



"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis

Orange Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida



Vol. 44

April 2009

Issue No. 8

PEREGRINATIONS: With Bob Sanders Birdathon 2009 is coming FAST!

April 11th is the BIG DAY! By now I'll assume you all know what it is - an important, annual Fund-raising event. I've said before that we need at least 500 of our members to get at least one pledge of at least \$.10 per species but I'm sure many of you can do much more than that. I have faith! I know you can do it!

But what about the birds? I believe that, with all our skillful and avid birders, we can find 200 species. So I want you all to think about and plan your birding activities for that day. Gallus Quigley, for example, is planning a Lake County BIG DAY! He's confident that he can find 100 species. He's a birding machine!

But there are other areas and habitats that need to be covered. I'll be in the Canoe Creek Road area of Osceola County with my Limited Edition Field Trip crew. Other areas I would like to see birded are: The east coast including such places as Ponce Inlet, Smyrna Dunes Park, Merritt Island NWR, Viera Wetlands, etc. Also, we need people to cover Orlando Wetlands Park, Mead Gardens, Lake Lotus Park, the Wekiva Basin, Split Oak Preserve, Hal Scott, and Gulf coast locations including Honeymoon Island and Fort De Soto. Don Nickerson is planning on birding the Lake Apopka Restoration Area but may need some assistance. Let me know if you're interested in helping there.

Of course, many of you have your own favorite places, perhaps even your back yard, feeder or neighborhood - all day or for just a short time. Redundancy is encouraged. If twenty people or teams go to Merritt Island, for example, that's just fine. **JUST GO BIRDING AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU FIND! Our goal this year is to identify 200 species and raise \$10,000.00!**

For more information, answers to your questions, to report your plans, etc., contact either me, procrow@bellsouth.net or Tom Rodriguez, tom@oaklandnaturepreserve.org.

Monthly Program, April 16, 2009, 7 p.m.

Bears, Coyotes and Other Local Wildlife

by Tom Shupe

Florida black bears move from the Ocala National Forest into the Wekiva River Basin. How are they doing with the buildup of roads? The Eastern coyote is becoming a common occurrence in Florida's wild landscapes. What is the effect of these immigrants on populations of other species? Our April speaker is

Tom Shupe, a wildlife biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Foundation, based in the Wekiva Basin. He will give us updates on these and other predatory animals in our area.

Bring a child along on April 16, if possible, and join us for a fascinating program.



Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary. Programs are held in the Camellia Room of Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando (for directions call 407-246-2620).

Deborah Green, Vice President

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (Sept. - June) at 7 pm in the Camelia Room at:

Harry P. Leu Garden
1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803-1537

For directions call: 407-246-2620

www.orangeaudubonfl.org

SJRWMD and Governor Crist

Governor Crist is currently considering candidates for two at-large seats on the board of the St. Johns River Water Management District. There are four 'green' candidates — Jay Exum, former president of Friends of the Wekiva River and environmental consultant from Seminole County; Richard Hamann, Assistant Director of the Center for Governmental Responsibility at the College of Law at the University of Florida and the former president of Florida Defenders of the Environment; Ken LaRoe, former lawyer and founder of the First Green Bank in Lake County and current chair of the Lake Co. Public Land Acquisition Advisory Committee; and Bill McQuilkin, retired Eastman Kodak executive, organizer of a land trust for Jacksonville/St.

Augustine area and former member of both the National Audubon and Audubon of Florida Boards of Directors. All are being considered (along with others who are not so 'green').

Letters to the governor in support of any candidate should be sent to: Office of Governor Charlie Crist, State of Florida, The Capitol, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001 and copied to: Governor's Appointments Office, The Capitol Building, 7th Floor, Suite 705, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001 and Ms. Diana Sawaya-Crane, Deputy Director of Cabinet Affairs, Office of Cabinet Affairs, PL-01, The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050. These appointments could be made at any time, so write today!

Loretta Satterthwaite, RCC

These Lands are Your Lands — Maybe!

