



"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis

Orange Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida



Vol. 44

June 2009

Issue No. 10

BIRDATHON 2009 - Final, Final Tally!

The final tally for Birdathon 2009 now stands at 189 species! That's 40 more than last year! Obviously, our targeted goal of 200 species is definitely reachable. We'll try again next year! If you would like a complete list, please contact me. Some highlights include: Magnificent Frigatebird, 16 raptor species (including Mississippi Kite), King Rail, Virginia Rail, Piping Plover, Am. Oystercatcher, Burrowing Owl, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Bachman's Sparrow, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

However, we did fall somewhat short of our fund raising goal so if any of you still have sponsors to follow-up with please do so as soon as possible. Gather your pledges and send the pledge sheets and donations to me. Any questions? Please contact me.

I want to thank everyone who participated and pledged. We're lucky to have some of the best birders in the state!

Bob Sanders, Birdathon Chairman
2816 S. Shine Ave., Orlando, FL 32806
407-766-5490, procrow@bellsouth.net

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

This Month's Program, June 18, 2009, 6 p.m.

Harry P. Leu Gardens

OAS' Annual Potluck Dinner/Auction & Chertok Nature Photography Contest

There is no better way to end the Orange Audubon Society (OAS) 2008–2009 season than with double helpings from a delicious potluck buffet, a double feature of Chertok Nature Photography Contest entries ... and YOU! Join us as we begin the evening with dinner at 6:00 PM. OAS will provide the main courses that you complement by bringing your favorite covered-dish(es) to share: salads, side dishes, desserts or beverages. Please also bring your own re-useable plates, glasses, flatware and serving utensils so that OAS can show its color (green) by "living gently" that evening.

Afterwards you will be mesmerized by the finale program of the season produced just for you—an exclusive showing of eligible entries in OAS' 21st Annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest. This year's double feature comes from the two categories of competition: "Florida Vertebrates and/or Scenics" and "Florida Invertebrates and/or Wildflowers" and the show begins around 7 PM. We will virtually catapult you across Florida with images photographed from the East to West coasts; and from the Panhandle to the Keys.

The suspense mounts ... who will win the contest? what the heck are vertebrates and invertebrates? Answers unfold at the program's conclusion when winners of each category are announced and \$1,000 in ribbons, cash and other prizes are awarded.

Meanwhile there is heightened anticipation from friendly competition at the silent auction tables. Who will *bid on and win* the evening's featured auction item: a pair of Leupold Golden Ring 8 x 42, roof prism, 100% waterproof binoculars (value \$975 list) donated by Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Apopka, FL. Throughout the evening you may place your bids on this and other items contributed by local businesses and other friends (see article inside for featured items). And, who will take home the centerpiece door prizes contributed by *Driftwood Gardens, Inc.* (owners/OAS members Bill & Rachel Tippit)?

Mark the date and remember to bring checkbook or cash (sorry, credit cards not accepted), your most delectable culinary dish and place settings and join us for an amazing evening as we make a gentle fuss over us! See you there.

Teresa Williams, OAS CNPC Chair

May Field Trip Report

Twenty-six attended the OAS field trip to Oakland Nature Preserve (ONP) on May 16th, including eleven first-timers. Thanks to Bob Stamps for giving the group an introduction to ONP when we arrived.

The group observed at least 32 bird species including Wild Turkey, Tricolored Heron, Wood Stork, Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Chimney Swift, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, American Crow, Carolina Wren, Northern Parula, American Redstart, and Red-winged Blackbird. Other vertebrates included Florida Box Turtle, Six-lined Racerunner, Green Anole, Southern Black Racer, American Alligator, and White-tailed Deer.

Butterflies included Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian, and Silver-spotted Skipper. Flowers in bloom included Bull Tongue, Pickerelweed, Sweet Bay, Lizard's Tail, Button Bush, Water Hemlock, and Elderberry. Fruits included Pop Ash, Swamp Dogwood, and Blackberry. Several water topics were discussed by group members such as (1) the importance of preserves (such as ONP) to conserve habitat for species and water resources, (2) reminders about SJRWMD watering restrictions to help conserve

Florida's water and (3) the importance of urging elected officials to protect our water resources.

