



Barn Swallow at Charles H. Bronson State Forest. Photo: Mary Keim

Monthly Field Trip: May 21, 2016 Charles H. Bronson State Forest Field Trip

On Saturday, May 21th, Orange Audubon will visit the Joshua Creek Trailhead (south entrance) of Charles H. Bronson State Forest near Christmas. This 11,672-acre forest borders the St. Johns River in Orange and Seminole counties.

Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot for the Joshua Creek Trailhead of the forest located at the northern end of Phillips Rd. off Ft. Christmas Rd. in Orange County. For a map, see this [link](#).

Day permit fee for the forest is \$2/ person. Bring correct change, plenty to drink, sun protection, insect protection, birding gear, and lunch (for after the hike).

We will walk about four miles at a pace to observe plants and animals along the way. No registration is required. No facilities.

If you have questions about the trip, contact us at rsmhk@gmail.com or (407) 851-5416. We hope you join us!

Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair

This Month's Program:

May 19, 2016

The Secret Life of Dragonflies

Dragonflies were flying 300 million years ago, pre-dating dinosaurs by 100 million years.

With eggs laid and immature stages developing in water, dragonflies and their close relatives, the damselflies, are an important part of wetland ecosystems. The adults are aerial predators that devour mosquitoes, gnats, and other pests.

With so many different species, dragonflies are challenging and fun to learn to identify.

Following the cancellation of our originally scheduled speaker, Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) May 19th program will be presented jointly by Deborah Green and Mary Keim of the OAS Board.

Mary has taken great photos of most of the species of local dragonflies and damselflies and, along with her husband Randy Snyder, has become expert in their identification.

Deborah, a former entomologist, created an entomology slide series while in grad school, with insect photographer Patrick Craig. She will share information on "the secret life of dragonflies" from that series.

Deborah and Mary are both retired community college biology professors and dedicated to interpreting the natural world. Join us May 19th at 7 p.m. for a fascinating program. See box at left for location details.

Brook Rohman, Programs Chair



Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary.

Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September-June) and all but June start at 7:00 p.m. in the Camellia Room at

Harry P. Leu Gardens

1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando, FL 32803

For map and directions, visit:

www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/



Photos from top to bottom: A Face Only a Mother Could Love, 2015 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention. Photo: Alan T. Dart; Eastern Amberwing Dragonfly on Broad Scale Yellow-eyed Grass, 2015 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention. Photo: Jennifer Krigsner; Rambur's Forktail Damselflies, Photo: Mary Keim; Rambur's Forktail Damselfly, 2014 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention. Photo: Steven Long



Habitat Conservation

Conservation land acquisition for habitat for wildlife (and recreational spaces for humans) is close to the mission of Orange Audubon Society (OAS), and our chapter has asked our legislators to follow the intent of the voters in implementation of Amendment 1. What else can we do?

Promote The Wekiva-Ocala Greenway

As you probably know, Florida Forever projects are submitted and ranked by a committee of biologists and recreation specialists, and the rankings approved first by the Acquisition and Restoration Council and then by Florida's governor and cabinet.

The Wekiva-Ocala Greenway Florida Forever Project is fourth in priority on the approved 2016 list, due to the rich natural resources to be protected. Its springs, rivers, lakes, swamps, and uplands stretching north from Orlando to the Ocala National Forest are recognized as an important refuge for the Florida Black Bear, Bald Eagle, Swallow-tailed Kite, Florida Scrub-Jay, wading birds, and others.

The area is also important for aquifer recharge for spring flow and drinking water and for protecting water quality. Willing sellers and landowners agreeing to sell conservation easements have been identified. We need to advocate for purchase of identified parcels in the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway, before owners take developers' offers.

Promote Conservation Easements

In trying to create wildlife habitat corridors, we normally focus on conservation *land acquisition*, but attention is now being turned to *conservation easements*. This newer mechanism pays a landowner to continue ranching or other agriculture, as long as wildlife habitat is maintained.

Conservation easements are being purchased under the [Rural and Family Lands Protection Program](#), administered under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, using Amendment 1 funds. The



Above, Wild Turkey at Rock Springs Run State Reserve. Below, Bottlebrush Threewave at Hal Scott Preserve. Photos: Mary Keim

Florida Forever law (Ch.259 Florida Statutes) states that landowners can be paid up to the full amount of the lowest of two appraisals. Typically landowners receive only a little over 1/2 the land's value, according to Audubon Florida's Charles Lee.