Draft budgets have been released by the Florida Senate General Government Appropriations committee and their counterpart, the House Natural Resource Appropriations committee. In both budgets, land management and acquisition have been hit hard. Neither budget funded Florida Forever (FY 09–10) while the Governor has designated \$12 million (M) to issue \$300 M in bonds; neither budget funded Everglades Restoration (Governor recommended \$75 M); all recommend cuts in the Non-Game Wildlife Program (ranging from \$100 thousand [K] to \$350 K from monies used for critical research about declining species), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) land management (ranging from \$2 M to \$4 M used for prescribed burns and restoration activities), and FWC Invasive Plant Management Program (ranging from \$4.4 M to \$12.7 M causing

even further delays in the battle against exotic invasives). The Senate version recommends reversion of Egmont Key and two other parks to Federal management (no onsite management) closing five (5) positions and saving \$361 K, but leaving Egmont's Important Bird Area exposed to rampant, devastating disturbances. All recommend cutting positions of other Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) land managers and regulators, ranging from one to more than 76 positions (8 from Coastal Aquatic Management Areas, 8 from greenways and trails, 10 from state parks and 50+ from district regulatory offices that are responsible for permit reviews).

There will be negotiations to reconcile the two budgets before the final votes, so please contact your senator and representative to encourage them to support natural resources appropriations and to urge them to find new

revenue sources to ensure that dramatic cuts don't jeopardize these sensitive public trust resources.

Loretta Satterthwaite-
Conservation Committee

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>

April Field Trip – Seminole State Forest

On Saturday, April 18th, OAS will visit the south end of Seminole State Forest west of Sanford. This 25,812 acre property is located in Lake County. A portion is also called Seminole Forest Wildlife Management Area. We will hike about four (4) miles. For more information about the property (including a bird checklist) see: http://www.fl-dof.com/state_forests/seminole.html.

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Bear Pond (south entrance) parking lot of Seminole State Forest. Bear Pond is just north of SR 46, about 5 miles west of I-4 (roughly 1/2 mile west of the Wekiva River). Bring \$2/person entrance fee, 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

March Field Trip Report

Twelve birders, including five first-timers, hiked through dried marsh and Sabal Palm Hammock at Lake Jesup Wilderness Area on March 20th. The group observed at least 43 bird species including Mottled Duck, American White Pelican, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Glossy Ibis, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black-necked Stilt, Wilson's Snipe, Forster's Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Four butterfly species were seen: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Cloudless Sulphur, Little Yellow, and Red Admiral. Flowers in bloom included Poison Ivy, Vetch, and Butterweed. We also noted the lichen line about a meter above the ground, seeing evidence of Tropical Storm Fay from last August.

Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair

Conservation News - Innovation Way Environmental Impact Update

On March 25th there was a "Community Meeting" of the Environmental Protection Commission regarding the Future Land Use Elements with respect to the Innovation Way project which will link UCF to the Medical schools south of the Lake Nona. An Environmental Land Stewardship Program is being developed which will determine the future of the area with respect to preservation of species & conservation of our existing wildlife corridors.

From an environmental viewpoint, concerns are many as the proposed policies contain language that is very vague and leaves much to individual interpretation and possible adverse environmental modifications as time goes by. For example, "if applicable", "may" and "shall consider" are used in places where definitive words such as "will", "shall" or even "be required" should be used. If you would like to read the proposed policies in their entirety just visit the following website:

<http://www.orangecountyfl.net/cms/DEPT/CEsrvc/epd/CitizenInvolvement/EnvironmentalProtectionCommission.htm>

Many of you know that wildlife corridors link at least two (2) significant habitat areas. Within the Innovation Way project is a major part of the corridor that begins south near Lake Okeechobee runs north through Split Oak Mitigation area, continues through Moss Park, privately held ranch lands, conservation areas, runs along the Econ River & Turkey Creek, crosses 528 and then on to the Hal Scott Preserve north to the St. Johns area. This area is utilized by Florida Black Bear, Florida Panther, Bobcats and many other small animals & birds. Manmade barriers guiding animals to wildlife crossings either elevated or tunnels have been proven to significantly reduce mortality rates in areas where roads are a necessity and must be part of this development.

