



OASis



Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

Vol. 47

April 2012

Issue No. 8

OAS Field Trip

Saturday, April 21, 2012

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and Canaveral National Seashore

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will travel to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (Black Point Drive) and Canaveral National Seashore for our April field trip on Saturday, April 21st. Black Point Drive is always exciting with lots of shorebird, waders and duck species. After a "bring your own" picnic lunch, we will continue to the beach. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, insect repellent and sunscreen. Be advised that there is now a \$5.00 per car charge for Black Point, but the pass is also good for the National Seashore.

We will meet at the rear parking lot of the Burger King at Hwy 50 and Alafaya Trail in east Orange County to carpool and leave at 7:30 a.m. If you have any questions, call Lori Mathis at 407-579-3795.

OAS Limited Edition Field Trip

Sunday, April 22, 2012

Fort DeSoto Park in Pinellas County will be the destination for the April 22nd (Earth Day!) OAS Limited Edition field trip. Limited Edition field trips are limited to 15 people per trip (on a first-come, first-served basis) and cost \$10/OAS member and \$15/non-OAS member. For meeting place details and to make your reservation for this trip, please contact Gallus Quigley at 407-242-7833 or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.

This Month's Program

April 19th @ 7 p.m.

Shore Nesting Birds: Audubon Florida's Conservation Efforts by Marianne Korosy

Beach-nesting birds—including terns, willets, plovers, black skimmers and oystercatchers—don't build nests in the traditional sense. They dig shallow scrapes in the sand using camouflage for protection from predators. But these nearly invisible nests are easy to destroy unintentionally. Intrusions by people or pets may cause the birds to fly off, leaving eggs or chicks in peril in the blazing hot sun. Audubon of Florida has a key effort in stewardship and other programs to protect shore nesting birds. For our April program, Marianne Korosy, an ornithologist leading the shorebird conservation effort for Audubon Florida, will share what is being done and what we can do to protect these birds, some of which even nest inland.

Join us April 19 for what will be a most interesting and enjoyable program. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) programs are free and no reservations are necessary. All ages are welcome, including young naturalists.

Deborah Green, President

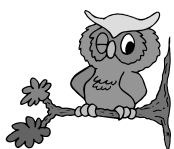
Go green? You can also tell Mike you want to receive the *OASis* electronically. E-subscriptions save resources, which saves your chapter and its volunteers (who absorb much of the newsletter's costs) up to \$2 per month per subscriber.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) meetings & programs are free & no reservations are necessary. Programs are held the 3rd Thursday of every month (September– June) usually at 7 p.m. in the Camellia Room at:
Harry P. Leu Gardens
1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803-1537.
For directions call: 407-246-2620

Annual Birdathon Fundraiser—Sunday, April 29th

From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 midnight on April 29th, Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) teams and individuals will fan out to see as many species of birds as they can as we try to reach our annual goal of 200 species. Last year, because it was very cold and there was even snow in some places in Florida, we fell far short of that goal and only saw 133 species. The previous year, I think we had our all-time high of 189 species. Co-chair Gallus is out to top his record for bird species seen in Lake County on one day, so he challenges you to try to see more species than he does. He's taking his non-birding girlfriend along as his handicap (his words, not mine!). If you beat him, I'll see that you get one of his infamous 'birder' bumper stickers as a prize. If you want to take up his challenge, you may concentrate on one area (parks and uplands or seashores, etc.) or travel across the state to find those elusive birds that will increase your total number of species seen during that 24-hr period. (If you plan to bird, please contact Loretta—see information at end of article—about where you plan to bird and how to report your species seen.)

OAS' goals are two-fold: 1) see lots of species that day and 2) get lots of pledges in support of the birdathon. You can definitely help with goal #2. This is OAS' 'Girl Scout Cookies', or 'walkathon'; don't be shy about asking your co-workers, vet, dentist, doctor, neighbor, etc. to support our efforts to raise funds that will be used in the Central Florida area for conservation/education. Try to get pledges (5¢, 10¢, 25¢, 50¢, \$1 or any amount per species seen or a flat contribution of \$5, \$10 or any other amount) from at least 3 people. When we tally the number of species, we'll let you know and you collect the money from your pledged supporters and turn it in to OAS. How simple is that? If you have questions, please contact Loretta at 407-886-2925 or LNS-oas@att.net. Thank you.