If anyone knows a landowner in the area north of the Wekiva River Basin state lands and south of the Ocala National Forest, there is an opportunity *up until mid May* to submit an application for a conservation easement. Please point them to [this link](#) to submit a simple preliminary application. Projects should be over 200 acres to be considered in this round, but there should be additional funding cycles for these now politically acceptable easements.

Take Educational Opportunities

OAS' April program was about wildlife corridors (see p.3), and our chapter is a sponsor of a showing of *The Forgotten Coast* in an event to promote conservation of wildlife corridors (p.3).

Encourage Environmental Voting

Please make sure everyone in your family makes the environment a top priority when voting this year and every year. Thank you.

Deborah Green, President



The purpose and dedication of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is to promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it.

OAS' education programs foster the recognition of the tangible and intangible values in the remaining natural areas of Florida and the world, and our responsibility for the conservation of the Earth's natural ecosystems and the services that they provide for the health of the planet.

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The OASis (Orange Audubon Society information source) newsletter is published monthly from September through June. The newsletter is posted on the OAS website, and a link is e-mailed to all OAS members.

Address Change or E-Delivery:
Mike Daley
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LIKE OAS ON [FACEBOOK](#)

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In Case You Missed the Program....

Florida Wildlife Corridor

At the April 21st meeting Orange Audubon Society (OAS) members and guests viewed a film, *The Florida Wildlife Corridor Expedition: Everglades to Okefenokee*.

Completed in 2013, this engaging film documents highlights of the 1000-mile, 100-day trek of four friends who traveled from the Everglades to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in southern Georgia in 2012.



Carlton Ward and Joe Guthrie paddling through the Everglades. Photo: Florida Wildlife Corridor

The film was presented by Maddie Southard, program manager for the non-profit group The Florida Wildlife Corridor, which is led by filmmaker Elam Stoltzfus. This conservation advocacy organization focuses on connecting, protecting, and restoring corridors of conserved lands and water for Florida wildlife. In addition to films, the group produces books and videos to advocate for conservation of our wildlife corridors.

Wildlife affected by these conservation efforts as noted in the film includes the Florida Scrub-Jay, Indigo Snake, Florida Panthers, Florida Black Bears, and the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow.

Some of the ways that we can help the cause of protecting wildlife corridors include the following:

1. Support Florida agriculture by choosing "Fresh from Florida" labeled products.
2. Advocate for land protection funding by calling or writing your state legislators. Let them know you desire full funding for Florida Forever and that you want the state to use land conservation funds to purchase conservation easements within the "critical linkages" of the Florida Wildlife Corridor.
3. Get involved in a land or water campaign by volunteering your time.
4. Visit your public lands and share the experience. Go camping. Experience the real Florida and share it with friends!
5. Support Florida greenways and trails. Discover the areas near you and support completion of the system across the state.
6. Go birding. Nature-based tourism is important to Florida's economy.
7. Get involved in land use and transportation decisions. These issues affect the health of our communities and the Florida Wildlife Corridor. Speak up for roads with safe wildlife crossings, underpasses and signs to protect wildlife.
8. Donate to support filmmaking and public education by the non-profit Florida Wildlife Corridor at floridawildlifecorridor.org.

Forgotten Coast Premiere May 10, 2016

The Central Florida premiere of *The Forgotten Coast: Return to Wild Florida* will be held in the IMAX theatre of the Orlando Science Center at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2016. Following in the footsteps of a wandering Florida black bear, three friends leave civilization and become immersed in a vast and unexplored wildlife corridor stretching from the Everglades to the Florida-Alabama border. The rugged thousand-mile journey by foot, paddle, and bike traverses Florida's Forgotten Coast.

In collaborating on this premiere, local environmental groups wish to promote the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway, a project under the Florida Forever land acquisition program that will preserve critical missing portions of a wildlife corridor.

Orange Audubon Society has joined The Florida Wildlife Corridor, Center for Earth Jurisprudence, Friends of the Wekiva River, Seminole Audubon Society, Sierra Club-Central Florida, and League of Women Voters--Seminole and Orange County chapters to sponsor this event, in which proceeds will go to the Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund.

