

OASis.

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



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In this Issue...

This Month's Program	p1
Field Trips	p1, 3
President's Message	p2
Conservation News	p2
Education News	p2
It's Fiesta Time!!!	р3
Help Wanted	р3
Oakland Heritage Festival	р3
$Thanks\ Genius\ Work day\ Volunteers\$	p4
Beginners Bird ID Class Returns	p4
Solar System Incentive Program	p4
2008-2009 Budget	p5
Holiday Shopping Opportunities	p5
CBOP Annual Owl Prowl	p5
In Memoriam	p5
Calendar of Events	p6



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: Octtober 15, 2008 - 7:00pm Bird migration hot spots by Larry Manfredi

We lucky Floridians have birds to see year round. We have our breeding birds, that may live here year round or go the tropics for the winter. And we have our winter residents, that have bred farther north. Our most exciting time of the year is fall or spring migration, when scores of additional species are just passing through. Many of us are curious as to how to find the best places to see these migrants. Larry Manfredi, a South Florida birder and bird tour leader, has become a popular trip leader at the Space Coast Birding Festival. Also an excellent photographer, Larry has agreed to present a slide show to Orange Audubon on the best places to see the birds. Visit http://southfloridabirding.com/ for information on his upcoming tours, and join us October 16 for a fascinating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

October Field Trip - Bill Frederick Park @ Turkey Lake

On Saturday, October 18th, OAS will visit Bill Frederick Park at Turkey Lake (Note location change from OAS brochure due to high water at Lake Jesup). This 300 acre city park is located at 3401 S. Hiawassee Rd. in SW Orlando. Turkey Lake is part of the Shingle Creek Sub-basin of the Kissimmee River Basin. While much of the park is developed for recreation, such as swimming and disc golf, it also has some interesting undeveloped sand pine scrub. We will hike about three miles. For more information on the property, see: http://www.cityoforlando.net/fpr/net/

t_ParkRec.aspx?Park=336

Meet at 8:15 am in the parking lot of the Carter Center inside Bill Frederick Park. (The park does not open until 8 am). Bring \$2/person park entry fee, drink, sun protection, insect protection, birding gear, and lunch (for after the hike). Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, call us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder Field Trip Committee

September Field Trip Report

Sixteen OAS birders attended the OAS trip to Lake Lotus Park in Altamonte Springs on September 20th. Twenty-two bird species were observed including Great Blue Heron, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Carolina Wren, Northern Parula, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, and Common Yellowthroat. Bird species and numbers were counted, recorded and submitted for inclusion in the North American Migration Count. Other vertebrates included Peninsular Cooter, American Alligator and East-

MARY KEIM, FIELD TRIP CHAIR ern Gray Squirrel.

Six species of adult butterflies were seen including Palamedes Swallowtail, Zebra Heliconian and Viceroy, as well as Monarch caterpillars in the parks butterfly garden. Other invertbrates noted were Island Apple Snail (exotic), Golden Silk Spider, and Spiny-bellied Spider. Plants included Bald Cypress, Red Maple, Black Gum, Coastalplain Willow, Groundnut, plus, unfortunately, some invasive exotics such as Skunk Vine and Chinese Tallow.

Going, Going, Guano ...Gone? BOB STAMPS, PRESIDENT

Bird poop, also known as guano, was so important as a fertilizer that in the 1850s the United States passed the Guano Islands Act, which authorized U.S. citizens to take peaceable possession—for the U.S.—of islands, rock or keys that had deposits of guano. Around 60 islands were acquired, mostly in the Caribbean and Pacific. From 1840 to 1880, Peru exported about 40,000,000,000 pounds of guano valued at around \$2 billion. The guano was freely deposited on 20+ islands off the Peruvian coast by an estimated 60 million birds, primarily Peruvian Boobies, Guanay Cormo-

rants and Peruvian Pelicans. Guano was so important to the economy of Peru, and the guano reserves that had been deposited over thousands of years were so depleted, that their government created the Guano Administration Company in 1908, nationalized the islands, and posted armed guards on each island to protect the birds. However, a threat to the birds that armed guards could not control arose in the 1950s—industrial fishing. The fishing boats catch the Peruvian anchoveta (a member of the anchovy family) and process them into fish meal for use in animal feed to produce meat for human

consumption. Unfortunately, anchoveta are the main food of the birds producing the guano. This competition for food and El Niño events have drastically reduced bird populations down to around 4 million. Unless measures are put into place to prevent overfishing, both the anchoveta and the birds could disappear— and along with them, the guano. (Perhaps the recent interest in organic food production and the resultant need for organic fertilizer will once again elevate the value of guano to a level where it will be worth more than harvesting fish to feed to cattle.)