OAS Participates at April's Apopka Art and Foliage Festival & May's Audubon Center for Birds of Prey Baby Owl Shower

Orange Audubon will have our outreach table in 'Conservation Row' at the upcoming Apopka Art and Foliage Festival at Kit Land Nelson Park, 441 N. Park Avenue, Apopka, FL. Since this is a two-day event, we could use some volunteers to help us for a couple of hours on either day (Saturday set-up at 8:15 a.m. & tear down at 5:00 p.m.; Sunday set-up about 8:30 a.m. & tear down at 4:00 p.m.). If you can help, please contact Loretta (407-886-2925 or LNS-oas@att.net).

Volunteers are also needed to help OAS at the **Baby Owl Shower (BOS) at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland on Saturday, May 12th** from 9:00 a.m. (set-up) to 2:00 p.m. Event starts at 10:00 a.m. and tear-down only takes about 20 minutes. We will be selling nature-oriented merchandise and offering a kid's art activity. We especially need help with the kid's art activity because baby owls attract lots of baby people (and grown people, too!). To help with the BOS, contact Teresa (407-644-0796; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

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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www.orangeaudubonfl.org

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

Chertok Nature Photo Contest Deadline Reminder

Participants in Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2012 (24th Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Nature Photography Contest are reminded of two important deadlines.

As a courtesy to participants and to enhance the educational value of the contest, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will pre-screen all images **received by April 19, 2012**. Participants will be notified of disqualifying content as soon as possible thereafter and may optionally replace nonqualified images at no additional charge. Replacements must be **received by the final deadline, May 17, 2012** and meet all other contest requirements. Entries may be hand delivered to a contest committee member, but only during the April 19th and/or May 17th OAS meetings at Harry P. Leu Gardens. Pick up entry forms in person by visiting Colonial Photo & Hobby (Orlando) or online from the OAS website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org or contact Teresa: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796.

Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

Colonial Photo & Hobby to Display 2011 Contest Images

As you read this article a display of images from Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2011 Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Nature Photography Contest is being installed at the vintage camera and hobby shop of contest co-sponsor (since 2004), Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. CPH provides a portion of the prizes and promotes the contest by selecting entries from each competition to be enlarged and prominently featured in the shop's camera section and front display window.

The display creates an interest in nature photography and spotlights some of the extraordinary work of participants. Featured images will credit the photographers and be on display through the month of June. Names of the featured photographers will be announced in next month's OASis. Stay tuned!
Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

2012 Annual Elections

It's April, which means the annual meeting of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) and voting for the Board of Directors. The OAS members who are present at the April 19th meeting being held at Leu Gardens in Orlando will be asked to vote for persons to serve on the Board of Directors. The election will be held prior to the evening program.

This year both the officers who serve a two-year term and the directors who serve a three year term will be up for election. Their new term begins after the June 2012 Chertok Photography contest awards and silent auction.

The tentative slate for this year follows. Executive Committee: President, Deborah Green; 1st Vice President, Rick Baird; 2nd Vice President/Programs, Loretta Satterthwaite; Secretary, Mary Keim and Treasurer, Teresa Williams. The Directors are: Cynthia Amoruso, Margaret Cady, Bob Stamps, Paul Lockett and Brent Mobley. We still have one open director position. As mentioned, the slate is tentative and all nominations are accepted up to and including nominations from the floor prior to election. All nominees must be current members of OAS, attend monthly meetings and have a commitment to helping OAS succeed and meet its goals. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors please contact Cynthia Gosiewski at cyngos@aol.com or 407-426-8982 or any board member. Thank you for your interest!

EPCOT Flower and Garden Show

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members have really come out in force this year and done a fantastic job of volunteering their time to staff the OAS exhibit at EPCOT. Many thanks to everyone who has already volunteered and those who are scheduled in the future to spend time at the exhibit. It is very fulfilling to share stories and knowledge with guests from around the United States and the world.

