



OASis



Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

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FIELD TRIP REPORT: Jan. 22, 2011

Lake Jesup Conservation Area, Marl Bed Flats Tract

Thirteen birders enjoyed a chilly, breezy but clearing morning at The Lake Jesup Conservation Area, Marl Bed Flats Tract. We explored oak/palmetto hammock, pasture, and wetlands adjacent to Lake Jesup. Recent rains created some soggy footing but had reinvigorated resurrection fern giving the hammock area an inviting, lush appearance. 65 species of birds were identified including: Am. White Pelicans, Bald Eagles, Limpkin, 7 species of shorebirds (with Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe), Bonaparte's Gull, Black Skimmer, Blue-headed Vireo, Am. Pipit, 6 species of warblers (with Orange-crowned, Yellow-throated, Black and White), and Eastern Meadowlark. Thank you all!

Bob Sanders (substituting for Gallus Quigley)

Area Wildlife Surveys

The Orange Audubon Society invites you to participate in an upcoming bird survey.

- **Palm Bluff Conservation Area bird surveys – (tentative) – Sunday, Feb. 13 & Mar. 12** - Contact Lorne Malo at 407/659-4853 (work), 407/349-2536 (home), lmalo@sjrwmd.com, or lornemalo@bellsouth.net.
- **Charl s H. Bronson S. F. (Turkey Creek Tract) butterfly surveys – (tentative) – Feb. 26** - Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407/851-5416 - home or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.
- **Ferndale Preserve quarterly bird surveys** – Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352/516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.
- **Lake Apopka, North Shore Restoration Area bird surveys** – Pam Bowen (386/329-4870 or Pbowen@sjrwmd.com) or Jim Peterson (352/735-1267 or JPeterson@sjrwmd.com).

This Month's Program

February 17th @ 7:00 pm

Landscaping for Wildlife by Bob Stamps

Learn how to invigorate your landscape and create an urban oasis for wildlife. Planting certain trees, shrubs, and flowers can create an inviting habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife. When we landscape with wildlife in mind, we create havens for animals whose habitat has been displaced by development. Long-time Orange Audubon member, several times past president, Audubon of Florida Board member and University of Florida Professor Bob Stamps is part of an effort to educate folks on Landscaping for Wildlife. Just in time to plan for spring planting, at our February 17th program Bob will give us new ideas on this topic.

Wildlife-attracting and sustaining plants, propagated by some of our members, will be for sale at this meeting. Join us February 17 for a fascinating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

Limited Edition Field Trip — Feb. 20th Daytona Beach Shores Gull ID Class

This is the famed gull fly-in you have all heard about. Contact Gallus Quigley: (407) 242-7833, gallusq@cfl.rr.com.

Orange Audubon Society meetings are free and no reservations are necessary. Programs 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

11th Annual Orlando Wetlands Festival—Fun, Education & Fundraising

On February 19, 2011, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will again co-sponsor the Orlando Wetlands Festival at Ft. Christmas Park and have the opportunity to benefit the community by leading nature and photography hikes, co-leading bus tours, and talking to attendees about our conservation and education programs. Additionally, the Festival is usually a great OAS fundraising event—profits from fundraising sales at the last festival paid much of OAS' costs of participation. This year OAS will again offer nature-oriented merchandise for sale: adult and youth t-shirts, nest boxes, tote bags, signs, books, etc. We would love to also offer our kids' art table activity, but we must have additional volunteers to conduct that activity.

Mark the date on your calendar now, but first please call to volunteer your time. Contact Randy Snyder, OAS' festival liaison who also organizes OAS' field trip leaders, to volunteer or ask questions about the educational tours (407-851-5416; rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com). Contact Loretta Satterthwaite (407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) or Teresa Williams (407-644-0796; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) to volunteer or ask questions about the fundraising, conservation and education displays and/or the kids' art activities.

This event is well-attended and loads of fun, so plan now to come out and learn about Orlando Wetlands Park and while you're there, volunteer for a couple of hours to help your Audubon chapter.

Visit: http://www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/wetlands/festival/index.htm for a Festival flyer and more information.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Teresa Williams and Randy Snyder, OWP

2-Hour 'Workday' at Genius 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, March 6, 9—11 AM. Volunteers will bring gloves, shovels, etc. for 'gardening' (weeding and mulching) in the restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell.

Contact Teresa: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796 to sign up and receive further details.

Newsletter Moving Toward Electronic Format

We have been trying to collect email addresses for a few years, with our newsletter going electronic as the primary motivation.

We will still print newsletters, but those members who will accept the newsletter electronically can save our chapter money and resources.

We are working on compiling emails of those of our 2000+ members who wish to receive the newsletter electronically. To add your email address to the list, email our membership list chair Mike Daley at miked531@bellsouth.net.

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.

Chertok Photo Contest Update

New displays featuring images from Orange Audubon Society's Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC) begin this month at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH) in Orlando, FL and Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) in Christmas, FL.