The film screening at the Orlando Science Center will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a welcome reception. The 1-hour documentary will begin at 7:00 p.m. with a short introduction, including a few words by Friends of the Wekiva River president Jay Exum on the Wekiva-Ocala Greenway, and finish with a Q&A with Expedition team members.

Due to tremendous demand for tickets for the first screening, through publicity on Facebook, a second film screening has been added, starting at 8:30 p.m. Feel free to request to be on the wait list for the first showing, while securing a ticket for the later showing. To request tickets, go to [this link](#). Public parking is free.

Deborah Green



Linda Carpenter, Publicity and Conservation Committees

Florida Native Plant & Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour

The 2016 Florida Native Plant & Wildlife Friendly Yard Tour on April 16th was a huge success with 223 tickets sold. Over 150 people did the self-guided tour of seven landscapes from Winter Park to Longwood. Many attendees were members of the sponsoring organizations, Orange Audubon Society (OAS), and the Tarflower and Cuplet Fern Chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS), but others were newcomers to the concept of Florida native and wildlife-friendly. Many had come out after seeing the excellent coverage by Kevin Spear in the *Orlando Sentinel*.

Dix.Hite Landscape Architects was the commercial site on this year's tour and homeowners who showed off their yards were Ora Borrieci; Catherine Bowman and Ron Blair; Connie Dolan; Deborah Green, Richard Poole and Christine Brown; and Rory Trombore.

We thank these hosts and Neta Villalobos-Bell of the Cuplet Fern Chapter, who chaired this year's event, and the rest of the Yards Tour committee: Deborah Green, Mary Keim, and Randy Snyder for OAS, and Phyllis Gray and Amanda Martin for the Tarflower Chapter.

OAS also thanks Allan and Janey Jahner of Wild Birds Unlimited and new store owner Laura Peliwo for ticket sales, Jackie Sward and other Tarflower members for selling tickets at other events, and Milton Heiberg and Teresa Williams for managing online sales. Our dedicated volunteers on the day of the tour included Sandy Bauerschmidt, Sondra Driscoll, Phyllis Gray, Faith Jones, Mary Keim, Amanda Martin, Gabbie Milch, Chuck Roux, Randy Snyder and Neta Villalobos-Bell.

For a detailed recap and more photos, see the FNPS Tarflower Chapter [May issue](#). The committee has already set the date for next year's tour: April 8, 2017. It is possible to landscape with natives and make your yard wildlife friendly and still attractive!

Deborah Green, Yard Tour Committee



Top left: Peter Ciepluch at Dix.Hite showing the company's landscape. *Photo: Jim Peters;*
Top right: Deborah Green showing her native landscape. *Photo: David Marano;*
Middle left: Beach Morning Glory and Gaillardia in Connie Dolan's butterfly garden. *Photo: Deborah Green;*
Middle right: Firebush. *Photo: Mary Keim;*
Bottom left: Backyard wetland with Blue Flag Irises and Wood Ducks. *Photo: Rory Trombore*

BEE Protective in Your Community



Common Eastern Bumblebee on Purple Thistle.
Photo: Mary Keim

In 2006, U.S. commercial migratory beekeepers reported sharp declines in their honey bee colonies. Declines had happened in the past, but now, in a phenomenon named colony collapse disorder (CCD), adult bees were abandoning their hives. A growing body of science attributes these alarming bee declines to exposure to what has rapidly become the world's most widely used class of insecticides, neonicotinoids ("neonics").

The report "Impact of the Nation's Most Widely Used Insecticides on Birds," by the [American Bird Conservancy](#) documents that it is not only honeybees, pollinators necessary for one in every three human food crops, but also birds that are adversely affected by neonics.

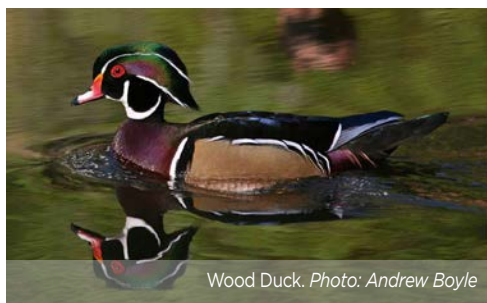
Organizations like [Friends of the Earth](#) and the [National Wildlife Federation](#) have joined organizations focused on pesticide safety like [Beyond Pesticides](#), [Center for Food Safety](#), and the [Pesticide Action Network North America](#) in engaging their members to act to protect bees and other pollinators.

