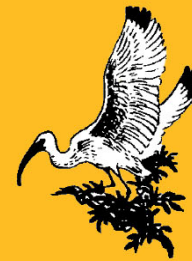




"The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

# OASis

Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



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## Orange Audubon Society's 2014 Nature Photo Contest

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) announces its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest. There are three divisions: Novice—for new and less experienced photographers; Advanced—for experienced nature photographers; and Youth—for participants age 17 and younger.

The theme for all categories, Florida's Native Nature, allows participants to explore and photograph Florida's amazing native creatures (animals) and features (plants, landscapes and habitats). In this Florida native nature contest, images cannot show humans, human-made structures or artifacts, or discernible non-native (to Florida) fauna and/or flora, which is consistent with contest objectives of promoting interest and concern for preserving Florida's native wildlife and wild places and encouraging nature photography.

There are two submission deadlines. The final deadline for all entries (postmarked date) is May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Images may also be entered by the optional early deadline of April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (post-marked date) for a free prescreening and the opportunity for early-bird participants to replace ineligible images free, subject to the contest's final deadline and all other rules.

Official application forms containing complete contest rules and regulations and further division clarification will be available at future OAS meetings and/or Colonial Photo and Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL, or by downloading and printing the 2014 form (\*.pdf file) from OAS' website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) using free Adobe Acrobat Reader. For additional information, contact: (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

*Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair*

## This Month's Program: Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>—7:00 p.m. "The Way Things Are" and "The Way I See Things" by Randy Snyder, Bob Stamps, and Bob Sanders

This month's Orange Audubon Society (OAS) program will bring you short updates on two of our favorite Central Florida birding places in "The Way Things Are" at Orlando Wetlands Park (Randy Snyder—OAS' Orlando Wetlands Festival liaison) and the Lake Apopka Restoration Area (Bob Stamps—Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza Founders Committee) before OAS' own Bob Sanders, Birds of Prey ID Class and Limited Edition field trips leader, presents an illustrated essay "The Way I See Things".

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. at Leu Gardens on Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> for these timely and informative presentations by three of OAS' leaders.

*Loretta Satterthwaite, Programs Chair*



Orange Audubon Society (OAS) meetings & programs are free & no reservations are necessary. Programs are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month (September–June) usually at 7:00 p.m. in the Camellia Room at:

Harry P. Leu Gardens  
1920 North Forest Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32803-1537  
For map and directions, visit:  
[www.leugardens.org/plan/directions.htm](http://www.leugardens.org/plan/directions.htm)

### November Field Trip Report

Twenty-eight (28) attended the Orange Audubon Society (OAS) field trip to Rock Springs Run State Reserve on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Twenty-two bird species were observed on the trip including Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue-headed Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Palm Warbler. Those of us that stayed for lunch were joined by a pair of Sandhill Cranes that entertained us with their bugling. Other vertebrates included Eastern Fence Lizard, Fox Squirrel and White-tailed Deer. Eleven (11) butterfly species were seen including Southern Dogface, Sleepy Orange, Red Admiral and our state butterfly, Zebra Heliconian. Other invertebrates included Spotted Orbweaver, Bird Grasshopper, Bella Moth and a mated pair of Common Green Darner. Wildflowers in bloom included Summer Farewell (a Southern Dogface host), Eastern Silver Aster and Rice Button Aster.

We talked about Sandhill community with Turkey Oak as an indicator species. The group paused for a photo at the Ethel cemetery located along the trail. Several expressed plans to return and explore more of this 14,000-acre "Florida's Special Place."

*Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair*

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Limited Edition Field Trip  
Lake Jesup Conservation Area  
Marl Bed Flats Tract**

The Marl Bed Flats Tract of the Lake Jesup Conservation Area is a great birding location. First, we'll explore a dense oak/palmetto hammock for wintering and resident passerines. Then we'll enter some low pastures with adjacent wetlands for grassland species, waterfowl, waders and possibly shore birds. Raptors abound, especially Bald Eagles. To learn more about the Lake Jesup restoration, go to <http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/parksrec/naturallands/jesup.aspx>.

This trip is limited to 15 people and has a cost of \$10 per person per trip for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Reservations are required and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. For trip questions or reservations call Bob Sanders at (407) 454-0542.

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 areas 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 the Orange Audubon Society.

