



OASis



Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

Vol. 46

March 2011

Issue No. 7

Field Trip - Saturday March 19th Tosohatchee WMA

Meet at the Burger King on SR 50 and Alafaya Trail at 7:30am leaving there at 7:45am \$3.00 per car entry fee to the WMA. Hoping to find Swallow-tailed Kite, Bachman's Sparrow and Brown-headed Nuthatch plus other pineland species. Return around 1:00pm

Limited Edition Field Trip - March 20th Merritt Island NWR

This trip is restricted to 15 people per trip and has a cost of \$10 per person per trip for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Meet at the Burger King on SR 50 and Alafaya Trail at 7:30am leaving there at 7:45am, \$6.00 entry fee to Canaveral National Seashore if we go there. Returning around 4:00-5:00pm. *Contact Gallus Quigley: 407-242-7833, gallusq@cfl.rr.com.*

Area Wildlife Surveys

The Orange Audubon Society invites you to participate in the upcoming wildlife surveys.

- **Charles H. Bronson S. F. (Turkey Creek Tract) butterfly surveys** – (tentative) – Mar. 13, Apr. 30 - Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 - home or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.
- **Palm Bluff Conservation Area** - contact Lorne Malo at 407-659-4853 (work), 407-349-2536 (home), lmalo@sjrwmd.com, or lornemalo@bellsouth.net.
- **Ferndale Preserve** quarterly bird surveys – Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.
- **Ponce Inlet bird surveys** – Stacey Bell at 386-238-4716 or sbell@co.volusia.fl.us – weekdays only; boat seating is limited.
- **Lake Apopka, North Shore Restoration Area bird surveys** – Jan. 8 - Pam Bowen at 386-329-4870 or Pbowen@sjrwmd.com or Jim Peterson at 352-735-1267 or JPeterson@sjrwmd.com.
- **Emeralda Marsh Conservation Area bird surveys** – John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or jstenberg@sjrwmd.com.

This Month's Program: March 17th @ 7:00 pm Pelagic Birds of Florida's Atlantic East Coast

by Michael Brothers

Pelagic birds are open ocean wanderers, like Gannets, Shearwaters, Jaegers and Petrels. The average person never sees these species, because they spend almost their entire lives at sea. Michael Brothers, Director of Volusia County's Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, is an expert on these species and in arranging pelagic trips for other birders. In conjunction with the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival in Titusville in late January, he leads trips with the 100-foot Pastime Princess out of Ponce Inlet as far out into the Atlantic as an undersea formation known as "The Steeples." There upwelling cold and productive waters along the western edge of the Gulf Stream attract many species of pelagic birds to eat the abundant fish and other sea life. He is organizing this trip again for April to see migratory species.

Whether you are considering going on one of these trips or just want to learn about life offshore, join us March 17 for a fascinating program. *Deborah Green, Vice President*

Orlando Wetlands Park Festival Report on Page 2

Orange Audubon Society meetings & programs are free & 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.

Thank you to all who have donated to Orange Audubon Society during last month's drive. If you have not already done so, we hope that you will consider supporting your society by donating.

"Make checks payable to Orange Audubon Society and mail to Orange Audubon Society, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142."

11th Annual Orlando Wetlands Park Festival

A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped make our 11th Annual Orlando Wetlands Park Festival a success. It is always so much more enjoyable when we have enough volunteers to allow everyone to take breaks and enjoy some of the 'happenings' at these events.

Special thanks to Randy Snyder and Mary Keim for coordinating the bus tours and nature hikes with which Orange Audubon Society (OAS) volunteers were involved. I heard that the bus 'guides' had a lot of fun this year. Both Mary and Randy helped set up and tear down the OAS display also, as did Bob Stamps. Other Orange Audubon members were involved in bird banding and photo hikes. Thanks to everyone who participated for Orange Audubon Society; you make this event special for everyone. By the way, Andrew Boyle has done an excellent blog about the bird banding team at the festival at the link below. Check it out.

