



# OASis



Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

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April 2013

Issue No. 8

## Orange Audubon Society Field Trip Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

**Joe Overstreet Road and Three Lakes WMA**  
with Lori Mathis

Orange Audubon Society will explore Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and nearby Joe Overstreet Road in April. This exceedingly beautiful Osceola County area is a well-known birding hot spot. Bird species we may encounter include: Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Crested Caracara, White-tailed Kite, Snail Kite, Sandhill Cranes, waders, waterfowl and assorted passerines. Also, the nesting density of Bald Eagles in this area is one of the highest in the state.

Since this area is rather remote, participants are encouraged to bring drinks, snacks, lunch and sunscreen – there are no stores. Also, restroom facilities are limited. There is a fee of \$6.00 per vehicle to enter Three Lakes WMA.

We will meet to carpool at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Publix at 13900 Narcoossee Road, Orlando, FL 32832. For more information contact Lori Mathis (407-579-3795).

**Thank you to all who have donated to Orange Audubon Society's annual letter appeal. If you have not already done so, we hope that you will consider supporting your society by donating. "Make checks payable to and mail to Orange Audubon Society, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142."**

**Are you migrating?** If you move, take the OASis with you! To update your email or street address, contact Mike Daley: [miked129e@gmail.com](mailto:miked129e@gmail.com).

## This Month's Program: April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m. Conservation Needs of the Grasshopper Sparrow by Paul Miller

The Florida Grasshopper Sparrow (FGSP), *Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*, is a shy songbird that eats and sings like grasshoppers and prefers to run or hop rather than fly. They are only found in the dry prairie habitats of the Kissimmee River valley. Like the Florida Scrub-Jay, the FGSP is a unique Florida bird. This makes it 'ours' to enjoy and to protect. Unfortunately, its song will soon be silenced without immediate — and successful — conservation efforts.

Paul Miller, a biologist at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park located in Okeechobee and a member of the FGSP Working Group, will give a presentation on the biology, current population status, and conservation needs of the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow. Join us and learn what is being done and how you might be able to help protect this unique bird.

*Loretta Satterthwaite, Program Chair*

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 map and directions, visit:  
[www.leugardens.org/plan/directions.htm](http://www.leugardens.org/plan/directions.htm)

## Florida Aquarium & Wild Dolphin Cruise

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) May field trip, Sat. May 18<sup>th</sup>, will be a reserved group trip (minimum of 15 required) to the Florida Aquarium and its 90-min Wild Dolphin Cruise. The Aquarium opens at 9:30 and we will plan to arrive there shortly before opening to check in and get our admission materials; then all will be free to do an on-your-own visit of the Aquarium prior to boarding the cruise. Two cruises (12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.) are available on a first-come, first-served basis and your seats will be reserved as your payments are received by OAS. Once your cruise is over, you may return to the Aquarium or head back to Orlando.

Each person reserving a spot for the trip will 'donate' \$3.05 to OAS to defray handling costs, as well as paying the group admission rate for the Aquarium plus the Cruise. Group fees, including the OAS contribution, are: \$35 (senior 60+); \$39 (adult); \$31 (age 2–12) and \$3.05 (up to 2 yrs). Parking is \$6 per vehicle. Accessibility for the cruise is somewhat limited; please call the Aquarium [813-273-4000] if this could be a problem for you.

A location in Orlando will be chosen for meeting and carpooling and will be announced in the May *OASis*. If you wish to reserve a space, please contact Loretta at 407-886-2925 or [LNS-oas@att.net](mailto:LNS-oas@att.net) for payment details.

## 2013 Wildlife Surveys

- Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area Butterfly Survey - contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 or [rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com).
- Savage Christmas Creek Preserve Bird Survey - contact Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407-851-5416 or [rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com).
- Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area Bird Survey - contact Pam Bowen at 386-329-4870 or [pbowen@sjrwmd.com](mailto:pbowen@sjrwmd.com).
- Ferndale Preserve Quarterly Bird Survey - contact Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352-516-8512 or [gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov) or [gallusq@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gallusq@cfl.rr.com).
- Emerald Marsh Conservation Area Bird Survey - contact John Stenberg at 386-329-4822 or [jstenberg@sjrwmd.com](mailto:jstenberg@sjrwmd.com).