We still have a couple months left of the event and if you are able to visit the park and our exhibit, it is definitely worth your time. The park looks beautiful and there is so much to see and learn; flowers, birds, and topiaries, as well as classes and HGTV presentations at the Festival Center. There are still a couple shifts open in May. If you have the time on a Friday, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. please contact me for more details. Thank you.
Cynthia Gosiewski, cyngos@aol.com or 407-426-8982.

Genius Drive Nature Preserve *Survey-Birdathon* Field Trip

Reservations are required for a guided field trip to the 48± acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park on April 29th from 8 a.m. ~ Noon. This walking field trip (FT) will be concurrent with a migration bird survey led by preeminent birder, Bruce Anderson. Surveyors and field trip participants will form a 'team' to compete with other teams that day in counting species for Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2012 Birdathon fund raiser. Your good birding and/or observation skills will give this team the advantage!

The field trip is FREE. Although you are not required to do so, please consider soliciting one Birdathon donation from a friend, family member or that relentless neighbor whose child is forever selling gift wrap or cookies for their fund raisers!

Just as Winter Park was once a winter home for northerners, the Preserve has remained an essential winter home to many bird species and an ecological stepping stone for migrating birds. We will see some of them on this spring migration survey.

In just five years, surveyors have documented 164 bird species on the Preserve, which is also rich in 19th century history. The citrus groves and meandering Genius Drive with its hedges of shell ginger and Turk's cap were planted and constructed by Charles Hosmer Morse, the museum's namesake. The original Wind Song estate built in 1936 by Elizabeth Morse Genius still looks across Lake Virginia to Rollins College.

You must be a current OAS member or Preserve workday volunteer to attend and FTs are limited to 20 people. FT and Birdathon pledge details provided when you register by contacting Teresa (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

OAS Natural Journaling Workshop Report

On March 10th Orange Audubon members Cynthia and Robert Amoruso conducted a children's Nature Journaling Workshop at Orlando Wetlands Park. In this case, it wasn't how many who turned out that made the workshop a success, it was who turned out. The delightful Rice family, and their daughter Shannon, the most impressive 10 year old budding naturalist you'd hope to meet made the day a success. We saw species including Wood Storks, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Green Herons, Little Blue Herons, Tri-colored Herons, Red Shouldered Hawks, American Bald Eagle, American Coots, Limpkins, Purple Gallinules, Tree Swallows, Mottled Ducks, Shovelers, Blue Winged Teals, and Black Bellied Whistling Ducks, to name a few. There were newly hatched gators as well, and thanks to soaking rains the preceding night, we were able to track many species, including a very busy Bobcat. If you were out at the Wetlands Park that day, and came upon tracks that were labeled and identified in the dirt, thank Shannon.

Cynthia Amoruso



OAS Speaker's Report

On Wednesday March 28th Orange Audubon was fortunate enough to present a program about "The Nature of Your Backyard" at Village Walk Community Center in Lake Nona. Robert and Cynthia Amoruso created the program especially for Village walk and it was a wonderful evening. The Southeast Orange County community has an abundance of wildlife, and the residents were eager to learn about their wild neighbors. An excellent turnout of 65 residents came for the program, and some very engaging and intelligent youngsters were there as well. Thanks to Activities Director Amanda Masterjohn for inviting us and for taking steps to educate and inform residents about the wildlife they share their lovely community with.

Cynthia Amoruso

If you have interest in speakers from Orange Audubon for your community or civic group, or Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, contact Deborah Green, OAS President at 407-637-2525 or sabalpress@mac.com.

Silent Auction Action Requested!

With June only two months' away your board and other volunteers have begun planning for the Chertok photo contest program and Silent Auction. We hope that you will help by soliciting donations from the area businesses that you patronize. The Silent Auction provides great exposure for business donors whose gifts are prominently displayed during the program. Their gifts also let Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members know that they value the good work carried out by OAS and you. If you know a business owner who might contribute, please let us know that you will solicit a donation (so we don't double-team them) or provide us with contact information and we will do the rest. We're not shy about asking and the worst they'll do is say NO!

Please start your solicitations now and let us know if a gift acknowledgement letter for tax deduction purposes is needed. Contact Teresa (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com), Loretta (407-886-2925; LNS-oas@att.net) or Cynthia Gray (407-298-5806; cynthiasgray@bellsouth.net) to help or make suggestions.

