



*"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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## **Christmas Bird Counts Abound Let's Hope the Birds Do!**

Remember there is no separate Orange Audubon Society field trip in December. Please join a Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Novices are welcome to join and learn; if one of the following is not suitable (wrong day, wrong location), please contact Mike Godwin (mgodwin@gatorland.com or 407/259-1898) for other CBC possibilities.

**Emeralda-Sunnyhill CBC – Dec. 14 - contact Peg Urban (352/326-3868) or Peg Lindsay (pegcondor@embarqmail.com)**

**Wekiva River CBC – Dec. 19 - contact Jay Exum (407/843-6552 x4720 - Work; 407/804-1331 – Home; or jexum@glatting.com)**

**Merritt Island NWR CBC – Dec. 21 - contact Ned Steel (nedsteel@msn.com)**

**Zellwood-Mt. Dora CBC – Dec. 23 - contact Wes Biggs (407/384-9766, 407/376-6967-cell, or birdsatfnt@bellsouth.net)**

**Econlockhatchee CBC – Dec. 27 - Lorne Malo [Lmalo@sjrwm.com (w), 407-349-2536(h)]**

*Best Wishes for a Safe  
and Peaceful Holiday  
Season!!*

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

## **This Month's Program, Dec. 17, 2009, 7 p.m. Members favorite wildlife viewing spots**

For this month's program we are trying something new and homegrown. Orange Audubon Society members will share their favorite wildlife watching places, in Florida, other parts of the U.S. and around the world. The program is being put together in the week before December 17, and we already have some great places profiled that maybe you didn't know about. As much as possible we will accommodate everyone who wants to present, limiting each presentation to 5 minutes. Submit your slides by December 10 to the following email address: [sabalpress@mac.com](mailto:sabalpress@mac.com). Call 407-637-2525 if any difficulties submitting.

Join us December 17. It should be a great 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, Program 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.

Orange Audubon Society  
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<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

## **Volunteer Kudos!!**

So far this year Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has experienced some excellent help from our volunteers at various events—Oakland Heritage Festival (OHF), Lake Eola's Fiesta in the Park (LE), Wekiwa's Rockin' at the Springs (W), and our November meeting (m). Our big thanks are extended to Becky Bayston [OHF], Katy Bretz [LE], Christine Brown [OHF,LE] and her friend Elizabeth from the UK (OHF), Chris Gandy [OHF,LE,m], Cynthia Gosiewski [OHF,LE], Deborah Green [W], Milton Heiberg [m], Cyndi Kay (OHF,LE), Mary Keim [tables for OHF & LE; m], Joan LeMosy [OHF], Richard Poole [OHF,LE and nest box building], Randy Snyder [tables for OHF & LE; m], Bob Stamps [LE, m], Jennifer Weader and Leon [m]. And, please forgive us if we've omitted anyone!!

Amie Dawson is doing a great job with hospitality (as are all of you who are bringing goodies for the meetings, most of whom are not letting us know so that we can thank you properly). Adam Wershil greets our guests and helps lay out browsing materials and, in his absence at the November meeting, Dick Smith stepped up and handled that task for us without being asked to do so.

Thanks to all of you for your assistance since we began OAS' 09–10 event year. It's that kind of spirit that keeps some of us plugging along at each of the meetings/events. We look forward to working with each of these individuals again and with more of you as our calendar year progresses. Please volunteer wherever you see a need. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

## **October Field Trip Report**

Nine birders joined me to explore Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and were treated to an awesome day of birding and beautiful temperatures too. Thanks to the cold front that passed, we had birds galore—tallying 52 species including 11 species of warbler. Highlights started quickly with a male Summer Tanager followed by dozens of warblers and other passerines flitting to and fro; these included a male Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Blackpoll, Black-Throated Blue, and Eastern Wood-Pee-wee, but we weren't done! More warblers, titmice, and Brown-Headed Nuthatch were joined by a Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker; finally as we neared the wetland area of the St. John's River we had a Short-Tailed Hawk soar over us as well as Bald

Eagle. At the marshes we got looks at Marsh Wren, King Rail, and the usual waders; on the way back we had more Indigo Buntings. Notable misses though were Bachman's Sparrow, Barred Owl, and Sandhill Crane (though we had 3 fly over SR 50 on the way to the WMA). Just about everyone, except me, got lifers on the trip, as well as some stunning views of good birds.

Gallus C. Quigley, Field Trip Chair

## **Panhandle — St. Marks NWR and Wakulla State Park - Field Trip**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is coordinating an 'overnight' field trip this fiscal year to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge/Wakulla State Park in the panhandle; it is scheduled for Feb. 26–28, 2010. We've planned a guided birdwalk/drive on Sat. Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Marks from 9 am–1 pm. There are more than 300 species of birds at the refuge, which was established in 1931.

It is possible to have a walk on Saturday afternoon or even on Sunday if participants are interested. Also, there is the possibility of a paddling trip if interest warrants one.

The cost for this field trip is \$10/person, payable to Orange Audubon Society when you reserve your spot for the trip (sign up and pay at the meeting, contact Loretta Leda at [lorettalynn@mac.com](mailto:lorettalynn@mac.com) or 321/438-0838 and mail your check to OAS, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142, or contact Teresa at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407/644-0796).

OAS has a block of rooms reserved at the Wakulla State Park Lodge for Fri. and Sat. nights and you should make your own reservations with them [850/926-0700], for one or both nights. Registrations must be made before Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> to receive the 'blocked' room rate.

Please contact Loretta Leda (see above) to express your desire for paddling or a Sat. afternoon or Sun. morning birdwalk. Loretta Lynn is also willing to help coordinate room sharing and/or carpooling for the weekend, so let her know if you are willing to share, or need, either.