This was the last regular field trip of the season. Have a good summer!

Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair

Limited Edition Field Trips

The final LE-FT for this season was Saturday May 23rd. Honestly, I thought of canceling the event because of rain, rain, rain. But I didn't and I'm so happy we braved the elements anyway. Several birders were treated to a virtually rain-free morning at the always productive Lake Apopka Restoration Area and saw some wonderful things. Sixty-five species of birds were observed including: Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling Ducks, Roseate Spoonbills, Swallow-tailed Kite, King Rail, Purple Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated and White-rumped Sandpipers, Yellow-breasted Chat (!), Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting.

I want to thank everyone who participated in this season's Limited Edition Field Trips. The series was very successful. We'll do it again. Enjoy the summer. See you all in September.

Peace,
Bob Sanders

Ft. DeSoto Field Trip Report by Dick Smith

On Friday, April 24, and Saturday, April 25, 2009, thirty birders and friends from Orange Audubon Society, traveled to Ft. DeSoto Park in Pinellas County, to bird the migrants that were headed for their nesting areas throughout the United States and even into Canada. Conditions were perfect for a great day of viewing passerines in all their breeding plumages. When the birds come thru, on their way North, they are the prettiest and brightest that they will be in their lives. They have just molted into breeding plumage with bright, new feathers and they are just magnificent!

We didn't have as many birds as we would have liked to see, but we had good variety of a lot of species - 75 in all. Some of the more interesting were: Common Loon, Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, Red-breasted Merganser, eleven species of shorebirds, including American Oystercatcher, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, exotic Black-hooded Parakeet, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Eastern Wood Pewee, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, twelve species of Warblers, including Northern Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Prairie, Blackpoll, Black and White, American Redstart, Ovenbird, both Waterthrushes and Kentucky. We also saw both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers along with Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink, Brown-headed Cowbird and American Goldfinches. Thanks to Bob Sanders and Bob Wheeler for leading the groups and making sure that everyone saw everything that they could see. All in all, it was a very productive field trip, and I would highly recommend to anyone who likes to see beautiful migrants, in all their glory, make a trip to Ft. DeSoto in April. It is worth it.

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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<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

Thanks for the beautiful binocs!!
Featured Silent Auction Donation Contributed by
Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Apopka & owners
Paul & Diane Faircloth

Leupold Golden Ring 8x42 Binoculars

100% waterproof; interpupillary distance: 56.0–72.0;

close focus distance: 4.5—5.9 ft

List: \$975 Best current price: \$780

Bidding starts at \$250

Visit: www2.leupold.com

www.betterviewdesired.com/Leupold-Golden-Ring-8x42.php

Silent Auction Donor Acknowledgement

Orange Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges donors who, at press time, have pledged to make contributions for the silent auction and door prizes on June 18th. As other donations are received we will update a list on the website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org. Stay tuned. Donations to-date are:

- *Bamboo Trading Company* – Six each “I Care About The Butterflies” and “I Care About Wild Birds” bracelets
- *Biosphere, Winter Garden* – \$50 Gift Certificate for plants or other merchandise
- *Center for Birds of Prey* – Behind-the-scenes tour of the Center
- *Dexter's Restaurants, Thornton Park, Winter Park and Lake Mary* – 2 Gift Cards for \$75 each
- *Driftwood Gardens, Inc. and owners Bill and Rachel Tippit* – Bromeliad planters
- *Essence Salon & Day Spa, Winter Park, FL and owner Ana Yebba* – Gift certificate for shampoo, cut, style and dry
- *Enzian Theater* – movie tickets
- *Gatorland* – 2 Photographer’s annual passes
- *Deborah Green, author and OAS 2nd vice president* – two books: *Paradise Preserved- Natural History Explorations (Canaveral National Seashore and Merritt Island NWR)* and *Watching Wildlife in the Wekiva River Basin*
- *Milton Heiberg, world renowned nature photographer and OAS board member* – framed photograph
- *Highland Manor Restaurant, Apopka* – One Gift Card for Brunch for Two (Sunday) and one Gift Card for Lunch for Two (Closed on Mondays).
- *Mary Keim & Randy Snyder, OAS board members* – woodcrafted and hand painted Florida Scrub Jays and small decorative bird houses
- *Loretta Lynn Leda, author and OAS board member* – book: *Paddling in the Everglades* and a matted, unframed photograph taken in Everglades National Park; and a Spa Basket with spa products for the avid outdoors person
- *Lukas Butterfly Encounter @ Lukas Nursery, Oviedo* – Two annual family passes
- *Mosquito Creek Outdoors, Apopka (owners Paul and Diane Faircloth)* – \$100 Gift Certificate; and Leupold Golden Ring 8x42 binoculars (\$975 value)
- *Panera Bread, locations in Central Florida* – Bread for a Year certificate
- *Richard Poole, longtime OAS member* – nest boxes and various plants for wildlife
- *Starbucks Coffee, 400 Park Ave., Winter Park* – three one-pound bags of coffee and mug(s)
- *Rhonda Sward* – Framed Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival posters
- *Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor* – book: *Priceless Florida – Natural Ecosystems and Native Species* by Ellie Whitney, D. Bruce Means and Anne Rudloe
- *Wild Birds Unlimited, Winter Springs (owners Janey & Allan Jahner)* – Shoulder harness and lens cloth; and Recycled bird feeder and bird seed
- *Wildscape Images, Orlando – Slash Pine Sunrise*, matted, unframed landscape print by award-winning owner/photographer Robert J. Amoruso
- *Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour* – Three Gift Certificates good for 2 adult admissions each

Some restrictions may apply to time and use of gift certificates and/or tours. Florida sales tax of 6½%, when applicable, will be added to the final bid price of all taxable items.

Additional donations (including those of the Make It, Bake It, Grow It type) are expected before the June 18th event, so once again you are reminded to bring cash or checkbook and be prepared to outbid even your best Audubon buddies! OAS is grateful for your participation as a contributor, bidder or both. You make this auction a big success.

Teresa Williams and Loretta Satterthwaite

Help Eliminate Wimp-o-logy and Fear/Ignorance of Nature

Are you getting tired of people, many newly arrived in Florida, stating that they are afraid to venture outdoors because of the “bugs, gators, snakes, etc.” that might “get them”? I am. For me, the happiest, most carefree and relaxing times are when I am outdoors enjoying Nature. Are you tired of hearing about people that decry the fact that some bird or other animal has had the audacity to invade “their” space (yard, golf course, etc.)? I am. I so enjoy a glimpse of a snake (seems less common all the time) and the call of a Sandhill Crane (luckily, seems more common).

So, how can we instill an interest in and a sense of appreciation for the Natural Environment? There are many ways and I only have space to mention a few. Invite your family, neighbors and work associates to join

you at an Orange Audubon meeting, class, field trip, or other event. Support environmental education centers such as the Oakland Nature Preserve (in Oakland near Winter Garden) and the Orlando Wetlands Park (near Christmas). Volunteer to help with environmental education activities (you do not need to be an expert to do so).

If we do not educate people regarding the interconnectedness of Humans and the rest of Nature, the consequences will be unpleasant and severe because that connection is inseparable and inviolate. Thanks for your time and contact me if you have questions and/or can help. And have a great summer enjoying Nature.

Bob Stamps, President

Thanks for Your Efforts!

We would like to thank the 2008–2009 members for their continued support of the Orange Audubon Society (OAS). Since OAS is an all-volunteer organization, we can only achieve what our volunteers are able to accomplish. Many of our members are stalwarts upon whom we rely for special needs (e.g. Richard Poole continues to build nest boxes for our sales events; Peggy Cox keeps a watchful eye on conservation-related happenings and keeps OAS informed of needs in that arena) while others fill other roles (Peggy Lantz makes *Audubon Adventures* classroom visits and gives special ‘nature’ programs; Leesa Sward taught fall and spring Beginners Bird ID classes) on whom we call as the occasion arises. For fear of omitting someone’s name, we will not list everyone else’s names, but your special talents have been appreciated and have not gone unnoticed throughout this past year and we thank each of you for the role you have played for OAS.