Before winning images and photographers' names are announced each year, CPH, the contest co-sponsor, selects a limited number of entries from which enlarged displays are made. The enlargements, courtesy of CPH, are featured in their store displays and elsewhere to enhance the contest's educational value and promote interest in nature photography. The new CPH display features images by Kevin Barry, Dianne R. Brannon, Myrna Erler-Bradshaw, Mary Keim and Jim "Bodie" Joseph. The new OWP display features images by Robert Amoruso, Kevin Barry, Wayne Bennett, Ursula Dubrick, Brett Miley and Bill Stefancic. All images are from the 2009 CNPC.

The theme for the 2011 Open CNPC is *Nature's Patterns*. Participants may explore the amazing geometry and textures present in the native animals, plants, landscapes and habitats of Florida. There is an amateur category for new and less experienced photographers and an advanced category for experienced nature photographers who wish to compete with their peers. **The theme for the 2011 Youth CNPC is *Natural Florida*.** Participants age 17 or younger may enter the Youth competition and discover nature, from habitats in their own backyards to those found in Florida's wildlife parks and refuges.

In keeping with the contest's goal of creating interest and concern for Florida's native species, subject matter in the *Open* and *Youth* competitions must be of Florida native animals and plants and may not contain discernable traces of humans or human artifacts. Entries must be received by May 19, 2011, the final deadline. Or enter by April 21, 2011 (received date) for an optional pre-screening and the opportunity to replace ineligible images free, subject to the contest's final deadline and all other rules.

For fill-in PDF entry forms and complete contest rules, visit the OAS website: orangeaudubonsocietyfl.org. Forms will also be available at CPH and OWP or by contacting Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Participate in Saving Rock Springs Run State Reserve and other Parks

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) along with other agencies on January 26 presented to the Legislature reductions they would make *if* ordered to reduce their budgets by 15%. Freshman legislators, of which the proportion is extremely high, have less familiarity with the importance of Florida's environmental programs, and what was previously just an annual exercise by DEP may now become a reality.

Audubon of Florida has set up a [Florida's Special Places](#) site. Go to the main website fl.audubon.org/ and across the top banner to the right choose **News** to see the article [Department of Environmental Protection Proposes to Close 53 State Parks](#) with the full list of threatened parks. Once choosing a park to write about, choose the tab on the top banner **Saving Special Places**. Audubon suggests that you send your description also to your representatives and state senators. The issue will come before the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and Senate General Government Appropriations Committee first. Thank you for taking action! *Deborah Green, 1st Vice President*

Spring 2011 Beginner's Bird Watching Class Offered

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) former board member Bob Sanders will teach a spring 2011 Beginner's Bird Watching Class (BBWC).

The course includes a classroom session March 26th at Orlando Wetlands Park (with mini-field trip in the park) and 2 field sessions on April 2nd and 9th; time for all sessions is 8:30 AM–12:30 PM. Field session locales will be announced at the start of class. Goals of the course are to increase knowledge and awareness of North American bird species; teach bird ID techniques and basic birding principles, bird habitat and anatomy; provide binocular basics and tips on using field guides and checklists; and (rarely discussed, but important) ethics of birding.

Registration is required and class is limited to 20 students. Price for all three sessions is \$30 for Audubon members, \$45 for non-members and \$10 for children age 12 or under with a registered adult, payable by check or money order to Orange Audubon Society. Non-members who join when registering pay \$50, which includes BBWC registration (member price \$30) plus introductory 3-way annual membership in OAS, National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida (\$20 promotional rate). Such new memberships *must be paid directly to OAS as prescribed herein*. Visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org for a membership application.

To register, contact Teresa [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796]. For more class information, contact Bob [procrow@bellsouth.net or (407) 898-9798].

**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 eckhaus@yahoo.com or 407/435-7747.

Calendar of Events

Feb. 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

Feb. 18-21, 2011 Great Backyard Bird Count. Full details can be found at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html>.

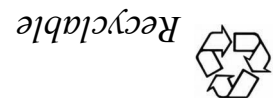
Feb. 19, 2011, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM- Orlando Wetlands Festival, contact Orlando Wetlands Park for details or visit http://www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/wetlands/festival/index.htm

Mar 19 - Saturday Tosohatchee WMA, Orange Co., For Field Trip details, please visit orangeaudubonfl.org. For trip questions, call Gallus Quigley at (407) 242-7833.

March 18 - Friday
For Limited Edition Field Trip details, please visit orangeaudubonfl.org. Limited Edition Field Trips are restricted to 15 people per trip and have a cost of \$10 per person per trip for members and \$15 per person for non-members. For trip reservations call Gallus Quigley at (407) 242-7833.

Beginner's Bird Identification - Saturdays: March 26, 2011 April 2 & 9, 2011 8:30AM-12:30 PM Cost: \$30 (members), \$45 (non-members), \$10 (12 & under with registered adult)

Special Event: Audubon Academy 2011, Gainesville, March 18-20, 2011 jsulek@audubon.org



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