<http://wekivaband.blogspot.com/2011/02/orlando-wetlands-festival-success.html>

With trepidation that I'll miss someone, I wish to acknowledge the volunteers who helped at our various tables—merchandise sales, membership/conservation/education and kids' art. All day volunteers (from set-up to tear-down) included Cyndi Kay, Wayne Kennedy, Chris Gandy and Teresa Williams. Others who contributed valuable time and effort were: Cynthia Gosiewski, Jason Gingras, Dominique Shimizu, Sharon Robbins, Jennifer Weader, Dick Smith, Nancy Christman, Mike Godwin and drop-by volunteers Diane, Sonia, and Delsy. Also, thanks to Joan LeMosy for her contribution of cut-outs for the kids' art. Everyone who participated had a good time and enjoyed meeting and working with the other volunteers.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Website updates, Facebook and Twitter

Chapter President Mike Godwin and the web committee continue to keep the OAS website up to date at www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

Mary Keim and Cynthia Gray will be working on OAS's Facebook page. Members and friends using Facebook are invited to "Like" Orange Audubon Society at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Orange-Audubon-Society/170295309668448> or just logon to Facebook and search for "Orange Audubon Society"

Jason Gingras will be working on having an OAS presence on Twitter also. More information coming as these new projects develop.

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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mgodwin@cfl.rr.com 407-535-2640

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Editor: Robert J. Amoruso

ramoruso-oas@att.net 407-808-7417

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

The **OASis** is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

2011 Photo Contest -- What's New?

The theme for OAS' 2011 Chertok Nature Photography Contest (CNPC), *Nature's Patterns*, will entice participants to explore the amazing geometry, color patterns and textures present in the native animals, plants, landscapes and habitats of Florida. This contest is still an OPEN contest for photographers of all ages, but for the second consecutive year OAS is sponsoring a separate YOUTH contest for people 17 years of age and under. The YOUTH theme differs, as stated below.

The format of this year's OPEN contest has changed to include two categories—'Amateur', for beginners and less experienced photographers; and 'Advanced' for experienced nature photographers who wish to compete (fiercely?) with their peers. The YOUTH contest theme, *Natural Florida*, should entice participants to explore the amazing native animals and plants present in an array of habitats—from your own backyards to the many parks, wildlife refuges, and preserves in Florida.

Consistent with OAS' mission and goals of the CNPC, subject matter for OPEN and YOUTH competitions cannot contain discernable non-native (to Florida) animals or plants or traces of humans or human artifacts. To enhance your knowledge of Florida's native species, the CNPC screening committee will provide early screening and a chance for a FREE do-over of any disqualified entries if received by the OPTIONAL early entry deadline of April 21, 2011. The final deadline is May 19, 2011.

Complete contest rules and requirements are shown on entry forms available at OAS meetings, on the website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org, at Colonial Photo & Hobby (Orlando), or by request to: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Orange Audubon Society Birdathon

The OAS birdathon provides a means of raising money for our organization while at the same time enjoying the outdoors, finding and viewing birds, and competing with others. Teams are organized, members solicit pledges, the team birds together on an appointed day, record their findings and gather pledges from the pledgers. Now is a good time for those interested to start forming your teams, challenging other teams, soliciting donations from sponsors, etc. More to come including pledge forms in the April OASis. Contact *Gallus Quigley* at gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407-242-7833 for more information.

Help Wanted: Board Members

It's that time of year again when the Orange Audubon Society is looking for volunteers to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of twenty volunteer members who serve staggered three-year terms. Each year one-third of the non-officer positions are open for election/re-election.

This is a great opportunity to get involved and help fulfill the Society's mission. To be eligible, you must be a member of Orange Audubon, have an interest in wildlife and the environment that supports it, and be able to attend monthly board meetings held on the third Thursday of every month at Leu Gardens in Orlando.

If you wish to volunteer and help OAS by serving on the Board, please contact Cynthia Gosiewski at cyngos@aol.com or 407-426-8982, Richard Poole at catbird@cfl.rr.com or Cindy Amoruso at suncyn1031@mac.com. Thank you!

