



"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis

Orange Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida



Vol. 44

May 2009

Issue No. 9

BIRDATHON 2009 - 187 Species!

The first phase of **BIRDATHON 2009**, is **complete!** On April 11th our skillful and enthusiastic birders located **187 species!** It's now time for that all-important second phase. It's time for all of you to contact your sponsors and gather your pledges. If you got a \$.10 per species pledge, for example, you will need to get a contribution of \$18.70. Multiply other pledge amounts by 187 accordingly. You will also need to get the name, address, phone and/or email for each sponsor as Birdathon contributions are tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to **Orange Audubon Society** and sent to me along with your pledge forms. My address is: 2816 S. Shine Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. If you have cash donations contact me and we'll arrange to meet somewhere. **Do not mail cash!**

At 187 species, we were forty more than last year! Lake County Park Ranger and new board member Gallus Quigley saw the most birds with 108 species (including a Mississippi Kite!) followed by my team with 82. In all more than 50 birders participated! Now, gather your pledges! Thank you all for what's shaping up to be a very successful event.

Bob Sanders, Birdathon Chairman
407-766-5490, procrow@bellsouth.net

Monthly Program, May 28, 2009, 7 p.m.**

Scat, Tracks, and Bones by Gregg Thompson

Many of our wildlife species emerge only at night and we have to be really lucky to see them. However, Florida's sandy soil is great for recording their prints and many leave behind scat and bones. Our May speaker is Gregg Thompson, a naturalist who has learned to recognize and teach about the scat, tracks and bones that animals leave behind. Bring a child along on **May 28**, if possible, and join us for a fascinating program.

****Note that this is one week later than our usual program date.****

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

Bluegrass Benefits OAS

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) participated at Orange County's 9th annual Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival on April 25th. The weather cooperated and we had a nice sunny day with a fairly constant breeze so it was not too warm. Though sales weren't what we had hoped for, we did have quite a bit of interest in the chapter display and several questions about all of our bird and butterfly ID classes. Hopefully those interested parties will participate the next time the classes are offered. Thanks to our volunteers for their help: Mary Keim and Randy Snyder for loaning tables, Ed Tillman and Russell Caldwell for assistance in setting up the tent, and Jane Austin for volunteering to help with the merchandise sales. Once again, team effort makes for a successful event.

Bob Stamps and
Loretta Satterthwaite

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (Sept. - June)
at 7 pm in the Camellia Room at: Harry P. Leu Garden, 1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803-1537. For directions call: 407-246-2620
www.orangeaudubonfl.org

May Field Trip – Oakland Nature Preserve

On Saturday, May 16th, OAS will visit Oakland Nature Preserve. This 128 acre preserve extends from the West Orange Trail to Lake Apopka. It consists of uplands and forested wetlands. We will hike about 3 miles. For more information about the property see: <http://www.oaklandnaturepreserve.org/> Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of the Publix at 13750 W. Colonial Drive in Winter Garden. 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

concentrating on the Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and Joe Overstreet Road, was very successful yielding 82 species of birds including: White-tailed Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, Snail Kite, many Bald Eagles, Crested Caracara, Peregrine Falcon, Purple Gallinule, Limpkin, Solitary Sandpiper, Burrowing Owl, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, and Bachman's Sparrow. Many alligators, some quite large, were seen at Lake Jackson inside Three Lakes WMA. An Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake was also seen and photographed. Whoo Hoo!

For more information contact: Bob Sanders, 407-766-5490, procrow@bellsouth.net.

Limited Edition Field Trips

The final Limited Edition Field Trip (LE-FT) for the season is scheduled for May 23rd. Our destination will be **The Lake Apopka Restoration Area**. As usual, LE-FTs are limited to ten people and reservations are required. There is also a fee of \$10.00 dollars for members, \$15.00 for non-members. Reservations will be taken beginning May 16th.

The LE-FT of April 11th (also Birdathon Day) to the Canoe Creek Road Area of Osceola County

Field Trip to Genius Drive Nature Preserve

Unadvertised Field Trip, May 10, 2009, 8 am until Noon. Limited to 20, RSVP required, teresa.williams@cfl.rr.com. Led by survey leader and preeminent birder Bruce Anderson. Dress casual, it's a little jungle complete with things that bite, sting, stick and scratch. No access to restrooms on the Preserve. 4 hrs walking through 48+ acres. Bring birding gear, waters, snacks and your best birding etiquette so we may be invited back!

April Field Trip Report

Fourteen birders attended the OAS field trip to Seminole State Forest on April 18th. The group observed at least 43 bird species including Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Am. Swallow-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Ground-Dove, Chimney Swift, White-eyed Vireo, Florida Scrub-Jay, Barn Swallow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Marsh Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, and Swamp Sparrow. The group enjoyed looking at animal tracks on the sand road including those of the millipede, Gopher Tortoise, Wild Turkey, and lizard (possibly Six-lined Racerunner).

Flowers in bloom included Crow Poison, Pawpaw, St. Peter's Wort, Shiny Lyonia, Rusty Lyonia, Deerberry, Blackberry, and Pennyroyal. While the map-reading talents of the leader (Mary, I think her name was) left something to be desired, the group got back safely and in good humor. When we got back, a "Welcome to the Woods" event put on by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was in full swing. There was a wildlife display, bear cage, FWC helicopter, information about the importance of fire, hay rides, fishing demonstrations and more.

Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair

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>

Silent Auction

The June 18th Orange Audubon Society (OAS) meeting will once again include a Silent Auction with items from local businesses and items that you have personally made, baked or grown (Make It, Bake It, Grow It- i.e. MIBIGI). Please notify us ahead of time of your planned contribution so that the volunteers organizing this event will also be able to enjoy the evening; last minute contributions 'without notification' can frazzle the most disciplined volunteer.

If you 'know' a business owner who might contribute to the Silent Auction, please solicit a donation or provide us with the contact person. If you have something to contribute to June's MIBIGI, please contact me (407/886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) so that time and space may be allotted and bid sheets may be made prior to the meeting. For all donations, please describe the item(s), and suggest a minimum bid price and an approximate retail price (to ensure proper sales tax treatment and maximum fund raising potential). **Deadline for notification is Sunday, June 14th** since the meeting is June 18th.

Judging from experience, two or three lower priced contributions will probably receive more bids than a larger, more expensive item (e.g. if you bake cookies, package them into 3 or 4 cookies per item with a fair minimum price rather than putting 12 cookies in one package at 3 times the minimum price). We can discuss your options when you contact me.

Unfortunately we cannot accept 'gently used' items for this auction due to space and time constraints. We will try to have an evening for your 'gently used', nature-oriented items next fall, combined with an evening of OAS merchandise sales. Whether we have this event or not will be determined during our summer planning sessions; if we do proceed with it, it will be prior to the holidays so you may do your shopping with OAS.

Since the June dinner/auction/program is a busy, jam-packed evening, we need several volunteers to help us throughout the silent auction (it's not hard work, just a lot of it in a few hours — checking items in, keeping bid sheets current and items organized during the auction, and upon close of the auction, 'running' items to the cashiers for payment and check out). Please contact me (see above) if you can help us that evening.

If you would like to help your chapter end this fiscal year on a successful note, solicit a donation(s), make, bake or grow a donation, come prepared to bid (cash or checks; no plastic), or work or all of the above. See you at the potluck/auction!

Loretta Satterthwaite

LAST CALL for Photo Contest Entries!

It's like the Florida Lottery (*If you do not enter, you will not win!*), but your odds of winning Orange Audubon Society's 2009, (21st Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (OAS' CNPC) are so much better!

May 21, 2009 is the final deadline (postmarked date) for entries in this *Florida Native Nature* competition.

That means that images may not contain any discernable trace of non-native (to Florida) flora and/or fauna nor humans, human artifacts or man-made structures; images must also comply with truth-in-Nature standards and may not be excessively manipulated. For complete contest rules, please refer to the official entry form available online: www.orangeaudubonfl.org; by request to mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796; or at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL.

And while you're there (CPH), don't miss seeing the fifteen entries/winners from the 2008 competition currently on display. They look *m-a-r-v-e-l-o-u-s!* Five winning images were also published in the *Florida Naturalist* magazine (spring 2009 issue), which is now available online: http://www.audubonofflorida.org/pubs_naturalist.html; and all winning images from 2006 through 2008 are on the World Wide Web by visiting: www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

We say it often because we mean it—your participation in OAS' CNPC and your interest in nature photography are sincerely appreciated! We wish you all good lighting and good luck.

Teresa Williams, Chair



Environmental Education Volunteers Wanted

On February 1, 2009, Orlando Wetlands Park opened its new Education Center. Volunteers are wanted to help operate the center by providing assistance with wildlife tours, caring for captive animals and participating in the development of interpretive displays. If you are interested in this unique opportunity, please contact Orlando Wetlands Park, 407-568-1706.

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

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 Randy Snyder (09) 407-851-5416
 Pete Vogt (11) 407-855-4122

Calendar of Events

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

May 10, 2009 - Saturday
Field Trip to Genius Drive
Nature Preserve, Winter Park,
8- 12 pm, RSVP Teresa
mwilliams@cfl.rr.com

**2009 Chertok Nature
Photography Contest - Final
postmark deadline May 21, 2009**

May 28, 2009- Thursday
OAS Monthly Program
Scat, Tracks and Bones
7 pm, Harry P. Leu Gardens

May 30, 2009 - Saturday
Wildlife Survey, Lower Wekiva
River State Park, Randy Snyder
407-851-5416

June 7, 2009 - Sunday
Ecological restoration workday,
Genius Drive Nature Preserve,
Winter Park, 10 am – Noon,
Teresa: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or
407-644-0796

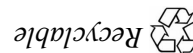
June 13, 2009 - Saturday
Wildlife Survey, Charles H.
Bronson State Forest Lee Tract
Bird Survey, Lorne Malo
407-349-2536

June 18, 2009 - Thursday
OAS Potluck Dinner/Silent
Auction, 6 pm. Chertok Nature
Photo Contest & Awards 7 pm

OAS Participates in NAS Southeast Region Election

On April 16th, the Board of Directors of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) unanimously voted our three ballots for the Interim Director for National Audubon Society’s Southeast Region (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS) for S. Joyce King. Several OAS board members know Joyce and thought she was the best of the three candidates on the ballot. She is a longtime member and past president of St. Petersburg Audubon Society and has recently moved to rural north Florida, where they are developing a new Audubon chapter (Santa Fe Audubon). FYI, the number of ballots a chapter was allocated was based on a chapter size formula. Since OAS has 1,544 members, only two chapters in the region had more members and more ballots (A.S. of the Everglades and Atlanta A.S.).

Bob Stamps



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