**Save the Date for Audubon Academy: April 11<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**DaySpring Center in Parrish, Florida**

### Local 114th Christmas Bird Counts

Five dates for having fun and helping out! Please contact the compiler to participate.  
*Wekiva River*, December 14<sup>th</sup>: Jay Exum [[Jay.Exum@aecom.com](mailto:Jay.Exum@aecom.com) or (321) 229-5653]  
*Zellwood/Mt.Dora*, December 20<sup>th</sup>: Wes Biggs [[birdsatfnt@bellsouth.net](mailto:birdsatfnt@bellsouth.net) or (407) 384-9766]  
*Econlockhatchee*, December 21<sup>st</sup>: Lorne Malo [[lornemalo@bellsouth.net](mailto:lornemalo@bellsouth.net) or (407) 349-2536]  
*Emeralda/Sunnyhill*, December 23<sup>th</sup>: Peg Lindsay [[pegcondor@embarqmail.com](mailto:pegcondor@embarqmail.com)]  
*Clermont*, January 3<sup>rd</sup>: John Thomton [[jthomton@hotmail.com](mailto:jthomton@hotmail.com) or (630) 201-3864]

**Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00–11:00 a.m.  
2-Hour ‘Workday’ at Genius Drive  
Nature Preserve**

A 2-hour Workday is planned at the Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park. Volunteers bring their favorite gardening gloves and tools to help with weeding and mulching to ‘spruce up’ the restored cedar grove near Lake Mizell. Please contact Teresa: (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) if you can help. Further details provided the week before.

*Teresa Williams*

**OAS Co-sponsors 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Orlando Wetlands Festival**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Orlando Wetlands Festival will be held on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Ft. Christmas Historical Park (1300 N. Ft. Christmas Rd.). While parking and vendors will be at Ft. Christmas Historical Park, tour buses and shuttles will take visitors to nearby Orlando Wetlands Park. The City of Orlando, Orange County Parks and Recreation and Orange Audubon Society (OAS) sponsor the event. OAS members lead nature and photography hikes as well as nature bus tours through Orlando Wetlands Park. OAS will also be selling nature-oriented merchandise including t-shirts, tote bags, signs and mugs (plastic accepted; but for faster service, please bring cash or check).

OAS needs volunteers! To lead bird watching hikes or nature bus tours, please contact Randy at (407)851-5416 or [rssmhk@gmail.com](mailto:rssmhk@gmail.com). To volunteer for AM or PM shifts at the kids’ art table and/or to sell merchandise, please contact Loretta at (407) 886-2925 or [LNS-OAS@att.net](mailto:LNS-OAS@att.net) or Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). No experience is necessary.

*Randy Snyder, OAS-OWP Liaison*

**Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>—9:00 a.m.  
Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is helping to organize the 2nd Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza—celebrating the Lake Apopka North Shore. The event will be at Orange County’s Magnolia Park (Lakeside), 2929 S. Binion Rd., Apopka, 32703 on Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Some of the activities at this free admission event include bus tours of the North Shore and airboat rides on Lake Apopka, nature and photo hikes (reserve a spot in advance for tours and hikes at [www.birdapalooza.com/tours/](http://www.birdapalooza.com/tours/)), tree giveaway, lots of nature-oriented information, music and other entertainment, kids’ activities, and merchandise and food sales. Check out the list of participating exhibitors at the website.

Last year’s inaugural Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza was an overwhelming success with an estimated attendance of ~4,400 people. Eighty-two bird species were reported by trip leaders to the OAS booth during the one-day event. All walking tours were well attended and all eight buses were standing room only. We expect the March 1<sup>st</sup> attendance to be just as good, so we need your help to make this event a success.

Because OAS is one of the co-sponsors of the event, we need lots of volunteer help such as two guides for each of the nine bus tours, people to assist with bus and airboat ‘boarding’, birders at lakeside, and lots of people to help with our t-shirt, tote bags, sign and mug sales, our outreach and conservation issues space, and our kids’ art/nature collage activity. If you can volunteer for any of these activities, please contact Loretta at [LNS-oas@att.net](mailto:LNS-oas@att.net) or (407) 886-2925 or Teresa at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or (407) 644-0796. Please don’t hesitate; we need your help. Thanks.

**SIGN UP FOR THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF OASis AND LET’S GO GREEN!**

Send your e-mail address to our Membership Data Chair, Mike ([miked129e@gmail.com](mailto:miked129e@gmail.com)): subject title “OASis going green”

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### Calendar of Events



- Birds of Prey Identification.** Lake Apopka Restoration Area. December 8<sup>th</sup>. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders (407) 454-0542.
- Genius Drive Work Day.** December 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact Teresa Williams. See page 3.
- Christmas Bird Count.** December 14<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup>. Please join us!
- December Program: The Way Things Are: Orlando Wetlands and Lake Apopka. The Way I See Things: An Illustrated Essay.** December 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. at Harry P. Leu Gardens.
- Limited Edition Field Trip to Lake Jesup (north side).** Sanford. December 22<sup>nd</sup>. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders (407) 454-0542.
- Birds of Prey Identification.** Lake Apopka Restoration Area. January 5<sup>th</sup>. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders (407) 454-0542.
- Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge.** January 18<sup>th</sup>. For trip reservations or questions, call Mary Keim or Randy Snyder at [rssmhk@gmail.com](mailto:rssmhk@gmail.com) or (407) 851-5416.
- Limited Edition Field Trip to Smyrna Dunes Park.** January 25<sup>th</sup>. For trip reservations or questions, call Bob Sanders (407) 454-0542.