Cynthia Gosiewski, Nominating Committee Chair

Going Green: Newsletter Moving Toward Electronic Format

Our drive to move the membership to receiving the newsletter by email surges forward with 91 persons opting in. THANK YOU to those that have contacted Mike Daley.

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

If you have email, are willingly to receive the newsletter electronically in Adobe PDF format and would like to save your society money, please email our membership list chair *Mike Daley* at miked531@bellsouth.net and ask to receive the OASis by email. Get your free Adobe PDF Reader at the following link.

<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>

New National Wildlife Refuge Proposed in Florida

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a variety of public and private partners are working together to address landscape-scale land protection efforts to conserve wildlife and habitat in the Everglades landscape. Known as the Greater Everglades Partnership Initiative, it would be comprised of approximately 150,000+ acres of environmentally important natural habitat and associated wildlife in portions of Polk, Osceola, Indian River, Okeechobee and Highlands counties in Central Florida, within a larger 4.5 million-acre landscape that extends from the southern outskirts of the Orlando metro area south through the Kissimmee River Valley to Lake Okeechobee, and southwest to Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Big Cypress Preserve.

"This Initiative is aimed at preserving a rural working ranch landscape to protect and restore one of the great grassland and savanna landscapes of eastern North America. The partnerships being formed would protect and improve water quality north of Lake Okeechobee, restore wetlands, and connect existing conservation lands and important wildlife corridors to support the Everglades restoration effort."- U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. The goal is to have the final Plan developed by August—September 2011. That plan will then be sent to Washington for review.

For more information on this proposal and to view a map of the study area, please visit: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/greatereverglades/>.

Sharon Robbins, Conservation Chair

Speak up to Protect our Local State Parks

The issue of possible closure of 53 state parks, preserves, and reserves by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection was in the news a few weeks ago. Although we understand that Governor Rick Scott has come out against that idea, we know that state budgets are tight and the idea may be proposed again.

As members of the Orange Audubon Society, we encourage you to contact your state senators and representatives letting them know how important it is to protect Florida's natural areas within state parks, preserves, and reserves. On the list of 53 state parks, preserves, and reserves submitted for possible closure the nearest to us is Rock Springs Run State Reserve.

To find out who your current state Senator and representative are and their contact information, go to <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/> and enter your zip code where it says Find Your Representative to the left. There are several correct forms of address for a Member of Congress including "The Honorable" and "Senator" or "Representative". The following is some suggested language for your letter:

In these stressful economic times, the parks and preserves offer inexpensive recreation for Central Florida families as well as tourists that enjoy nature.

Among the 53 state parks, preserves, and reserves listed by Florida Department of Environmental Protection for possible closing is one very important to our membership, Rock Springs Run State Reserve off State Road 46, specifically 30601 CR 433, Sorrento, Florida 32776.

This Reserve protects pristine river shoreline and swamps along the Wekiva River and Rock Springs Run as well as upland sand pine scrub and pine flatwoods, totaling nearly 14,000 acres of natural Central Florida. Within the Wekiva River Basin lies a complex of waterways comprising the first congressionally-designated National Wild and Scenic River basin in Florida. In March 1983, the first parcel of Rock Springs Run State Reserve was purchased for watershed protection, habitat preservation, and to provide recreational opportunities for Central Floridians.

There are an estimated 100 Florida black bears in the Wekiva River Basin, in a population considered part of the Ocala National Forest population. Two large tunnels under SR-46 at the entrance to the Reserve allow not only bears to cross busy SR-46 safely, but other wildlife such as white-tailed deer, bobcats, coyotes and turkeys also use the tunnels. These underpasses have served as a model for other wildlife underpasses around the state.

The Reserve is important for its diversity of habitats. In addition to birding, visitors can bike or hike along 17 miles of trails, and guided horseback trail rides and rentals are available. During fall weekends hunting is allowed, expanding the recreational activities supported by the area.

