



"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis

Orange Audubon Society

A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida



Vol. 45

February 2010

Issue No. 6

February Field Trip Orlando Wetlands Park

On Saturday, February 20th, OAS will visit Orlando Wetlands Park near Christmas. We will walk about three miles, mostly on dike roads through this artificial wetland constructed to treat reclaimed water. The wetlands attract wintering waterfowl as well as long-legged waders. For more information about this 1650 acre site see: <http://www.ci.orlando.fl.us/fpr/HTML/Parks/OrlandoWetlands.htm>

Meet in the back parking lot of Burger King on S.R. 50 (Colonial Drive) just east of S.R. 434 (Alafaya Trail) for a 7:30 am departure. Bring drink, birding gear, and lunch. If you have questions about our trip, call us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder
Field Trip Committee

Hands Across the Sand

On Saturday, February 13th, the citizens of Florida will have an opportunity to show their opposition to oil drilling as close as 3 to 10 miles off our coast. This movement will be made of people of all walks of life and will cross political affiliations. This movement is not about politics; it is about protection of our shoreline, our wildlife, our tourism, our valuable properties and our way of life.

Give the Earth and the inhabitants of Florida a valentine by joining a protest against near-shore drilling off Florida's coasts. Many beaches will draw participants to them to join hands and stand to protect our shores; however, in-land protests will be held also. To find a 'spot' where you can join hands with others, visit www.handsacrossthesand.org/ and make plans to attend an event that day. If you can't join the hands on the beach, the website lists other ways that you can help and links for more information (e.g. Audubon of Florida). Please get involved.

Bob Stamps

This Month's Program: Feb 18, 2010, 7:00 p.m.
Wood Storks: Our Most Endangered Waders
by Jim Rodgers

The Wood Stork is the only stork in North America and one of our largest birds. Nesting in colonies that are vulnerable to disturbance, this bird has a specific method of feeding that has contributed to its becoming rare. It has been granted endangered species status, both federally and in Florida. Biologist Jim Rodgers heads the Avian Research Subsection of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in Gainesville, responsible for meeting management and conservation of over 460 species of birds in Florida, 36 species or subspecies of which are listed by the state or federal governments as being of special concern, threatened or endangered. With Wood Storks one of his special projects since 1981, he works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to find and monitor colonies.

For this month's program, Jim Rodgers will inform us on the Wood Stork's past, current status and outlook for the future. He will also let us know how we can help. Join us February 18 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.

Deborah Green, Program Chair

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

January Field Trip Report

The scheduled Field Trip on January 23rd to Paisley Bike Trail in the Ocala National Forest had 8 participants and we heard or saw 28 species. Wendy Poag from Lake County Parks & Trail joined me in leading this trip to talk about the plants and ecosystem while I pointed out the birds. Highlights were Bachman's Sparrow, numerous Brown-Headed Nuthatch and absolutely stunning views of Pine Warblers whose call echoed through the forest during the entire hike. The day was perfect, the smell of clean pine-scented air, cool sunshine and the sound of birds made up for the relatively few species seen. The opportunity to discover the diversity and beauty of this unique ecosystem was, I believe, a joy for everyone.

An additional note, the Merritt Island NWR Limited edition trip had more than 70 species including a drake Eurasian Wigeon. There are two remaining limited edition trips: Emeraldal Marsh CA and Fort DeSoto Park. Sign up early because they'll fill fast!

Gallus C. Quigley Jr.
Field Trip Chair

Limited Edition Field Trip

Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area (EMCA; SJRWMD Property) is the site for another Limited Edition (15 participants) field Trip on March 7, 2010. EMCA is located off Emeraldal Island Road between Eustis and Leesburg off CR 44. Meeting point is the Wood Duck Parking Lot by 7:45 am; we'll leave the parking lot at 8:00 am and drive the 4.6-mile wildlife drive. Cost is \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Reservations are required; contact Gallus (gallusq@cfl.rr.com) for more information and driving directions.

Spring Butterfly I.D. Class

Details for the Spring butterfly ID Class (the first three Saturdays in May) will be in next month's OASis.

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

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

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 OAS when you reserve your spot (sign up and pay at the meeting, contact Loretta Leda at 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 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. As mentioned last month, registration must be made before Feb. 5th or the rooms are no longer blocked for OAS. However, you may still be able to get a room - and mention OAS.

