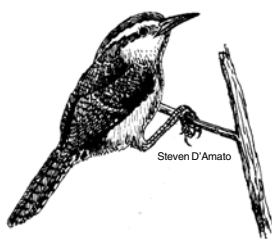
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This Month's Program: April 17, 2008 - 7:00pm Riverine Turtles of Florida by Tim Walsh

Florida's diverse river systems are an important habitat for turtles. Seven species of turtles in Florida occur primarily in rivers, and 60% of Florida turtles are associated with rivers in some way. Habitat loss, river channelization and pollution, and collection for the food and pet trade, both legal and illegal, are having an impact. As fascinating as they are, riverine turtles receive little attention when it comes to conservation.

Our April speaker Tim Walsh, Manager of NatureWorks at the Orlando Science Center, is a long-time turtle expert. Tim will tell us about these interesting creatures and bring a few to show. Join us April 17 for a fascinating program. Come with your questions and bring a child to share the experience!

Deborah Green, Vice President

April Field Trip - Lake Jesup Conservation Area

On Saturday, April 19th, OAS will visit the East Lake Jesup Tract of Lake Jesup Conservation Area north of Oviedo. The conservation area is 5,257 acres divided into three tracts that border Lake Jesup. We will hike about 3 miles. For more information about the property see: http://sjr.state.fl.us/recreationguide/sc04_lake_jesup_CA.html

Meet at 7:30 am in the parking lot of Publix at the NW corner of SR419 (E. Broadway Street) and Lockwood Blvd. Bring drink, birding gear, and lunch for after the hike. Please join us. If you have questions about this trip, call us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder
Field Trip Committee

February Field Trip Report MARY KEIM, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

Thirteen birders hiked through the Sandhill community at Rock Springs Run State Reserve on March 22nd. The group observed at least 34 bird species including Wild Turkey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, American Crow, Cedar Waxwing, White-eyed Vireo, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, and American Goldfinch.

At least nine butterfly species were seen including Zebra Swallowtail, Palamedes Swallowtail, Little Wood-Satyr, Northern Cloudywing, and Sleepy Duskywing. Other invertebrates included millipede, tiger moth

caterpillar, crane fly, and fungus-gardening ant. Flowers in bloom included Roseling, Shiny Blueberry, Deerberry, Wild Buckwheat, Tread Softly, Pinebarren Frostweed, Pinewoods Milkweed, Blue Toadflax, Michaux's Hawthorn, Narrowleaf Silkgrass and Greeneyes. The orange spores of a fusiform rust species (*Cronartium quercuum*) were abundant on the rust-induced galls on Sand Pines.

Thanks to those that asked and answered questions on the trip, making it a good learning experience for all.

Orange Audubon Society meetings are free to the public and held on 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

140 X .10 X 2 X 100 = 2800

Mom - Dad - Sister - Brother - Son - Daughter - Grandmother - Grandfather
- Aunt - Uncle - Niece - Nephew - Cousin - Barber - Hair Stylist - Doctor -
Dentist - Neighbor - Friend - Business Associate - Pen Pal - Teacher - Student
- Assistant - Boss - Supervisor - Client - Customer - Class Mate

What is this? Has that Smith lost his mind? What does he want now?

!!!Birdathon!!!

Surely you know someone on the above list that you can approach, ask, cajole, arm-twist, threaten, or just plain beg, to pledge to Orange Audubon Society's Birdathon which will take place on Saturday, April 12, 2008. The Birdathon is a FUND RAISING program. It is a method which we use to raise money to balance our budget. Yes, there are those who form teams and go out and count bird species on that day so that we have a number to work with when tallying the pledge amounts. But, the REAL purpose of Birdathon is to raise money!

And the numbers at the top? What do they mean? This is an example of how easy it could be to raise the dollars that we need to make Birdathon a success.

Each year we have a handful of members who really work at raising money for Birdathon, and really do an outstanding job. These few bring \$100, \$200, \$300, and \$400 and \$500. But that is not enough! They need your help! We need more members to help with this endeavor.

We are a chapter of almost 1600 members. If just 100 of us got 2 people to pledge 10 cents a bird, and we count 140 species on that day, we would raise \$2800.00. Think of it!! How simple is that? Anybody can do that.

We just need 100 out of 1600 to step up and say "I will do my share". Will you do your share? Will you be one of the 100?