We hope you recognize the value of protected state lands to not only the environmental integrity but also the economy of the state.

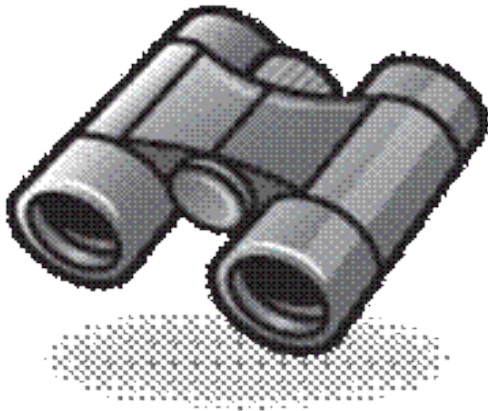
Thank you, Orange Audubon members, for letting your state senators and representatives, many of whom are new to office, know how important environmental protection is to our community.

Deborah Green, 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*. For a membership application visit www.orangeaudubonfl.org.

Contact Teresa [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796] to register.

Contact Bob [procrow@bellsouth.net or 407-898-9798] for class information.

Join the Fun and Learning Experience at Audubon Academy (March 18–20)

Join your fellow birders and conservationists and sign up to attend Audubon Academy (http://audubonoffloridanews.org/?category_name=audubon-academy).

This is a fun and informative event financed and developed by Florida Audubon Society (FAS) chapters FOR FAS chapters. Orange Audubon Society is one of many chapters providing financial support to make Audubon Academy happen. Activities include a pizza party, walking workshop field trips [Collecting Meaningful Wildlife Data; Effective Field Trip Leadership; Birding by Ear; Birding Basics (learning & teaching basics); and Chapter Program Meetings—Integrating Conservation], overview and activities related to our “Florida’s Special Places” and “Coastal Conservation” initiatives, social events and a Conservation Forum.

Come and attend for a day or the weekend. The Academy is being held at the Paramount Plaza Conference Center in Gainesville. Because of support from Audubon chapters, the registration fee is only \$40 per person (and OAS has budgeted funds to help pay for registrations). I hope to see you there.

*Bob Stamps, Chair
Florida Audubon Society Chapters' Committee*

Orange Audubon 'Outreach' Events

Upcoming events at which you can join the fun include OAS' participation in a binoculars/birding/outdoors informational table at Mosquito Creek Outdoors' booth at the Apopka Art & Foliage Festival, Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1; the Baby Owl Shower merchandise sales event at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland on Saturday, May 7; and the merchandise sales at our own general meeting at Leu Gardens on Thursday, May 19. You may call or email anytime [407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net] to volunteer for any of these events.

Loretta Satterthwaite

**Orange Audubon Society
Board of Directors 2010-2011**

PRESIDENT		
Mike Godwin (12)		407-535-2640
1st VICE PRESIDENT		
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Randy Snyder (11)		407-851-5416
Leann Streeper (13)		352-702-9072
Pete Vogt (11)		407-855-4122

The **Hospitality Committee** is seeking energetic and friendly individuals to help setup and greet members before meetings. Contact Cynthia Gray at cynthiasgray@bellsouth.net or 407-298-5806.

Calendar of Events

**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. See page 1 for details.

**March 20, Sunday
Limited Edition Field Trip
Merritt Island NWR**
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. \$6.00 entry fee to Canaveral National Seashore if the trip goes there. For trip reservations call Gallus Quigley at 407-242-7833. See page 1 for details.

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

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)

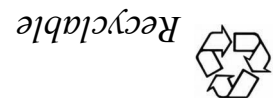
**OAS Birdathon
April 17, 2011**
407-242-7833

**Apopka Art & Foliage Festival, Apopka
April 30–May 1, 2011** 407-886-2925

Baby Owl Shower Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland, May 7, 2011
407-539-5700

**Magnolia Park Bluegrass Festival, Apopka
May 7, 2011**
407-886-2925

**Florida Native Plant Society Conference, Maitland
May 19–22, 2011**
321-388-4781



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