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.

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>

From the Nominating Committee

The Orange Audubon Society is in immediate need of two volunteers to fill current vacancies on the Board of Directors.

The 2010 annual elections for the Board of Directors will soon be upon us. The Board is comprised of twenty volunteer members who serve staggered terms of three-years. Each year one-third of the positions are open for election/re-election. If you are a member of OAS, this would be an opportunity to serve and to assist in fulfilling our mission.

If you are interested in serving OAS in this capacity, either immediately or for the next term, please contact Steve Graves at ssgesq@aol.com.

Opportunities Abound for Helping OAS

Do you feel as though something is missing in your life? Maybe you need to do something for 'others' that will make you feel good. Perhaps the 'others' could be your plant and animal friends who are being shoved aside as our urban areas 'sprawl' into their habitats. Don't know where to start? It's easy. Here are some examples of what you can do with just a few spare hours: 1) Begin being more active in Orange Audubon Society (OAS). Several opportunities are listed in each newsletter that will

provide you with quiet satisfaction. Check the 'Calendar of Events' on the last page. Don't think you 'know enough to help'? For surveys, you will be 'partnered' with people who will be willing to help you spot and identify critters and you will have fun while learning. Field trips and ID classes are also learning experiences that will give you enjoyment and confidence as you learn. 2) Volunteer to serve on the OAS board of directors. Once again, this sounds like work, but the effort to help the chapter maintain habitat in our own little corner of the world will give you deep satisfaction. This is always a 'learn as you go' endeavor; how do you think each of the current board members learned what to do? Put your special skills to work now. (See nominating committee article on this page.) 3) Attend the Audubon Academy in Gainesville (see additional article in this newsletter) for 'workshops' that will help you focus on various environmental concerns; then use those ideas/lessons to help OAS. 4) Visit with OAS board members prior to and after general meetings. Getting to know these people at the meetings will help you feel more comfortable about volunteering when requests are made for assistance.

First step: join us at the upcoming meeting and start getting your feet wet! Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite

NAS Offers Summer Birding Classes

The National Audubon Society (NAS) is offering 4 adult ornithology sessions and one teen birding session at legendary Hog Island this coming summer. Dr. Steve Kress, Audubon's VP for Bird Conservation, will direct the sessions. He will be joined by some of the country's top ornithologists and teachers including Kenn Kaufman, Pete Dunne, and Scott Weidensaul. The adult programs are for both beginning and avid birders who would like to learn more about Maine birdlife and the biology of birds. The teen session is for 14–17 year olds with a keen interest in birds. (This session is co-sponsored by the American Birding Association.) Due to its varied habitats, Hog Island and vicinity are an ideal setting for the program, as more than 300 species frequent the area. The program will also feature activities for younger children to learn about birds from noted children's author Lynne Cherry.

The Hog Island camp, first opened in 1936 with Roger Tory Peterson as its first bird instructor, is well known in America's environmental community as a distinguished and beautiful place of learning and enjoyment. The sessions are filling rapidly, so it's best to register soon. Reservations are easier than ever before with on-line registrations. To learn more about Hog Island ornithology programs, view a slide show, download the one page flyer and register, visit <http://www.projectpuffin.org/OrnithCamps.html>.

Additionally, there will be two service-learning sessions offered in association with Exploritas (formerly Elder Hostel). During the June session (5/30–6/4/2010) participants will assist Project Puffin biologists in counting gulls, eiders and cormorants at several nearby seabird nesting islands. Read more about/sign up for this June session at <http://www.exploritas.org/programs/programdetail.asp?RowId=1%2D4UBJHH>.

Participants in the September session (9/12–9/17/2010) will learn about land and seabirds through bird banding and presentations and assist with a habitat management project for endangered terns and storm-petrels at Eastern Egg Rock. They will also assist a Saw Whet Owl banding project. Read more about/sign up for the September session at <http://www.exploritas.org/programs/programdetail.asp?DId=1%2D5453Y5>.