Through lobbying by these groups, Lowe's, BJ's Wholesale Club, and Home Depot have each pledged a date to stop selling neonic-coated plants, but Ace Hardware and True Value are lagging behind.

Actions You Can Take

Ask before you buy. If you want to plant a pollinator-friendly garden, ask to be sure the seeds or plants weren't treated with neonicotinoids.

If you possibly can, remove some grass and put in a garden. Each new plant makes a difference. Create safe pollinator habitat in your backyard, school or office. *Deborah Green*



Wood Duck. Photo: Andrew Boyle

Spring Mead Bird Walks

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden continue to be a successful formula pioneered by past OAS president Dick Smith in September 2011. The 48-acre Mead Botanical Garden, a birding hot spot in Winter Park, has a rich diversity of habitats and bird species and is an easy site for birding. This spring the Barred Owlets had fledged and were difficult to find, but baby Red-shouldered Hawks were visible on the nest. As usual, many colorful warbler and other songbird species were seen.

OAS appreciates the participation of experienced birders leading walks this spring, including Brook Rohman, Bob Sanders, Renee Thomas and John Thomson. We look forward to resumption of Saturday walks for fall migration in September and October.

Larry Martin OAS-Mead Liaison

April Field Trip Report

Five attended the April 23, 2016 Orange Audubon Society field trip to Rock Springs Run State Reserve. Twenty-nine bird species were observed on the trip including Swallow-tailed Kite, Bald Eagle, Red-headed Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Carolina Chickadee, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Parula, Pine Warbler, and Summer Tanager. Other vertebrates included Eastern Fence Lizard and Oak Toad. Wildflowers in bloom included Ciliale Wild Petunia, Rabbitbells, Pinewoods Milkweed, Florida Greeneyes, Tread Softly, Roserush, Whitemouth Dayflower and Roseling. Our walk took us through a Sandhill community. We talked about how little of this Longleaf Pine/Turkey Oak community remained and how frequent fire was needed to maintain it. Our morning walk barely scratched the surface of this 14,000-acre "Florida's Special Space."

Mary Keim, Field Trip Chair

April Species Highlight:

Bachman's Sparrow

The Bachman's Sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis*) is an Audubon species of concern due to loss of habitat and logging of pinewoods. This species is one of the few sparrows to live in Florida all year and is endemic to the southern pine woods.

The males have a distinctive song — a beautiful, variably pitched whistled trill. Males sing to defend their nesting territory. Outside of breeding season, they are difficult to find.

This is a sparrow that won't be found with flocks of other sparrows. Normally extremely secretive, the males will fly up into the pine trees to sing. The female builds the nest on the ground and incubates the eggs. Both parents bring food to their young. Pairs are thought to remain together all year.

These sparrows are large-bodied with long rounded tails, and are boldly patterned with streaks on a buffy breast contrasting with a white belly. They also have a dark eyeline. Their habitat consists of mature pine forest, where they live in the grassy understory.

In Central Florida, there are a couple of good spots to find these birds and right now the season is perfect! Get out to Tosohatchee, Hal Scott, or Wekiwa Springs State Park early in the morning and you are likely to see these birds and definitely will hear them singing. Happy Birding!

Brook Rohman



Bachman's Sparrow. Photo: Graham Williams

Breeding Bird Atlas Reveals New Bird Species and Species in Trouble

The Second Florida Breeding Bird Atlas (2011-2016) is drawing to a close this year! Perhaps some of you have followed up on the request in earlier OAS*is* issues to volunteer to record breeding birds and have contacted Bruce Anderson, Orange County Breeding Bird Atlas Coordinator, or Greg Bretz, Seminole County Coordinator.

The first Florida Breeding Bird Atlas (1986-1991) forms the basis of our knowledge of which birds breed in our state. It was led by Dr. Herb Kale, who from 1975 until his untimely death in 1995 had been ornithologist for Florida Audubon Society. The first Florida Breeding Bird Atlas has been called an enormous accomplishment and a tribute to the passion and energy of Florida's birdwatchers. The next Breeding Bird Atlas will not be done for another 25 years.