Conservation News - Econlockhatchee River Under Siege Sharon Robbins, Conservation Chair

In a sharp reversal from the panel's June rejection, an Orange County advisory panel voted 6-2 on September 25th in favor of nearly 10,000 new homes near the fragile Econlockhatchee River. The Land Use change being requested by the owner is from Rural to Planned Development-Urban Community Village (Innovation Way) & Urban Service Area Expansion. Only a mere 23% of the property is in the Innovation Way Corridor.

The Econlockhatchee River System is one of the "Outstanding Florida Waters" designated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as worthy of special protection because of their natural attributes. Outstanding Florida Waters have special restrictions on any new activities that would lower water quality or otherwise degrade the body of water. In light of the fact that the property in question is lo-

cated entirely within the Econlockhatchee River Protection Area, this decision makes no logical sense and if approved would be unconscionable.

There is a five (5) acre island in the center of Lake Mary Jane that has been designated as an Important Bird Area by Audubon of Florida and is known as the Lake Mary Jane-Upper Econ Mosaic. It serves as a rookery for the endangered Wood Stork as well as a myriad of other wading birds. These birds raise their young and feed in the Crosby Island Marsh, the Econ Mosaic and the other natural low land areas surrounding the Econ River to the north.

There is also a wildlife corridor that extends from Lake Okeechobee all the way up to the Hal Scott Preserve and follows the Econ River north. It has been documented that this corridor is frequented by Florida Black Bear, Panthers, Bobcats, Wild Turkey,

Swallow-tailed Kites, the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker and many more animals. The area is so dense and rural no one really knows exactly what else may be there. This property sits directly south of the Hal Scott Preserve and would, therefore, block the Wildlife Corridor, which has been established at considerable cost.

THEREFORE, THIS IS A CALL TO ACTION! THE ISSUE WILL GO BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH IN DOWNTOWN ORLANDO. WE WILL NEED AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TO ATTEND THIS HEARING AND OPPOSE THIS LAND USE CHANGE. THE FUTURE OF THE ECON MAY DEPEND ON IT. Please feel free to contact me, Sharon Robbins @ 407-376-4930 should you have any questions.

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

Education News Gaye Smith, Education Chair

Teachers who used Audubon Adventures last year were contacted at the beginning of the school year about teaching the new studies for the current academic year. Invitations were sent to 17 teachers, and 13 requested the new material. In addition, four teachers who heard about the Audubon studies from colleagues asked to participate in the program. Orders for 17 Adventure kits have been sent in.

We also offered to send speakers to classrooms to talk about the local environment and wildlife relative to what the children have been studying. Four schools have requested speakers. Peggy Lantz has graciously consented to visiting classrooms. She has extensive experience in classroom work and with Audubon. She is currently serving as docent at the Oakland Nature Preserve, among other nature endeavors. In addition we have had others express interest if schedules permit. The classroom contact gives us a good opportunity to work with children and teachers and helps us assess how effective Audubon Adventures is in exciting students about wildlife and the environment. E mail contact also enables teachers to ask questions about local resources that might be available for their class rooms or schools. Orange Audubon has many programs and special events that can add greatly to the classroom studies the Adventures kit provides. We will be sharing at least some of these resources with the teachers.

IT'S FIESTA TIME!!

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual participation in the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park occurs on Nov 1st and 2nd, with preparatory set-up on Friday evening Oct 31st starting at approximately 5:00pm. Friday evening will consist of helping to set up the tent, tables, etc. Saturday and Sunday (~8:00–6:00 each day) mainly consists of setting up and taking down of merchandise and, the fun part — helping to sell merchandise and talking to people about OAS. Usually, it is easiest to stay for 3–4 hours, but if you only have two hours to volunteer, please do so. We need 3 or 4 people for each of the days, just for our sales activities. If you volunteer early, you can have your choice of day and time of day. If by some extraordinary luck, we were to have enough volunteers or volunteers who *only* wish to work with children OAS could, once again, offer our "kids' art" table; however, unless we have enough volunteers, we can not offer this fun activity.