## Limited Edition Field Trip - Sunday April 21st - Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas Co.

Fort De Soto is legendary! It is what's called a "migrant trap". During spring migration many passerines make the arduous and dangerous Gulf crossing from Central America and Mexico to Florida. If weather conditions and birders' luck are correct, the numbers and variety of migrants reaching Ft. De Soto at this time of year can be nothing less than awesome.

Please note: because of travel time and the popularity of Ft. De Soto with both birders and beachgoers, an extra-early departure time from Orlando will probably be necessary.

This trip is limited to 15 people and costs \$10 per person 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 beauty of Florida and the World and the responsibility for the conservation of these remaining resources.

**Orange Audubon Society**

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**Maitland, FL 32794-1142**

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

## Florida's Water and Land Conservation Amendment: Please Sign the Petition

Wekiwa Springs State Park, Blue Spring State Park, DeLeon Springs State Park, Lake Kissimmee State Park, Kissimmee Prairie Preserve.... Almost all the state parks and preserves we know and love were purchased through Florida's conservation land-buying programs. The primary source of funding for these purchases was a portion of the documentary stamp taxes—which are paid when real estate is sold.

But after decades of support, the Legislature in the past four years has reduced funding for these programs by almost 100 percent. The state currently spends less than one dollar per Floridian for water and land conservation.

The Water and Land Conservation Amendment, which we hope will appear on the 2014 ballot, will ensure that water and land conservation projects are adequately funded and that monies are not diverted to other purposes. Through this amendment one-third of the existing “Doc stamps” would fund water and land conservation, management, and restoration, providing an estimated \$5 billion for conservation in Florida over the next ten years and \$10 billion over the twenty-year life of the amendment.

To place a constitutional amendment on the November 2014 ballot through the initiative petition process, we need to collect about 1 million total signatures in order to make sure we have the required 676,811 verified signatures.



**FLORIDA'S  
Water & Land Legacy**

Please help by signing the petition at one of our monthly meetings or at any OAS events or the events of other local organizations like Sierra Club. Thanks to everyone who has already signed and to our dedicated petition gatherers. You too can help by becoming a

petition gatherer, for example at one of the farmers' markets, or to your own contacts. To learn more, visit [www.FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org](http://www.FloridaWaterLandLegacy.org). Thank you for your help!

*Deborah Green, OAS Chapter President*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Genius Drive Nature Preserve *Survey-Birdathon* Field Trip

Be Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) guest for a guided, walking field trip to the 48± acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park on April 28<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM ~ Noon. The Preserve's bird survey leader Bruce Anderson, well known and respected for his vast birding expertise, will lead guests while conducting a bird migration survey. Surveyors and guests will form a 'team' to compete with other teams that day in counting different bird species for OAS' 2013 Birdathon fundraiser. 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 fund-raising neighbor. Pledges of a nickel-, dime- or dollar-per-species-seen or fixed pledge amounts can add up to a successful fundraiser. Last year the Genius team saw 45 species—a couple of which were only seen by our group. Teams collectively saw 170 species. Solicit accordingly! Or donate personally!

Just as Winter Park was once a winter home for northerners, the Preserve has remained an essential winter home to many bird species, an important ecological stepping stone for migrating birds. Surveyors have recorded 173 bird species on the Preserve including a state record for Townsend's Solitaire. The Preserve's 19<sup>th</sup> century cultural history is also of interest especially to locals who remember when it was open to the public. 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, guarded by some of Winter Park's iconic peafowl, was built in 1936 by Elizabeth Morse Genius and looks across Lake Virginia to Rollins College.

You must be a current OAS member or Genius Workday volunteer or a Windsong homeowner to attend. This field trip has limited 'seating' and reservations are required. Details provided when you register by contacting Teresa ([mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796).

## Chertok Photo Contest Silver Anniversary and Silent Auction

On the evening of June 20<sup>th</sup> Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will present its final program of the season—showing the 2013 Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (CFNNPC) entries, announcing the winners and awarding prizes. Please join the celebration!

The CFNNPC program has always been popular, but with lots of delicious finger foods and beverages and a silent auction to boot, it has become a favorite event for many. Last year 225 people attended! Silent auction items are already being solicited: Ritz Carlton is donating golf for four and brunch for two, Dexter's Restaurants is donating gift cards, and owner Dex Richardson will 'guide' a lucky auction winner on a Central Florida birding tour-de-force to remember.