Just to the south of the Innovation Way project is an area which has been designated by Audubon Of Florida as The Lake Mary Jane-Upper Econ Mosaic Important Bird Area (IBA) due to the large numbers of endangered Wood Storks that utilize the Bird Island in the Lake as a rookery. These Storks along with a myriad of other wading birds utilize the Econ River mosaic, Crosby Island Marsh and other surrounding wetlands to feed & nourish their young.

In addition to the wetlands, there are a number of other animals, such as the gopher tortoise, box turtles and a variety of snakes, rodents, many varieties of woodpeckers, sand hill cranes, wild turkeys and other birds that make their home in the dry upland areas which are also threatened by this development.

There will be formal votes on the final program in the future months by the LPA (Local Planning Agency) and then by the BCC (Board of County Commissioners). Please know that all members of the public are invited to attend these meetings and also register to speak your mind if you so desire. YOU can make a difference!

Sharon Robbins - Conservation Chair

2008 Photo Contest Images Displayed and Published

Congratulations, photographers whose entries or winning images from Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2008 Chertok Nature Photography Contest were selected by Colonial Photo & Hobby and/or the *Florida Naturalist* magazine for special recognition.

Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL, contest co-sponsor since 2004, has selected fifteen images for enlargement and prominent in-store display through the end of May. *Florida Naturalist* (FN) magazine, published by Audubon of Florida and circulated to approximately 30,000 members and friends, has selected five images for inclusion in its spring 2009 issue. CPH and FN selections are listed below in alphabetical order by photographer, including the image title and contest award [1st, 2nd or 3rd Place or Honorable Mention (HM)] if applicable.

On display at Colonial Photo & Hobby:

Robert J. Amoruso (Orlando), *Osprey Banking*, HM
Christy Baldwin (Tallahassee), *Fungi Family*
Kevin Barry (West Park), *Great Egret with Frog*, HM and *Dragonfly at Sunrise*, HM
Mike Brinkley (Apopka), *Black-necked Stilt*, HM and *White-tailed Deer*, 3rd Place

Charlie Corbeil (Melbourne), *Sandhill Crane—Mother's Comfort*, HM
Marianne DiAntonio (Ocoee), *Heat of the Moment*
Charles W George, MD (Orlando), *Osprey*
Paul Rebmann (Ormond Beach), *Homer & Bart—Black Skimmers*, HM
Jack Rogers (Oviedo), *Foggy Morning Sunrise*, HM
Paul Williams (Hudson), *Chilly Morning* HM
Published in *Florida Naturalist* magazine spring 2009 issue:

Tony Blankenship (Maitland), *Moss & Oak*, HM
Alison Thomas (Deltona), *Sunrise Slice*, 2nd Place
On display at CPH and published in FN magazine spring 2009:

Charlie Corbeil (Melbourne), *Pig Frog*, HM
Jaime (Jay) Paredes (Coconut Creek), *The Chase—Common Moorhens*, 1st Place
Jim Urbach (Sanford), *Sandhill Cranes & Chicks*, 2nd Place

Thank you, Colonial Photo & Hobby and *Florida Naturalist* magazine for honoring excellence in nature photography. Thank you, *all photographers* for supporting OAS through your participation in the annual contest. All winning images from the 2006 through 2008 contests can be admired on the World Wide Web: www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

Teresa Williams, Chair

Board Member Elections This Month

April is the official annual meeting of members and, as such, we will hold this year's election at the April 16th meeting. Each year, after serving a 3-year term, five of the non-officer board members rotate off the board and elections are held for Directors to fill their positions. Directors whose terms expire in June 2009 are Mary Keim, Tom Rodriguez, Gaye Smith, Ted Smith and Randy Snyder.

The nominating committee — Tom Rodriguez, Chr., Bob Sanders, Dick Smith and Gallus Quigley — has announced a slate of candidates for Directors whose terms will expire in June 2012. The following OAS members have come forth to accept the challenge: **Mike Godwin**, owner of Gatorland; **Steve Graves**, a former-Marine, central Florida lawyer for 17 years and part of the Eagle Watch Program; **Cynthia Gray**, cast member at WDW, M.S.

in Interactive Telecommunications and member of the Society of Women Engineers; **Gallus Quigley**, Park Ranger, Lake County; and **Tom Rodriguez**, Executive Director of Oakland Nature Preserve.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor prior to the election, so if you wish to become more involved, please don't hesitate. Only requirements are that you be a current member of OAS and that you are willing to work towards the goals of OAS.
Contact Tom (tom@oaklandnaturepreserve.org 407/905-0054) for details or to make nominations.

