



# OASis



*Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies*

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## **The 111th Christmas Bird Count Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010 to Wed., Jan. 5, 2011.**

The Orange Audubon Society invites you to participate in a Christmas Bird Count (CBC) this December. Novices are welcome to join and learn.

The Christmas Bird Count epitomizes Audubon's approach to bird conservation, involving people to help birds. Born of the budding conservation ethic at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) program is the longest running Citizen Science program in the world.

Tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the Americas take part. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this bird census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action. Nearby CBC compilers' contact information below.

- Emerald-Sunnyhill CBC – Dec. 14 – Peg Lindsay ([pegcondor@embarqmail.com](mailto:pegcondor@embarqmail.com)).
- Zellwood-Mt. Dora CBC – Dec. 17 – Wes Biggs ([birdsatfnt@bellsouth.net](mailto:birdsatfnt@bellsouth.net)) or 407/384-9766 or 407/376-6967-cell.
- Cocoa CBC – Dec. 18 – David Freeland ([vgswallow@cfl.rr.com](mailto:vgswallow@cfl.rr.com)) or Dee Fairbanks Simpson ([deefairbanks@yahoo.com](mailto:deefairbanks@yahoo.com)).
- Wekiva CBC – Dec. 18 – Jay Exum ([Jay.Exum@aecom.com](mailto:Jay.Exum@aecom.com)) or 407/843-6552 (corrected) or 321/229-5653-cell.
- West Volusia CBC – Dec. 18 – David Stock (386/736-1893).
- Merritt Island N.W.R. CBC – Dec. 20 - Ned Steel ([nedsteel@msn.com](mailto:nedsteel@msn.com)).

Additional contact info can be found on page 3.

## **This Month's Program: Dec. 16, 2010, 7 p.m. Members Favorite Wildlife Viewing Spots**

Our second annual December program generated by our membership is an opportunity for the many photographers in our group, professional and amateur, to share some of their favorite wildlife watching spots. This is an exciting opportunity for some of us to share. While we had hoped to have all presentations submitted by the November meeting, there is still an opportunity to join the program.

To allow more people to participate, each presentation will be very short: no more than 5 minutes and 20 slides. If you would still like to present and are an OAS member or will join at the meeting, please call me at 407-637-2525. And even if you don't have photographs, if you would like to stand up and tell about a favorite place, this is your opportunity. If you have an album of print photos of a trip you wish to bring to show to interested attendees, feel free.

This is our holiday meeting, and we look forward to the opportunity to socialize. Look forward to seeing you there.

Deborah Green, Vice President

**Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the  
3rd Thursday of every month (September - 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**

### Thanks for the Contribution

Orange Audubon Society thanks W. Chris Fooshee for donating 10% of his sales from his exhibition in the "Second Thursday Artist Series" at the Garden on Park Café in Apopka during the month of December. If you get a chance, indulge yourself with his photography and the Café's good food. His 2011 calendar — *Wekiva: The Land and Its Water* — is available there and is included in the contribution offer.

Loretta Satterthwaite

### 2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius Drive Nature Preserve

The Genius Drive Nature Preserve was the subject of an ecological restoration that began in 2003. Since 2006 OAS has partnered with Rollins College and the Preserve's owner, the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation, by conducting 'workdays' to help maintain restored areas.

The next workday is Sunday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> from 9—11 AM; it entails gardening, a/k/a weeding and mulching, in the restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell.

To help, contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). Further details provided the week before. Please see related Field Trip article below.

### Genius Drive Nature Preserve Field Trips

Reservations are required for two guided field trips to the 48± acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park on December 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM to Noon. These are walking field trips (FT) that will be concurrent with bird surveys and led by survey leader and preeminent birder, Bruce Anderson. In just three years surveyors have documented 158 bird species on the Preserve, which is also rich in 19<sup>th</sup> century history.

You must be a current Orange Audubon Society member or active Preserve workday volunteer to attend and FTs are limited to 20 people each date. More details provided when you register by contacting Teresa ([mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796).

### Chertok Photo Contest Update

While the Orange Audubon Society's Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) committee is busily planning for its 2011 (23<sup>rd</sup> Annual) competition, they remind you that subject matter must be of Florida native nature and entries must be received by May 19, 2011, the final deadline, OR by April 21, 2011 for an optional pre-screening and the opportunity to replace ineligible images free, subject to the final deadline and all other contest rules. Complete details and theme will be announced in the January 2011 *OASis* newsletter and on the website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org). The awards program and dinner is June 16, 2011.

Teresa Williams, CNPC chair

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

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.

## The 111th Christmas Bird Count

**Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010 to Wed., Jan. 5, 2011.**

Nearby CBC compilers' contact information below.