Will you ask a frequented restaurant, clothier or other business for a silent auction donation? Or show off your artistic, culinary or crafty talent(s) by donating a creation of your own? Ask for all the picky accounting details while you're at it and tell us what you receive or will donate personally by May 31<sup>st</sup>, so that organizers can determine table and layout needs, prepare bid sheets and rally enough volunteers for a special evening.

To make a donation, please contact Teresa (407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or ) or Loretta (407-886-2925 or [LNS-oas@att.net](mailto:LNS-oas@att.net) or ) and provide these details: your name and phone number, description of item(s), retail or appraised value, starting bid amount (if desired). Proceeds of this program will benefit a future OAS nature center and/or related project.

Your support will be sincerely appreciated and acknowledgements for tax purposes are available upon request.

*Teresa Williams and Loretta Satterthwaite*

## Board Member Elections This Month

April is the official annual meeting of members of Orange Audubon Society (OAS). This year's election will be held just prior to the evening program at Leu Gardens in Orlando on Thursday, April 18. Each year, after serving a three-year term, five board members rotate off the board and this election is held to fill those Director positions. Directors whose terms expire after the June 2013 Chertok Photography contest awards and silent auction are Robert Amoruso, Cynthia Gosiewski, Milton Heiberg, Lori Mathis, and Dominique Shimizu. Also, due to the inability to continue to serve, there are three other openings—one for a term expiring in 2015 and two whose terms expire in 2014. Thanks to each of these Directors for their service to OAS.

The nominating committee is announcing a slate of five candidates for the terms expiring in 2016: Cynthia Gosiewski, Milton Heiberg, Mary Keim, Susan Kirby, and Dominique Shimizu. The nominee for the 2015 term is Robert Stalnaker. Lori Parsons has agreed to accept the nomination for Secretary, a term expiring in 2014; this nomination will allow Mary Keim to serve the OAS Board in other capacities. The above slate leaves two available Board seats that will expire in 2014. Perhaps a one-year term would be a good way to 'test the water' to see if you'd like to serve OAS in this way?

The slate is tentative and nominations for all of the positions mentioned above are still open and nominations will be accepted up to and including from the floor prior to election. Nominees must be current members of OAS and will be expected to complete the term for which they are nominated as well as being present at monthly board meetings. Beyond that, it is hoped, the nominees have a commitment to helping OAS succeed and meet its goals.

If you have any questions or would like to serve on the board, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members: Cynthia Gosiewski ([cyngos@aol.com](mailto:cyngos@aol.com) or 407-426-8982), Cindy Amoruso ([suncyn1031@mac.com](mailto:suncyn1031@mac.com)) Richard Poole ([catbird@cfl.rr.com](mailto:catbird@cfl.rr.com)) or Jerry Mathis ([lopiandjerry@cfl.rr.com](mailto:lopiandjerry@cfl.rr.com)). Thank you for your interest!

*Cynthia Gosiewski, Nominating Committee Chair*

## Photo Contest Early Entry Reminder

Participants in Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2013, (25<sup>th</sup> Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest may enter early (by April 18, 2013 received by date) for a Free DO OVER if any entries are disqualified. All entries including such replacements are due by the final deadline (May 16, 2013 received by date). Visit the OAS website: [http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/oas\\_chertok.html](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/oas_chertok.html) for entry forms with complete contest rules. Contact Teresa with questions: [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or 407-644-0796.

## Annual Birdathon Fundraiser—Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

From 12:01 a.m. to 12:00 midnight on April 28<sup>th</sup>, Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) teams and individuals will fan out to see as many species of birds as possible as we try to reach our annual goal of 200 species (so far we've had a high of 189 species). 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' equivalent of 'Girl Scout Cookies' or 'walkathons'; so don't be shy about asking your co-workers, vet, dentist, doctor, neighbor, child's teacher, etc. to pony up and support our efforts to raise funds that will be used in the Central Florida area for conservation/education. If each person (~2,000 of you) reading this newsletter would ask one person to pledge 05¢ per species seen — and we reach our goal of 200 species — we would raise \$20,000 to support our efforts in Central Florida. Obviously, we never reach that level of commitment, but think of the possibilities. If you extend your invitation and 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, it will help compensate for those who are unable to get pledges. When we tally the number of species, we'll let you know the total and you collect the money from your pledged supporters and turn it into OAS. How simple is that?