Limited Edition Field Trip Announcement & Report

The next LE-FT is April 11th (also BIRDATHON DAY). We will explore the **Canoe Creek Road area of Osceola County**, including the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Joe Overstreet Rd., and Joe Overstreet Landing. This is one of

my favorite areas for birding. It's scenically beautiful - a bit of "Old Florida" with lots of interesting birds and wildlife. Possible bird species: Swallow-tailed, White-tailed, and Snail Kites; Red-cockaded Woodpecker; Bachman's and Grasshopper Sparrow; Crested Caracara; and Burrowing Owl.

Remember, LE-FTs are limited to ten people, (\$10.00 members, \$15.00 non-members), and reservations are required. Reservations will be taken starting on April 5th.

For the March LE-FT, we visited the **Orlando Wetlands Park**. Our original destination, Shilo Marsh Rd., Merritt Island NWR, was unavailable due to the shuttle launch. However, OWP proved to be a productive alternative. Sixty-four bird species were tallied including: Am. Bittern, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Bald Eagle (with 2 fully fledged chicks on the nest), Crested Caracara, Sora, Purple Gallinule, and Limpkin.

We'll Get by With a Little Help from Our Friends

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) fundraising/outreach endeavors (merchandise sales) will provide two more opportunities for you to help your chapter before its fiscal year ends in June. Please consider spending some time with other OAS members at these community events.

On Saturday **April 25th**, under magnificent moss-draped oak trees at Orange County's Magnolia Park on the east shore of Lake Apopka, you can relax to the sounds of dulcimers and bluegrass music at the 10th Annual Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival. Event hours are 10:00 AM–6:00 PM; please contact Loretta (LNS-OAS@att.net; 407/886-2925) for details or to volunteer. Admission is \$2 for adults; children free. Bring your lawn chairs, stop by to say 'Hello', buy your OAS nature t-shirt, nest box, signs, etc., or stay to help. You will tap your feet with enjoyment.

On Saturday, May 9th at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (CBOP) in Maitland, OAS will again participate at the Baby Owl Shower, an annual fundraiser/support event for the CBOP. Event hours are 10:00 AM–2:00 PM; please contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com; 407/644-0796) for details or to volunteer. Admission to the CBOP that day is free with a "baby gift" that is used in caring for these young raptors. [There are always numerous items on their 'wish list', but some examples of 'baby' gifts are: multi-packs of paper towels, cotton balls, Gerber or Beechnut chicken or turkey baby food (meat only), flat sheets (king size), pet carriers (fiberglass) and cash donations]. For a complete wish list, contact The Audubon Center for Birds of Prey at www.audubonofflorida.org.

Orange Audubon Offers Butterfly ID Class

Orange Audubon Society is offering a Butterfly Identification class on Saturdays, April 4, 11 and 18 from 2:30 PM to 5:00 PM. Class involves lectures, field observation and identification of butterflies at Orlando Wetlands Park and Seminole Ranch Conservation Area, in east Orange County. Instructors are OAS members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim. For information, recommended field guides & binoculars, contact Randy: 407-851-5416. Cost is \$25 for Audubon members and \$40 for non-members. Non-members who join when they register receive the member discount rate. To register, contact Teresa: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796. Class is limited to 15 participants.

Ft. DeSoto Field Trip

Annual field trip to Ft. DeSoto, St. Petersburg, is April 24, 2009. Rooms are reserved at the Continuing Education Center at Eckerd College for Friday night, \$80 per room + \$10 for additional person in room. If attending during the day only, fee is only \$10. Sign up sheet at the meeting, or call Ted or Gaye Smith at 407-249-3969 or smith_ted_gaye@bellsouth.net.

Subject Matters in 2009 Photo Contest

Non-native species need not say "cheese"! Only images of Florida native species are allowed in Orange Audubon Society's 2009 (21st Annual) Chertok Nature Photography Contest. A species is considered native to Florida if its natural range included Florida at the time of European contact or if the species arrived and established itself in this state unaided by man.