AUDUBON ACADEMY 2010
Paramount Plaza Conference Center,
Gainesville, FL, March 26–28, 2010

Now in its 6th year, Audubon Academy is designed to strengthen chapters by providing both novice and experienced members with encouragement and knowledge. All participants should find workshops informative and useful. Scheduled field trips, social events, workshops, chapter presentations and keynote addresses will focus on building relationships — both inside and outside of Audubon. For a registration form and complete schedule of activities that starts Friday with a kayak trip at 1:00 pm on the Ichetucknee River and ends with a boat trip on the Ocklawaha River beginning at 1:30 pm on Sunday, visit www.audubonofflorida.org.

Registration prior to March 15th is \$25 and any Orange Audubon Society (OAS) member interested in attending the Academy to perhaps prepare for service to OAS should contact Teresa (407-644-0796; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) regarding budgeted funds to pay the \$25 fee for the Academy. Information regarding special Academy rates at the Paramount Plaza Conference Center is also given at the AoF website; please note that the final date for the mentioned rate is March 24th.

This is an excellent opportunity to get to know other Audubon individuals and to learn from them. Attendance at these types of events leaves

participants with a special enthusiasm that comes from spending time and sharing ideas with like-minded individuals. Take advantage of this special opportunity and plan now to attend.

Rally for the Rivers

The Putnam County Environmental Council (PCEC) invites you to attend the *Rally for the Rivers* on February 12–14, 2010, in Palatka. Activists and interested citizens dream of consolidated efforts to accomplish shared goals and that's what you can expect from this three-day, mostly free event. For details, visit www.pcecweb.org.

The Rally begins on Friday the 12th with a public hearing held by Senate Select Committee on Florida's Inland Waters from 8:30-10:30 am at the Quality Inn Riverside in Palatka. The committee will address springs protection and other water issues that have an impact on the state's environment and economy.

The Rally's St. Johns RiverFest will begin at 10:00 am on Saturday, Feb. 13 at Palatka's Riverfront Park. Daytime activities are free and open to the public. Tickets for the evening buffet dinner and concert are \$50. Saturday, Feb. 13th, will also provide an opportunity for you to participate in the Florida Springs Rally.

On Sunday, Feb. 14th, come celebrate at the Ocklawaha RiverFest on the Ocklawaha at Rodman Dam. The Ocklawaha RiverFest is free and open to the public.

2010 Photo Contest Features

Two Competition Categories and Pre-Screening

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2010 (22nd Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest features two broad categories titled: ***Actions and Interactions*** and ***Close Encounters***. In keeping with contest objectives, subject matter in both categories must be native to Florida and cannot contain any discernable trace of humans or human-made objects or artifacts or non-native (to Florida) flora or fauna.

Two categories mean two award packages worth \$1,050 in combined cash and other prizes! The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each category receive cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50, respectively; plus in-store gift cards from Colonial Photo & Hobby (Orlando) with values of \$100, \$50 and \$25, respectively, from OAS. All winning entries receive ribbons and also vie for placement on the cover of OAS' next annual brochure and the opportunity to be featured in a store display at Colonial Photo & Hobby.

Deadlines for 2010: your entries must be **received by** the deadline dates to be eligible. Early submissions *received by* April 15, 2010 will be pre-screened and winners notified of any disqualified images with the opportunity for free replacement. All entries including pre-screened replacements must be *received by* May 20, 2010. Hand delivery, but only to Teresa at OAS programs at Leu Gardens, is permitted.

Entry forms with complete contest rules and requirements are now available at Colonial Photo & Hobby (Orlando) or on OAS' new website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org. If you have questions or need an entry form e-mailed to you, *interact* with mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Good lighting.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

That Nasty “P” Word That Many Ignore

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's International Programs Center, the total population of humans on Earth was estimated to be 6,799,543,600 on Saturday, January 30th. Could this have anything to do with:

- Increasing losses of biodiversity and a growing number of species facing extinction?
- In the United States, 45% of assessed stream miles, 47% of assessed lake acres, and 32% of assessed bay and estuarine square miles receiving a polluted classification?
- Over 90% reduction in the numbers of blue fin tuna compared to what they were in the mid-1970s?
- The worldwide deforestation of 17,000,000 acres every single year?
- Population declines of 82%, 72% and 71% in Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlark, and Common Tern, respectively, since 1967 (to name but a few of many bird species in decline)?

And to think, population projections predict a human population of around 9 BILLION by 2050. With that in mind, we all need to work harder and smarter to protect the environment and the plants and animals (including humans) that depend on it.