**Kids—Watch for an  
announcement next month for  
Your Very Own Photo  
Contest!!**

**The Henry Nehrling Society bought Property**

The Henry Nehrling Society (TNS) has bought the property once owned by Dr. Henry Nehrling, an avid birder and botanist. Earlier, Florida Audubon Society purchased part of Nehrling’s book collection, which is now housed in the Special Collections at Rollins College. Approximately six acres remains from his original 40 acres. The Palm Cottage Garden (home) and its surrounding land is again included on the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation’s List of “Florida’s 11 Most Endangered” sites. This is a rare gem with a unique and invaluable past. You may wish to help revitalize part of Florida’s history and Nehrling’s treasure with a monthly or annual gift and become part of a legacy. TNS offers an Honorary

Deed program where you can give a gift in memory or in honor of someone. Visit their website [www.nehrlinggardens.org](http://www.nehrlinggardens.org) or contact Loretta Lynn Leda at 321/438-0838, for details.

**Birds of Prey Identification Class**

The final Birds of Prey Identification Class for Orange Audubon Society (OAS) for this activity year will be on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area on Lust Road. Gallus Quigley will provide instructions on how to identify raptors using a holistic approach. There is no class size restriction for this opportunity and it’s free (but contributions to OAS are greatly appreciated). For details, contact Gallus at 407/242-7833 or

**Orange Audubon Society’s Birdathon — Saturday, January 9, 2010**

On Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will have at least two teams (more are welcomed) competing to see the greatest number of species of birds in a single 24-hr period. The teams can go anywhere across Florida visiting various habitats to try to see as many different species as possible. Last year OAS’ total number of species was 189. Our goal this year is 200 species, so our teams have their work cut out for them. Birdathon co-chair, Gallus Quigley, has challenged any team to see more species than he does. He says they won’t; however, he has promised to ‘each member of the team that sees the most species’ a window sticker proclaiming “Caution Birder Driving”. If you want to form a team, contact Gallus [407/376-4930; [gallusq@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gallusq@cfl.rr.com)] for details.

For this annual fundraiser we ask our members to go outside of our membership to find friends, relatives, co-workers, dentists, doctors, veterinarians, etc. (you get the picture) to pledge support for our “thon” just as you pledge to others for ‘walkathons’, ‘bikeathons’, ‘danceathons’, etc. Gallus has promised that the person collecting the most contributions (\$) in support of this year’s birdathon will also receive one of the above-mentioned window clings. So, I challenge you to beat me for that window cling!! I’ve already procured a flat-amount contribution of \$20, another pledge of 10¢ per species and will be heading off to see my vet for his annual support; I’ll also ask my co-workers and relatives. A pledge of 10¢ per species (multiplied by 200 species if Gallus can do it!) would be a pledge of \$20. If only 1,500 of our members procured pledges from two or three people, just think of the benefit that would bring to OAS’ coffers to be used for educational and conservation programs! Furthermore, the pledges need not be for \$20, some people may give \$2 while others give \$50. When you ask for support, ask for only what the person feels they can offer. Every penny helps.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Birdathon Co-Chair

To help you get your two pledges, here are some simple forms.

Birdathon Pledge Form

Birdathon Pledge Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City,State,Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount pledged/species \_\_\_\_\_  
or amount contributed \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount pledged/species \_\_\_\_\_  
or amount contributed \_\_\_\_\_

**Orange Audubon Society  
Board of Directors 2009-2010**

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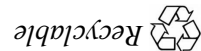
**Calendar of Events**

<b>Dec. 17, 2009 - Thursday</b> Monthly membership program, Leu Gardens, 7 p.m.	<b>Jan. 21, 2010- Thursday</b> Monthly membership program Leu Garden, 7 p.m.
<b>Dec. 26, 2009 - Saturday</b> Wekiwa Springs State park Butterfly Survey, Randy Snyder 407/851-2536	<b>Jan. 23, 2010 - Saturday</b> OAS field trip to Ocala National Forest, Paisley Woods Bike Trail. Gallus Quigley, 407/242-7833
<b>Jan. 9, 2010 - Saturday</b> Birdathon, see pg 3	<b>Jan. 24, 2010 - Sunday</b> Ltd. Edition field trip to Merritt Island NWR, Limit 15 ppl. \$10 members/\$15 non-mem. Gallus Quigley, 407/242-7833
<b>Jan. 10, 2010 - Sunday</b> Birds of Prey ID Class, Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Lust Rd, see pg. 3, Gallus Q.	<b>Feb. 26-28, 2010, Field Trip</b> St. Marks NWR, overnight see page 2 for details Loretta Lynn, 321/438-0838
<b>Jan. 17, 2010 - Sunday</b> Limited Edition field trip \$10/ members \$15/non-mem. Lake Apopka Restoration Area Gallus Quigley, 407/242-7833	

**November Field Trip Report** Mary Keim, Field Trip Committee

Thirty-nine birders attended the OAS trip to Lake Lotus Park in Altamonte Springs on November 21<sup>st</sup>. Thirty-two bird species were observed including Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Osprey, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Limpkin, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Blue-headed Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Carolina Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Palm Warbler. Other vertebrates included Peninsular Cooter and Eastern Gray Squirrel.

Flowers in bloom included Bulltongue Arrowhead, Painted Leaf, Scarlet Morning Glory, Smartweed, Primrosewillow, Climbing Aster, Groundsel Tree, and Spanish Needles. Fruits noted along our walk included Dahoon Holly, Rougeplant and American Beautyberry. Red Maple and Poison Ivy showed their Fall colors. Lunch at the picnic tables with enjoyable nature conversations ended our trip.



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