There are two categories. Entries in the **Florida Vertebrates and/or Scenics** category can include native vertebrates or scenics or both. Vertebrates are animals with a backbone, which include cyclostomes, bony fish, sharks and rays, amphibians, reptiles, mammals and birds. Learn more about vertebrates online: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vertebrates>. Scenics (a/k/a landscapes) are expanses of natural scenery visible in a single view, like a sunrise, sunset, dry mudflat or marshland.

Entries in the **Florida Invertebrates and/or Wildflowers** category can include native invertebrates or wildflowers or both. Invertebrates are animals without backbones. Most

animals are invertebrates, which comprise about 97 percent of the world's animals and include corals, jellyfish, snails, mollusks, starfish, sea urchins, crabs, spiders, butterflies, dragonflies and worms (Eee-u!) to name a few. Learn more about invertebrates online: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Invertebrate>. Florida wildflowers are flowering plants that grow in a natural, uncultivated state, like Coreopsis growing at the edge of a pine forest.

Photography is an excellent reason to be outdoors enjoying the real Florida and the contest is an excellent way to enrich your outdoor experience by learning Florida's native species. Go take a hike — while you're at it, take photos — enjoy and remember the contest's **optional pre-screening deadline of April 16, 2009 (receipt date)**; and its **final deadline of May 21, 2009 (postmark date)**. Official entry forms containing complete contest rules are available online: www.orangeaudubonfl.org; at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL; at OAS meetings; or by request to 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Teresa Williams, Chair

**Orange Audubon Society
Board of Directors 2008-2009**

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Ted Smith (09)		407-249-3969
Randy Snyder (09)		407-851-5416
Pete Vogt (11)		407-855-4122

Calendar of Events

April 4, 11, 18, 2009 - Saturdays
Butterfly ID Class, Randy Snyder
407-851-5416

April 18, 2009-Saturday
Field Trip-Seminole State Park
7:30 a.m., 407-851-5416

April 11, 2009 - Saturday
BIRDATHON, see details inside

April 24, 2009- Saturday
Ft. DeSoto Field Trip, Ted or Gaye
Smith, 407-249-3969

April 11, 2009 - Saturday
Charles H. Bronson State Forest –
Lee Tract Bird Survey Contact
Lorne Malo

**2009 Chertok Nature
Photography Contest** - Pre-screen
deadline April 16, Final deadline
May 21, 2009, details inside

April 11, 2009 - Saturday
LE-FT - Canoe Creek Rd, Osceola
Co., Bob Sanders, 407-766-5490,
or procrow@bellsouth.net

April 25, 2009-Saturday
10th Annual Magnolia Park
Bluegrass Festival, 10 am - 6 pm

April 16, 2009, Thursday
Monthly Program, 7 p.m.
Harry P Leu Gardens

April 25, 2009 - Saturday
Lower Wekiva River SR Butterfly
Survey, Randy S. 407-851-5416

April 18, 25 & May 1, 2009, Sat.
BBWC - Leesa Sward
407-677-5374 or
LSward@hotmail.com

May 9, 2009 - Saturday
Audubon Birds of Prey, Maitland
Baby Owl Shower, 10 am - 2 pm

National Audubon Interim Southeast Director

Because of a resignation, the Southeast Region Chapter Representative on the National Audubon Society's Board of Directors is vacant and an election is underway to elect an interim representative. Three candidates — Neil L. Davies, Flagler Audubon Society, FL; S. Joyce King, St. Petersburg Audubon Society, FL and Richard "Dick" S. Mills, Birmingham Audubon Society, AL — have been nominated. Orange Audubon Society must cast its vote by April 30th.

If you would like to provide input regarding the candidates, you may visit <http://www.audubon.org/nas/board/regional> then go down the page to Southeast Region and select '2009 Interim Election Nominations Sought'. On this page, you can select and read the statements of each of the three candidates. If you wish to offer your comments to the OAS board of directors, please contact Loretta (LNS-OAS@att.net; 407/886-2925) by April 14, 2009, so your comments may be summarized for the April board meeting.

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