Wildlife Surveys

- Savage Christmas Creek Preserve, Pine Lily Preserve, Long Branch Preserve and Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park (north portion) butterfly survey. For more information contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 or rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com.
- Lake Apopka, North Shore Restoration Area bird surveys. Contact Pam Bowen at 386-329-4870 or Pbowen@sjrwmd.com or Jim Peterson at 352-735-1267 or JPeterson@sjrwmd.com.
- Emerald Marsh Conservation Area bird surveys. Contact John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or jstenberg@sjrwmd.com.
- Ferndale Preserve quarterly bird surveys. Contact Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov or gallusq@cfl.rr.com.

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks

Each Saturday morning, during the month of April, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will conduct free, guided bird walks in Mead Botanical Garden. The walks will be led by an experienced guide. Free loaner binoculars will be available. The walks will begin at 8:00 a.m. and will be two to three hours in length, at a very relaxed (birding) pace. Mead Botanical Garden is located at 1300 S. Denning Drive; at the intersection with Garden Street, just two blocks east of Hwy 17-92 (Orlando Avenue) in Winter Park.

Experienced birders, beginning birders, or folks who have been thinking about getting into birding, are welcome. Join us for a delightful walk in the park at this beautiful oasis in the heart of the city. We will meet at the parking lot near the public restrooms. If you need loaner binoculars, come a few minutes earlier, so that you can be fitted and shown how to use them. If you have any questions, call Dick Smith 407-257-7361.

February Limited Edition Field Trip Report

It was a "good news, bad news" situation for the Feb. 25th Limited Edition Field Trip planned for the Shiloh Marsh Rd. area of Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. The "bad news": because of disrepair, Shiloh Marsh Rd. has been closed until further notice. This necessitated a "Plan B" that led to much "good news". The field trip was sold out - 15 birders. As an alternative to Shiloh, I decided to explore Gator Creek Rd., another refuge road less traveled. WOW! How fortunate! It began and ended with some spectacular sightings, despite the windy conditions. To begin with we easily located the reported drake Cinnamon Teal, an extremely beautiful creature rare in Florida, in with 100s of other waterfowl.

Several hours later, at the end of our trip, we were treated to an incredible display of aerobatics as an adult Peregrine Falcon swooped in on a group of Laughing and Ring-billed Gulls. In between, we saw huge rafts of American Coots, 1000s of shorebirds, White Pelicans, Roseate Spoonbills, Reddish Egrets, and several Bald Eagles - 70 species in all. Many thanks to all who attended.

Bob Sanders, Field Trip Leader

**Orange Audubon Society
Board of Directors 2011-2012**

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Sharon Robbins (14) 407-376-4930

Dominique Shimizu (13) 407-287-4078

Randy Snyder (14) 407-851-5416

Bob Stamps (12) 407-886-2925

Calendar of Events

OAS EVENTS

**Field Trip to MINWR/
CANA, Titusville, April 21,
2012, Lori Mathis at 407-
579-3795**

**Limited Edition Field Trip to
Fort De Soto Park in
Pinellas County, April 22,
2012, Gallus Quigley at 407-
242-7833**

**Field Trip to Circle Bar B
Ranch, Lakeland, May 19,
2012, 407-886-2925**

**Limited Edition Field Trip to
Joe Overstreet Rd./Three
Lakes WMA, May 26, 2012,
Bob Sanders at 407-454-
0542.**

SPECIAL EVENTS

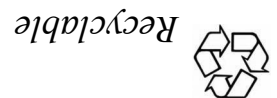
**Apopka Art & Foliage
Festival, April 27-29,
2012, 407-886-2925**

**OAS Birdathon, April 29,
2012, 407-886-2925**

**Baby Owl Shower, Center
for Birds of Prey,
Maitland, May 12, 2012,
407-539-5700**

**Magnolia Park Bluegrass
Festival, Apopka, May 5,
2012, 407-886-2925**

**OAS Chertok Nature
Photography Contest
Deadline May 17, 2012,
see information in this
newsletter.**



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