If you have questions, please contact Loretta at 407-886-2925 or [LNS-oas@att.net](mailto:LNS-oas@att.net). Thank you.

### Invitation to a Baby Owl Shower and Volunteer Opportunity

You are invited to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (ACBOP) Annual Baby Owl Shower on Saturday, May 11, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Admission to the Center that day is free when you bring a 'baby gift' that will be used in caring for young raptors. What do you bring to a baby owl shower? A Wish List of suggestions—from medical and every-day cleaning supplies to baby food and equipment and materials—is available on the Audubon Florida website: [http://fl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/wish\\_list\\_2012.pdf](http://fl.audubon.org/sites/default/files/documents/wish_list_2012.pdf). Cash and gift card donations are also appreciated.

Your gift will help ACBOP provide the best of care to injured and orphaned baby raptors. This is a great event for young and old who can participate in fun activities and meet the Center's resident birds and babies du jour. It's like a box of 'chocolits' that day—you never know what kind of baby you'll get to see amazingly close-up!

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be participating and volunteers are needed from 9:00 a.m. setup time to closing, which takes about 20 minutes. OAS' little shop of nature-oriented merchandise will be open for business and we will offer the kids' art activity. If you can help, please contact Teresa at 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

### Birdapalooza — a Lollapalooza!!

We are delighted to report that the inaugural Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza on March 9<sup>th</sup> was an overwhelming success. Besides planning efforts by Orange Audubon Society (OAS), Orange County and the St. Johns River Water Management District, the beautiful weather contributed to the success. Attendance, estimated using the vehicle sensor at the park, was ~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, so steps will be taken to try to get more buses out there next year, but still leave space and time between buses so that each tour group has an awesome experience on the North Shore Restoration Area. Commission Brummer wrote "The comments I have received for the tours have been positive, enthusiastic and effusive".

Plans are underway to make next year's event even better for those who wish to tour the North Shore. Stay tuned for next year's date and activities. If you attended, let us know if you have suggestions to improve the event.

*Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite, OAS organizers*

**Orange Audubon Society  
Board of Directors 2012–2013**

**PRESIDENT**

Deborah Green (14) 407-637-2525

**1st VICE PRESIDENT**

Rick Baird (14) 407-277-3357

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**

Loretta Satterthwaite (14) 407-886-2925

**SECRETARY**

Mary Keim (14) 407-851-5416

**TREASURER**

Teresa Williams (14) 407-644-0796

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Cynthia Amoruso (15)	407-808-7411
Robert Amoruso (13)	407-808-7417
John Cento (14)	407-913-2417
Cynthia Gosiewski (13)	407-426-8982
Milton Heiberg (13)	407-658-4869
Paul Lockett (15)	407-679-9644
Lori Mathis (13)	407-579-3795
Brent Mobley (15)	407-376-1722
Danielle Ponsolle (14)	<a href="mailto:dponsolle@cfl.rr.com">dponsolle@cfl.rr.com</a>
Dominique Shimizu (13)	407-287-4078
Randy Snyder (14)	407-851-5416
Bob Stamps (15)	407-886-2925



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**Calendar of Events**

**OAS & SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Field Trip to Joe Overstreet and Three Lakes WMA, April 20, 2013.** For trip questions call Lori Mathis at 407-579-3795. See Page 1.

**Limited Edition Field Trip to Fort De Soto Park in Pinellas Co., April 21, 2013.** For trip questions or reservations call Bob Sanders at 407-454-0542. See Page 2.

**OAS Birdathon, April 28, 2013.** See Page 5 for more details.

**Chertok Nature Photography Contest - Final Submission Deadline: May 16, 2013,** Optional Pre-screening Deadline: April 18, 2013. Replace entries disqualified at pre-screening FREE by May 16 deadline. Awards: June 20, 2013—407-644-0796.

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Audubon Academy, April 12–14, 2013,** at the Lakeside Inn in Mount Dora ([www.lakeside-inn.com](http://www.lakeside-inn.com)).

**Baby Owl Shower, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland, May 11, 2013.** Call 407-539-5700. See Page 5 for more details.