Bob Stamps

2010 OAS Birdathon

The total number of species of birds seen by Orange Audubon Society (OAS) 'Birdathoners' was 148. Gallus Quigley and his team of birders saw 123 species of birds, so his team won the 'Caution Birder Driving' car window sticker. Lorne Malo and Pam Bowen, both of the St Johns River Water Management District, led other teams and added new species. A few individuals also reported their sightings for the day and helped bring us to our total. Our thanks to all who participated on that miserable cold day! You are hearty souls.

You have probably collected your flat-amount contributions already, but now it's time to collect from those who pledged a specific amount per species. Simply multiply the pledged amount by 148 and ask your 'pledgers' to make their contributions. Hopefully each of you were able to get the suggested two pledges; however, if you were able to garner more pledges, you could still be in the running for that other 'Caution Birder Driving' window sticker promised to the person bringing in the most dollar contributions. Please try to have your pledges collected and bring them (along with each contributor's name, address and amount donated) to the March OAS meeting or mail them to Orange Audubon Society, Birdathon, PO Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. Thanks for your support.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Birdathon Co-chair

Spring 2010 Beginner's Bird Watching Class Offered

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) member Teri Marks will return to teach a spring 2010 Beginner's Bird Watching Class (BBWC). Learn new skills or sharpen existing ability to name bird species using sight, sound, behavior or a combination of these and other clues.

Course includes 1 classroom session March 20th, Rollins College (with mini-field trip to nearby site); and 2 field sessions on March 27th and April 3rd; time for all sessions is 8:30 am–12:30 pm. Field trip locales will be announced at the start of class. Course will increase knowledge and awareness of North American bird species; teach bird ID techniques, basic birding principles, bird habitat and anatomy; provide binocular basics; tips on using field guides and checklists; and more.

Registration is required. Cost is \$25 for Audubon members and \$40 for non-members, payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society. Non-members can join when registering and pay \$45 (seniors 62+ and full-time students pay \$40), which includes BBWC registration (member price \$25) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in OAS, National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida [\$20 promotional rate (\$15 for seniors/students)]. Visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org for a membership application.

The class is limited to 15 students. To reserve a space, contact Teresa (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796). For questions about the class, contact Teri (tmarks@cfl.rr.com). Early birds get the best seats, so hurry!

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

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 Ayme Smith (10) 407-425-7504
 Randy Snyder (11) 407-851-5416
 Pete Vogt (11) 407-855-4122

Calendar of Events

Feb. 7, 2010 - Sunday
 Genius Drive Work Day, 9:30 am - 11:30 am, 407-644-0796
 mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or

Feb. 12—14, 2010 - Fri.-Sun.
 Rally for the Rivers
 www.pcecweb.org

Feb. 12—15, 2010 - Fri.-Sun.
 Great Backyard Bird Count,
 Free, www.birdcount.org
 for more info.

Feb. 13, 2010 - Saturday
 Hands Across Sands, see
 front page

Feb. 18, 2010 - Thursday
 Monthly membership program
 7 pm, Leu Gardens

Feb. 20, 2010 - Saturday
 Orlando Wetlands Park field
 trip. Mary or Randy
 407-851-5416

**Feb. 26—28, 2010 - Field
 Trip** St. Marks NWR,
 overnight, see pg 2, Loretta
 Lynn, 321/438-0838

Mar. 7, 2010 - Saturday
 Emerald Marsh
 Conservation Area, pg. 2

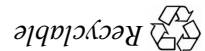
March 18, 2010 - Thursday
 Monthly membership program,
 7 p.m. Leu Gardens.

March 20, 27 and April 3
 Spring Beginning Bird
 Watching Class, see pg. 5

March 26—28, 2010
 Audubon Academy,
 Gainesville, see pg. 4

Volunteers Wanted for the 2010 Orlando Wetlands Park Season

Orlando Wetlands Park is asking for additional volunteers. The park will be open from February 1st through November 14th. Volunteers are needed (at least one Saturday or Sunday a month) to perform a variety of activities such as hosting the Nature Education Center, leading wildlife hikes/ tours and talking with visitors. For more information and to volunteer, contact Bob Rope (407-568-1706 or Robert.Rope@CityOfOrlando.net).



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