- Daytona Beach CBC – Dec. 26 – David Hartgrove ([birdman9@earthlink.net](mailto:birdman9@earthlink.net) or 386/788-2630).
- Econlockhatchee CBC – Dec. 26 – Lorne Malo at 407/659-4853 (work), 407/349-2536 (home), [lmalo@sjrwmd.com](mailto:lmalo@sjrwmd.com), or [lornemalo@bellsouth.net](mailto:lornemalo@bellsouth.net).
- Ponce Inlet CBC – Jan 2 – Dick or Gail Domroski (386/428-0447).
- South Brevard CBC – Jan. 2 – Roy Book ([rlbook@earthlink.net](mailto:rlbook@earthlink.net)).

For more **Christmas Bird Count** information, visit: <http://www.fosbirds.org/Events/CBC/cbcfos%202010-2011.htm>

## November Field Trip Report

Twelve attended the OAS field trip to Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-eight bird species were observed on the trip including Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Loggerhead Shrike, Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Pine Warbler and Eastern Towhee.

At least seven butterfly species were seen including Barred Yellow, Common Buckeye, Carolina Satyr and a variety of royalty: Viceroy, Queen and Monarch. Wildflowers in bloom include Pipewort, Broom Sedge, Narrow-leaved Sabatia, St. John's Wort, Glades Lobelia, False Foxglove, Elliott's Aster, Goldenaster, and Flat-topped Goldenrod. Plants with fall color included Swamp Tupelo, Sweetgum, and Shining Sumac. Other sightings include Golden Silk Spider, Butterfly Orchid and lots of Wax Myrtle fruits for the Yellow-rumped (formerly Myrtle) Warblers.

I learned a lot from this group ranging from how well green lasers work to help point out birds to how the newly-elected Florida legislature made water conservation rules more difficult to enact.

Mary Keim, Field Trip Committee

## Thrifty Gift Ideas for the Holidays

The holidays are upon us, and if you're like most people, you'd like to save a little and still give meaningful gifts that will be appreciated for a long while. Here are some ideas for gifts under \$25 that will share your love of birding and nature with others. If you have children or any tech savvy person on your list, consider purchasing a National Audubon Society field guide in an App format, either directly from [www.audubonguides.com](http://www.audubonguides.com), or as a gift from the iTunes store. The iTunes store allows you to actually gift the App directly to a recipient, and Audubon Apps are well represented. Individual volumes on birds, butterflies, trees, insects and mammals, as is the wonderful "Audubon Nature Florida-the Ultimate Florida Nature Guide." The Individual Apps are only \$14.99 each, and can be accessed by a smart phones or iPad devices.

Or, consider giving the gift of a Duck Stamp, available at [www.fws.gov/duckstamps](http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps). The topic of Duck Stamps can cause lively debate, but this year there is a special edition specifically dedicated to helping restore Gulf of Mexico wetlands. It's a called a silk cachet, and although it is \$25, which is \$10 more than the regular Duck Stamp, its purpose is to acquire wetlands in the thirty-eight plus National Wildlife Refuges along the Gulf Coast. This gift could be a way to include someone in restoring the Gulf in a tangible way.

Also consider a gift membership to the Orange Audubon Society; a chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida. Your basic membership of \$20 supports our efforts to safeguard Florida's natural environment and entitles you to receive three publications: National Audubon's bimonthly magazine, *Audubon*; Audubon of Florida's biannual publication, *The Florida Naturalist*; and Orange Audubon's monthly newsletter, *OASis*.

To obtain an enrollment form go to <http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/> and click on "Download Brochure" in the left column.

Cynthia Amoroso

**Orange Audubon Society  
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The **Hospitality Committee** is seeking energetic and friendly individuals to help setup and greet members before meetings. Contact Samantha Eckhaus at eckhauss@yahoo.com or 407/435-7747.

**Calendar of Events**

**Dec. 5, 2010 - Sunday**

9-11 AM, Genius Workday, Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com

**Dec. 5, 2010 - Sunday**

Birds of Prey ID, Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Lust Rd. 8:00–1:00, Contact Gallus: gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407/242-7833

**Dec. 11 & 12, 2010**

Genius Drive Preserve Field Trip - 8 AM - 12 PM, details on page 2

**Jan. 6, 2011 - Sunday**

Birds of Prey ID, Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Lust Rd. 8:00–1:00, Contact Gallus: gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407-242-7833

**Jan. 8, 2011 - Tuesday**

Special Field Trip to STA-5, Everglades, \$10 (members) \$15 (non-members), 12 & under FREE with registered adult. Contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com

**Jan. 22, 2011 - Saturday**

Field Trip to Lake Jesup, Sanford, Contact Gallus: gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407-242-7833

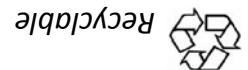
**Jan. 23, 2011 - Sunday**

Limited Edition Field Trip to Seminole State Forest, Lake Co., Contact Gallus: gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407-242-7833

**January 26-31, 2011,**

Space Coast Birding Festival – (800) 460-2664  
www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org or festival@brevardnaturealliance.org

**Feb. 19, 2011, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM - Orlando Wetlands Festival, contact Orlando Wetlands Park for details or visit www.cityoforlando.net/public\_works/wetlands/festival/index.htm**



Address Service Requested <sup>2</sup>

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