Dick Smith



Fort DeSoto Field Trip on April 25 - 26

The Fort DeSoto Park Field Trip to St. Petersburg is scheduled for April 25-26, 2008. Arrangements have been made for us to stay at the Continuing Education Center at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg on Friday night, April 25th. Details and directions will be sent to everyone who has made a reservation.

Anyone who would like to stay at the college but does not have a reservation should contact us immediately. We can probably get a room for you although we cannot guarantee it.

Each room has two double beds. The cost is \$90.00 for a room with one person or \$100.00 for a room with two people. If you have other accommodation in the area you may join us on Saturday morning for a cost of \$10.00 per person.

For more information, contact Ted or Gaye Smith at 407-249-3969 or email smith_ted_gaye@bellsouth.net.

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>

Education Action

A request for support for the production of a television and video documentary to be named: "Florida's Coastal Treasures: Canaveral National Seashore and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge," by a not-for-profit organization called Nature Wise, Inc., was received early this year from Tracy McCommon, a member of Orange Audubon. After considerable research and deliberation by an appointed committee the request was awarded a \$300 donation. Orange Audubon will be listed in the film credits as a sponsor. We felt this production which will air on public television and the Florida Knowledge Network (operated by the Florida Department of Education, reaching all of Florida's 3,400 schools) is timely in the light of the current vulnerability of Canaveral Seashore and wildlife in current NASA planning for future use of its land there. The documentary is consistent with the goals of our education program as it introduces the rich variety of natural life and various species that inhabit the area, some of which are threatened or endangered. Students will gain appreciation of the area and understanding for the need to protect it. Filming for the project is already underway, and the goal is to have the production completed in a year's time. Gaye Smith, Education Chair

Mosquito Creek Outdoors Donates Binoculars to OAS

Mosquito Creek Outdoors (www.mosquitocreek.com), a local "Outdoor Lifestyle Outfitter" located in Apopka, has generously donated 16 pairs of high quality binoculars to Orange Audubon Society (OAS). The binoculars were from Browning, Bushnell and Pentax and included 8x26, 8x32, 8x42 and 10x42 models. These will be very useful in OAS' efforts to educate and turn-on central Florida residents and visitors to the wonders of nature and the need to help preserve native habitats. The more conveniently and closely we can connect people to Nature, the better chance we have to maintain the quality of life here. If you are interested in participating in OAS events where binoculars would be useful but you do not own binoculars, be aware that binoculars may be available for your use. Also, when in Apopka please stop in at Mosquito Creek Outdoors, 170 S. Washington Avenue, and thank them for their charitable and appreciated contribution to OAS.

Bob Stamps

Butterfly Identification Course

Orange Audubon Society is sponsoring a field course on Butterfly Identification. The 7.5-hour course (3 sessions of 2½ hours each) is being offered on **Saturdays**, May 3, 10, 24 from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm. This course will involve field observation and identification of butterflies at Orlando Wetlands Park and Seminole Ranch Conservation Area in east Orange County. Instructors will be Orange Audubon members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim.

Fees for Audubon members (\$25) and non-members (\$40) are payable in advance by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society (OAS). Non-members may join the Audubon Society when they register to enjoy the reduced member rate. Pay \$45, which includes class registration (member price \$25) and an introductory, annual 3-way membership in Orange Audubon and National Audubon Societies and Audubon of Florida (promotional rate \$20).

The class is limited to the first twenty (20) to register and will be offered to the general public on March 21st. Reserve your spot by contacting Teresa Williams (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com); then mail **one check payable to Orange Audubon Society** along with your name, address, phone and e-mail information (if joining OAS, include your new member application form) to ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY. Note on check "Butterfly Field Course" and mail to: OAS Butterfly Course, PO Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. Registration deadline (receipt date) is April 25th. For a membership application or to learn more about Orange Audubon Society visit our official website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

Recommended field guide is *Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida* by Glassberg, Minno, and Calhoun, 2000, Oxford Univ. Also recommended are close-focusing (6 ft. or less) binoculars. Eagle Optics Ranger SRT 8x32 (www.eagleoptics.com/index.asp?pid=4699), for example, has a minimum focus of 3 feet. See www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/LivingBird/winter2005/Age_Binos.html for other binocular suggestions.

Meet at the Orlando Wetlands Park parking area on Wheeler Rd. in Christmas, FL at 2:30 pm. For more information call 407-851-5416.