Our board members are a special group of dedicated individuals who form our committees and set aside time to attend at least nine board meetings throughout the activity year. However, attendance at the board meetings is the tip of the iceberg. There is much ‘behind-the-scenes’ activity that must be accomplished to ensure a successful year for OAS. We have had some outstanding contributions by many of our board members and we would like to thank each for his or her contributions. Our special gratitude is extended to four individuals who are leaving the OAS board at the end of the June meeting.

Mary Keim — Field Trip Chair, Butterfly ID Class teacher and a former President and Secretary for OAS and long-time OAS board member and active volunteer. Mary, thanks for your continued dedication.

Gaye Smith — Education Committee Chair. Gaye has served only one three-year term, but she has made an invaluable contribution by heading up OAS’ *Audubon Adventures* program and by her participation at educational/outreach events. Thanks for your efforts, Gaye.

Ted Smith — Ft. DeSoto Field Trip Chair. Ted has done a terrific job of organizing this special event field trip, as well as serving on the OAS finance committee and participating in educational/outreach events. Thanks for your efforts, Ted.

Randy Snyder — Wildlife Survey Committee Chair, Butterfly ID Class teacher, ‘acting’ Hospitality Chair, long-time OAS board member, field trip leader, former Sanctuary Chair and active volunteer. Thanks, Randy, for your long-term dedication.

We have no doubt that we’ll see each of these volunteers continue to be active with OAS, but when you see them at the June meeting, please extend to them a hearty ‘thanks for your efforts’.

Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite

Goodies, Goodies

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has a long tradition of having snacks and drinks available at our monthly meetings. However, it has been our members who bring these goodies for everyone to share. This past year, OAS did not have a volunteer to take on the responsibility of organizing this function each month, so it was a rather haphazard affair. We hope that changes next year!

We would like to thank our members who continued to bring the snacks for the meetings, our board members who occasionally volunteered to ‘oversee’ the evenings hospitality, and Adam Werschel who was available to greet our attendees and assist them in any way needed during the past year. Mostly, we would like to thank Randy Snyder and Mary Keim, long-time volunteers in many ways for OAS. Until OAS was able to get a storage locker at Leu Gardens, they stored the hospitality materials at their home, brought them to the meeting, set them up and put them away. Even after obtaining a storage unit, ‘stuff’ needed to be set out and taken down and, once again, Randy and Mary were our anchors. Each month they could also be counted on to contribute goodies so that others might enjoy the benefits. Our heartfelt appreciation is extended to Randy and Mary.

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

PRESIDENT
 Bob Stamps (10) 407-886-2925

1st VICE PRESIDENT
 Loretta Satterthwaite (10) 407-886-2925

2nd VICE PRESIDENT (PROGRAMS)
 Deborah Green (10) 407-553-0028

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 Michele Greco (10).....

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 Teresa Williams (10) 407-644-0796

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 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) 407-855-4122

Calendar of Events

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

June 27, 2009- Saturday
 Wekiwa Springs State Park
 Butterfly Survey, Randy Snyder
 h-407-851-5416

July, 11, 2009 - Saturday
 Charles H. Bronson State Forest
 (Lee Tract) Bird Survey
 Lorne Malo w-407-659-4853

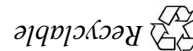
August 8, 2009 - Saturday
 Charles H. Bronson State Forest
 (Lee Tract) Bird Survey
 Lorne Malo w-407-659-4853

Sept. 17, 2009 - Thursday
 First 2009-2010 Orange Audubon
 Society General Meeting
 Leu Garden, 7 pm

Reminder!

Just a quick reminder for our continuing members and a notice for those of you who have joined Orange Audubon Society (OAS) in the past year, the meeting in June is the final activity for OAS for the 2008–2009 season. Over the summer, we will be planning the activities for the upcoming year, so if you wish to make suggestions, please contact us (407/886-2925 or rhs-oas@att.net or LNS-oas@att.net). The next *OAS*s will be sent to members in September; please continue to visit our website (www.orangeaudubonfl.org) for important announcements or updates on activities during the summer.

Bob and Loretta



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