This is OAS' biggest outreach event directed beyond our membership and we **really** do need your help. Please contact us to volunteer or if you have questions [LNS-oas@att.net or 407-886-2925 (eve) or mwilliam@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796 (eve)]. Please call soon and then mark your calendar and commit to help OAS meet our financial goals and reach out for new members. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

Highlights of the First Limited Edition Field Trip

The first Limited Edition Field Trip of our new season was held on September 13th to the Orlando Wetlands Park. Nine birders took advantage of the great weather and driving access into the park. Forty-seven species of birds were seen including: Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Roseate Spoonbill, Swallow-tailed Kite (2), Bald Eagle (1), Purple Gallinule, and Black-necked Stilt.

The next Limited Edition Field Trip (to Smyrna Dunes Park) is scheduled for December 13th. Reservations will be taken beginning December 7th. For more information (or a complete bird list from Orlando Wetlands Park) contact Bob Sanders, 407-766-5490, procrow@bellsouth.net.

Don't Forget to Vote on November 4th

Upcoming Bird of Prey ID ClassThe first Bird of Prey ID Class of the new

The first Bird of Prey ID Class of the new season is scheduled for October 11th. As in other years, we'll meet between 7:30 and 8:00am at the Lust Road gate, Lake Apopka Restoration Area. For directions and details contact Bob Sanders, 407-766-5490, procrow@bellsouth.net.

§§§ Help Wanted §§§

Please call (407) 886-2925 or email LNS-oas@att.net in response to any of the following positions.

Web Designer – Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is planning to re-design its website in the next few months. Are you computer savvy? Do you have computer web page design experience? Would you like to help OAS 'put on a new face'? If you have the necessary skills to design the website (images will be made available to you for use on the page), please contact us as soon as possible.

Hospitality Personnel – Could you devote 1 or 2 hours a month (in addition to the meeting night) to assist OAS with its hospitality for its meeting attendees? Duties consist of procuring necessary supplies before each meeting (submit receipts for reimbursement), calling those who have signed up to bring refreshments a few days before the meeting as a reminder, and attending to the hospitality table at the meeting. Since 'hospitality' needs to be set-up during the time the board meeting is in session, this position requires non-board members. This could be a pleasurable way to become more involved with your local Audubon chapter and to get to know more of its members. Perhaps you and a friend could share these responsibilities? We'd appreciate your call or email.

Board Members – Do you have a desire to become more involved with the local chapter? Although you may serve on any committee without being a member of the board (and we hope you will consider doing so by simply contacting the committee chair listed on the annual brochure), some individuals really enjoy the opportunity to work with like-minded individuals towards the common goal of making our chapter (Orange Audubon Society) the best it can be — whether it be regarding conservation, nature education, finances, or whatever. If you would be willing to serve on the OAS Board of Directors, please contact us with questions or to volunteer. Thanks.

Oakland Heritage Festival

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 25th for fun, food and entertainment at the Annual Oakland Heritage Festival, which will be held 'under the Oaks' at Speer Park in Oakland.

Besides a great band, barbeque and a variety of vendors, free tours of historic Oakland and the Oakland Nature Preserve will be available.

Proceeds from the Festival support the Oakland Nature Preserve, which is emerging as a major facility for environmental restoration, preservation and education in West Orange County.

Vendors are welcomed and encouraged to contact John Deam or Nancy Deam at ohf2008@oaklandnaturepreserve.org or 407-654-2723.

Persons wishing to learn more about Oakland Nature Preserve may view the website at oaklandnaturepreserve.org.

Thanks, Genius Workday Volunteers!

OAS thanks its volunteers who helped with the September 28th workday at Genius Drive Nature Preserve, Winter Park: Chris Gandy, Ilker Gumus, Cyndi and Michael Kay, June Long, Stacey Matrazzo, Craig Mazer, Ryan Ruddy, Lee Suberman, Jackie and Rod Sward and Ben Whatlew. Working along-side Rollins College faculty and students, they triumphed (if only for the moment) over exotic weeds, then mulched the restored cedar grove along Lake Mizell. To join the OAS/Genius ecological restoration work team, contact me: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796; and check the OASis for workday updates.