Your Chapter Needs You

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) Board of Directors is a body of five officers — who are elected to serve a 2-year term and, except for the president who may only serve two consecutive terms, may be elected to serve any number of times — and 15 members who can be categorized in three groups of five, each serving a 3-year term. Each year, five director positions are open for election. This rotational method allows the Board to maintain some consistency and experience, while allowing for new faces and innovations to emerge.

This year five officers and five directors are to be elected April 17th at the OAS general meeting. The only requirement for serving on the OAS board is that you must be a member of OAS. We would hope that beyond that, you would have a commitment to helping OAS succeed and meet its goals.

We are offering a tentative slate, but nominations are open for any position — even those for whom a name is given. So far this is a very fluid process and since beginning to write this article two days ago, changes have been made. The implication is that you shouldn't hesitate to contact us if you have an interest in serving. The tentative slate is: President—**to be determined**, 1st Vice President—Bob Stamps, 2nd VP/Programs Chair—Deborah Green, Secretary—**to be determined**, Treasurer—Teresa Williams and Board Members—Susan Clary, Maggie DeVane, Danielle Ponsolle, Sharon Robbins, Bob Sanders and Pete Vogt.

We, obviously, need someone who will serve as President for the next two years. As was mentioned at the March OAS meeting, this is a perfect time to step into that position since there are so many active former presidents in the organization — six of whom were at that meeting. They would be willing to help you be successful at leading our chapter. If you wish to volunteer to help OAS by serving on the board, please contact one of the nominating committee members: Bob Sanders (procrow@bellsouth.net or 407-766-5490), Loretta Satterthwaite (LNS-OAS@att.net or 407-886-2925), or Dick Smith (RLS-OAS@earthlink.net or 407-257-7361)] soon. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Nominating Committee Chair

What Can You Do for Your Chapter?

Have fun while helping with one, two or all three of these upcoming membership outreach/fundraising events:

* **The Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival on Saturday, April 26th** from 8:00 to 7:00 (event hours are 9:00 to 6:00). It's a nice shady setting with a laid-back atmosphere and lots of music — usually a nice and relaxing event. Please contact Loretta (LNS-OAS@att.net or 407-886-2925) if you can help.

* **The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey Baby Owl Shower on Saturday, May 10th** from 9:00 to 4:00. If you haven't visited this premier rehabilitation center, this is your opportunity to support them while helping your chapter. Take time to tour the facility, see the 'babies' and adults and learn about the Center's vital rehabilitation work in our community and beyond. Please contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796) to volunteer.

* **Orange Audubon Society's general meeting and program (Butterflies of Northern Mexico) on May 17th** will be the date for our semi-annual nature merchandise sales event (this replaces sales at the June potluck/Chertok program). The 'shop' will be open prior to the general meeting and after the program for a brief while so that purchases may be made. We could use some volunteers to help with this event, including set-up and tear-down. If you can assist us, please contact Loretta or Teresa (please see above for contact information).

Bluegrass, baby owls, butterflies and OAS beckon you to call soon. Thanks.
Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams



Steven D'Amato

Chertok Nature Photo Contest Update

In 2004 Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), Orlando became co-sponsor of OAS' Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest by donating prizes to 1st through 3rd place winners. To honor excellent nature photography and promote the competition, CPH expanded its role in 2006 by selecting several winning images to be enlarged and featured in its retail location's front window and interior displays.

This year CPH has selected ten images from the 2007 winners to grace the front window, in rotation, now through May 17th, which are listed below by image title and locale; name of photographer and contest placement, 1st through 3rd place and Honorable Mention (HM):

Florida's Birds! category:

- * *Burrowing Owl at Sunrise*, Cape Coral, Rebecca Jackrel, San Francisco, HM
- * *Eagles Mating*, Orlando, Candy Perkinson, Orlando, HM
- * *Least Bittern on the Hunt*, Viera Wetlands, Jack Rogers, Oviedo, HM
- * *My, What Big Feet You Have!* (Purple Gallinule), Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Jamie (Jay) Paredes, Coconut Creek, HM
- * *Purple Gallinule*, Wakodahatchee Wetlands, Jake Paredes, Boca Raton, 1st Place
- * *Roseate Spoonbill*, Viera Wetlands, Diane Brannon, Leesburg, 2nd Place

No Birds Allowed! category:

- * *Double Trouble*, Emerald Marsh, Lake County, Peg Urban, Leesburg, HM
- * *Gator Tail Sandwich*, Gatorland, Paul Hennessy, Orlando, 2nd Place
- * *Ocean Spray*, Washington Oaks Gardens, Bruce Brough, Orange Park, 1st Place
- * *Zebra Swallowtails*, Orlando Wetlands Park, Randy Snyder, Orlando, HM

If you attended the 2007 awards presentation of all qualifying entries, you know that excellent photography did not stop with images selected by the judges to win. Attendees from CPH agreed. Therefore, to recognize the overall quality of the competition, promote nature photography and honor other exceptional photographer/participants, CPH has selected ten entries at large from the 2007 competition to be featured in rotation within the store:

- * *Blue Flag Iris*, Genius Reserve, Craig Mazer, Orlando
- * *Coot Terror*, Merritt Island, Joyce Stefancic, Clermont
- * *"Feed Me, Feed Me"*, St. Augustine, Joyce Stefancic, Clermont
- * *Forster's Tern / Splash*, Lake Apopka, Mike Brinkley, Apopka
- * *Great Egret "Water Walker"*, Lake Toho, Russell Holmes, St. Cloud
- * *Halloween Pennant*, Sanford, Jim Urbach, Sanford
- * *"Mother's Tears" Loggerhead Sea Turtle*, Melbourne Beach, Carol Hansen, Melbourne Beach
- * *Sandhill Crane Babies*, Palm Beach Gardens, Ken Benson, Alpharetta, GA
- * *White Water Lily*, Loxahatchee Preserve Nature Center, Kevin Barry, West Park
- * *Wood Duck*, Lakeland, Diane Brannon, Leesburg

Orange Audubon Society is grateful to all the photographers who support its annual contest/program by competing; to Colonial Photo & Hobby for its continued, expanding sponsorship; and to its contest committee for annually contributing their time to bring a quality program to you. Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Limited Edition Field Trip Report and Announcement

On March 15th, seven birders and I explored the Shilo Marsh area of Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. We enjoyed warm, breezy weather, interesting birds, and, except for a few fishermen, NO TRAFFIC! We identified sixty-seven species of birds including: White Pelican, Roseate Spoonbill, 9 duck species (with Green-winged Teal, N. Shoveler, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser), Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, and 13 shorebird species (with Black-necked Stilt).

I'll be leading the next Limited Edition Field Trip on April 12th (Birdathon day!) to the Canoe Creek Road area of Osceola County. This trip will include Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and Joe Overstreet Road. We may start a little earlier - 7:00 am - to improve our chances of seeing Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Bachman's Sparrow. Swallow-tailed and White-tailed Kites have also been seen in the area. Joe Overstreet Rd. is good for: Sandhill Crane, Whooping Crane, Crested Caracara, Bald Eagle, Snail Kite, Limpkin, Meadowlark, and Bobwhite.

As usual, Limited Edition Field Trips are limited to ten people and there is a \$10.00 fee to benefit Orange Audubon. Reservations can be made beginning April 7th. For details call me. Thank you.

Bob Sanders, 407-766-5490.

**ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Ted Smith (09) 407-249-3969
Randy Snyder (09) 407-851-5416
Bob Stamps (08) 407-886-2925
Pete Vogt (08) 407-855-4122

Calendar of Events

April 5, 2008 - Saturday

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

April 12, 2008 - Saturday

BIRDATHON 2008
Claire Hilliker 407-677-5374 /hilliker@iag.net

April 11-13, 2008 - Fri-Sun

FOS Spring Meeting, Crystal River FL
www.fosbirds.org

April 12, 2008 - Saturday

Limited Edition Field Trip - Canoe Creek Area
Bob Sanders 407-766-5490/procrow@bellsouth.net

April 12, 2008 - Saturday

Little Big Econ S.F. - Joshua Creek Track Bird Survey
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

April 17, 2008 - 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

April 17, 2008 - Thursday (receipt date)

Chertok photo contest optional pre-screening
deadline. Teresa Williams, 407-644-0796/
mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

April 19, 2008 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Lake Jesup Conservation Area
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

April 19, 2008 - Saturday

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

April 26, 2008 - Saturday

Seminole Ranch (North) Butterfly Survey.
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

May 3, 2008 - Saturday

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

May 10, 2008 - Saturday

Baby Owl Shower, 10:00am-2:00pm
Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland
407-644-0190

May 15, 2008 - 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

May 15, 2008 - Thursday (postmark date)

Chertok photo contest final deadline. Teresa Wil-
liams, 407-644-0796/mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

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