Teresa Williams, Genius Volunteer Coordinator



They're Back—Beginner's Bird ID Classes Return

OAS' popular Beginner's Bird Watching Classes (BBWC) for novice and intermediate birders will be offered this fall 2008 and spring 2009 to coincide with bird migrations. Fall 2008 course includes 2 classroom sessions November 1st and 8th, Rollins College (with mini-field trips to nearby sites); and 1 field session on November 15th; time for all sessions is 8:30am-12:30pm. Field trip locales will be announced at the start of class. Spring 2009 course format will be structured similarly; dates/locales TBA.

Class instructor Dr. Leesa Sward is a Biology professor with Valencia Community College (VCC), Winter Park; past vice president of OAS; and for the past 16 years has been an avid birder. Dr. Sward developed *Florida Birds*, a course she has taught four years for VCC and recently adapted for OAS' BBWC to suit your needs! The course will increase your knowledge and awareness of North American bird species; teach bird ID techniques, basic birding principles, bird topography and anatomy; provide binocular basics and tips on using field guides and checklists; and more.

Registration fees for Audubon members (\$25) and non-members (\$40) are payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society and include handout materials and parking at Rollins College. Non-members who join the Audubon Society when they register get a super sweet deal! Pay \$45 (seniors 62+ and full-time students pay \$40), which includes BBWC registration (member price \$25) and an introductory membership for annual 3-way membership in Orange Audubon and National Audubon Societies and Audubon of Florida [\$20 promotional rate (\$15 for seniors/students)]. For a membership application or to learn more about Orange Audubon Society visit our official website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

Space is limited. Contact Teresa Williams to reserve your spot (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 (and, if joining OAS, include your new member application form) to: OAS/Attn: BBWC, PO Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. For additional class information, call Leesa Sward (407-677-5374 or LSward@hotmail.com). To enhance your skills and enjoyment of the fast-growing 'sport' of birding, register soon. You know what they say about the early bird. Teresa Williams, Treasurer

Solar Water Heater System Incentive Program

The Orange County Environmental Protection Division is hosting two free workshops to show why going solar is a smart choice for Florida residents and business owners. Take advantage of financial incentives for solar water heaters from Orange County, OUC and Progress Energy.

Topics covered in all workshops include: Energy Efficiency, Solar Hot Water Systems, Financial Incentives, and the Orange County Incentive Application Process. All registered attendees will be eligible for door prizes. Families are welcome! Space is limited, so be sure to reserve your space early! Registration is required. Register via e-mail at OrangeToGreen@ocfl.net or by calling 407-836-1400. Visit www.ocfl.net/OrangeToGreen for more information.

Dates / Locations:

9/27/2008 9-11 AM Winter Garden City Hall, 300 W Plant Street, Winter Garden, 34787

10/11/2008 9-11 AM Orange County Extension Education Center, 6021 S Conway Road, Orlando, 32818

2008-2009 Budget

OAS' board of directors approved the following 2008-2009 budget, which is consistent with the organization's strategic financial goal of increasing restricted funds for a nature education center. The Chertok endowment is also expected to increase, while a portion of restricted funds designated for education (Audubon Adventures) and Holiday Highlands will be utilized during FY09. A corresponding decrease in unrestricted operating funds is expected. While inconsistent with OAS' strategic goal of achieving a balanced unrestricted operating budget, the finance committee and board deemed the organization's overall break-even budget realistic given the current economic climate.

Requests for additional financial information should be directed to Teresa Williams, Treasurer: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Orange Audubon Society Budget For the Year Ending June	
Income:	
Contributions	\$ 10.006
Fund raising/outreach events	4.015
Investment earnings (net)	2,250
Membership dues	3,150
Educational classes and programs	3,750
Other fund raising	1,650
Total income	24,821
I otal income	24,821
Expenditures:	
Conservation	1,400
Education programs	6,115
Fund raising/outreach events	2,500
Membership	325
Newsletters and annual brochure	7,749
Operating - insurance	2,500
Operating - other	2,807
Other fund raising	425
Sanctuary maintenance	1,000
Total expenditures	24,821
Change in net assets (see analysis)	\$ -
Analysis of Change in Net As	ssets
Increases in restricted funds:	
CNPC endowment	\$ 1,975
Nature education center	1,500
Decreases in restricted funds:	
Education (Audubon Adventures)	(694)
Holiday Highlands	(1,000)
Decrease in unrestricted funds	(1,781)

Holiday Shopping Opportunities at OAS November Meeting

Save some of your holiday shopping for November 20th when Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will provide **nature-oriented merchandise** (adult and youth t-shirts, nest boxes, tote bags, signs, mugs and books) for your holiday shopping needs at its meeting at Harry P. Leu Gardens (sorry, no plastic — cash or checks only). If you wish to purchase items, please try to arrive about 6:30 so you don't miss any of the exciting program on Scrub Jays. If you can help at our merchandise tables, please contact Loretta [LNS-OAS@att.net or 407-886-2925 (eve)] or Teresa [mwilliam@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796 (eve)] to volunteer.

Artistically designed **glass bead jewelry from the Czech Republic** will also be available courtesy of member Carol Wilson, whose company imports from the glass-making region of northern Bohemia. For centuries the Czechs have made artistic glass prized around the world for its beauty. Glass bead jewelry is stylish, versatile, affordable, *and* 20% of proceeds on the 20th will be donated to Orange Audubon!

If you can't wait until the 20th to do your 'nature' shopping, come to OAS' sales booth at Lake Eola on Nov. 1st or 2nd (see article in this newsletter).

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

Don't Forget to Vote on November 4th



October 31 - Annual Owl Prowl 5pm to 7pm

Bring the whole family out to enjoy games, activities, live owl encounters and more at our annual Owl Prowl. Costumes are encouraged! Learn about the night time lives of these amazing birds of prey. Admission is free; donations accepted.

Losses in the Audubon Family

It is with deep regret that we inform you of two September deaths related to our 'Audubon' family. Many of you will have heard about these already, but in case you haven't, we wanted to let you know.

Dominic Pritchard — 33-year old son of Dr. Peter Pritchard, who was Florida Audubon Society's Director of Wildlife for nearly 20 years and is internationally known for his turtle conservation work, and his wife Sibille — died on September 15th. A service for Dominic was held at Knowles Memorial Chapel on the Rollins campus on September 22nd.

Ann Young, who had devoted decades of her life to rehabilitating song birds, passed away on August 31st. There was a memorial service celebrating her life at Harry P. Leu Gardens on September 29th.

There were informative articles in the *Orlando Sentinel* about both and you can probably search Sentinel archives for them. For personal contact information for either family, please call Bob or Loretta at 407-886-2925 or LNS-oas@att.net.

ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009**

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Bob Stamps (10)	407-886-2925
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Danielle Ponsolle (11)	
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Tom Rodriguez (09)	
Bob Sanders (11)	407-766-5490
Ayme Smith (10)	407-425-7504
Gaye Smith (09)	407-249-3969
Ted Smith (09)	407-249-3969
Randy Snyder (09)	407-851-5416
Pete Vogt (11)	

Calendar of Events

October 4, 2008 - Saturday

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

October 11, 2008 - Saturday

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

October 13, 2008 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Class #1 - LARA Bob Sanders 407-766-5490

October 16, 2008 - Thursday General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens. OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome. Bob Stamps 407-886-2925

October 18, 2008 - Saturday OAS Field Trip - Bill Frederick Park Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

October 18, 2008 - Saturday Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am. Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193 dex@dexwine.com

October 25, 2008 - Saturday

Lower Wekiva State Reserve Butterfly Survey. Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416 October 25, 2008 - Saturday

Oakland Heritage Festival http://oaklandnaturepreserve.org

November 8, 2008 - Saturday

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

November 20, 2008 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens. OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome. Bob Stamps 407-886-2925

November 15, 2008 - Saturday Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am. Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193 dex@dexwine.com

November 22, 2008 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Econ River Wilderness Area Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

November 29, 2008 - Saturday

Lower Wekiva State Reserve Butterfly Survey. Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

January 3, 2009 - Saturday Quarterly LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon. Pam Bowen 386-329-4870/pbowen@sjrwmd.com

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