In late April, Eugene Stoccardo, who had worked on the First Florida Breeding Bird Atlas along with Bruce Anderson and Wes Biggs, called me to help survey the area of the St. Johns River south of SR 50 by boat. That is a tortuously windy part of the river and only thanks to Eugene's cell phone navigation feature, were we able to get off the river before dark.

The data sheet we were using was directly from the First Florida Breeding Bird Atlas. Twenty-five years ago there were no Black-bellied Whistling Ducks in Florida, no Roseate Spoonbills or Black Skimmers recorded inland. There were no Eurasian Collared Doves and House Finches recorded in our neighborhoods. There were more Chuck Will's Widows, Limpkins, Meadowlarks, and Bobwhites.

If you can make observations in Orange County, contact Coordinator Bruce Anderson at scizortail@aol.com or (407) 671-3137.

Deborah Green

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive Is One Year Old!

On May 1st last year, the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) opened the 11-mile Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive.

In a year over 50,000 people have explored the Drive, marveled at alligators and wading birds, learned the difference between coots, grebes, and ducks, and turned up rarities. Photographers have found the Drive a paradise.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has worked with the District to promote the Drive through the Birdapalooza Festival, developing interpretive signage and managing a [Facebook page](#) with sightings and comments by the public.

On Sunday, May 1, 2016, to commemorate the 1st anniversary, OAS volunteers will be along the Drive with binocu-

lars, bird books, and spotting scopes to help beginners enjoy some of the most interesting birds. For a detailed map, see [this link](#). The Drive is open Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and federal holidays, is located at 2803 Lust Road, Apopka. There's always something interesting to see. See you out there!

Deborah Green



Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive scene. Photo: Joyce Stefancic



2016 Board Member Elections

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) held the election of its officers and 2016-2019 Board of Directors just prior to the April 21st program. With terms starting on June 30th, Rick Baird will assume duties of President, while Deborah Green will take the position of First Vice President. Second Vice President/Program Chairperson Brook Rohman and Treasurer Teresa Williams will remain in their positions, and Mary Keim will become Secretary. Officer terms are from 2016-2018.

Killian Hiltz, Susan Kirby, and Victoria Schwartz have been elected to complete vacated 2014-2017 board positions. Milton Heiberg, Kathy Rigling, Dominique Shimizu, Dena Wild will remain on the board for 2016-2019 terms, and Jackie Masterski will fill the fifth open 2016-2019 term. Thanks to Orange Audubon Society Nominating Committee Chair Susan Kirby, and committee members Teresa Chin and Victoria Schwartz for their work on the committee.

Although all twenty board positions are currently filled, we encourage you to keep in mind serving on the OAS board and possibly turn in a board application form, as vacancies may appear. Consider joining one of OAS' committees right now: Birdathon, brochure, Chertok nature photo contest, climate, conservation, education, field trips, finance, hospitality, membership, nature education center, nominating, OASis (newsletter), programs, publicity, sanctuary, silent auction, speakers bureau, website and/or wildlife survey.

Nominating Committee Chair Susan Kirby

Flamingo Quest Report

On April 9, 2016, 50 members of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) and several neighboring chapters drove south of Lake Okeechobee in search of American Flamingos seen there each spring for the past 9 years. Audubon Society of the Everglades, which manages visits to the area for the South Florida Water Management District (District), runs trips from mid-March through April, the period when flamingos have usually been seen there.

A rainy winter made water levels in Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) 2 unusually high and our group struck out. No elusive flamingos. Yet we saw many birds assisted by birding guide David Simpson.



Flamingo Quest group with David Simpson in the area where Flamingos had been seen at STA-2. Photo: Deborah Green; Smooth-billed Ani. Photo: Susan Kirby

One highlight and a South Florida specialty seen at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge was the Smooth-billed Ani, seen on the nest no less!

Participants enjoyed the late afternoon visit to Green Cay Wetlands, a wastewater treatment recreated wetlands with a long boardwalk; and some saw American Oystercatchers at Snook Island Preserve on the way home. Many in the group got to see Yellow-headed Blackbirds at a rice farm.

We plan to do this trip again next April, and expect to be more successful then.

Deborah Green



Red-Shouldered Hawk Chick being fed at Center for Birds of Prey. Photo: Deborah Green

Jay Watch Training May 14, 2016

Jay Watch volunteers contribute to research (citizen science) and preservation of the threatened Florida Scrub-Jay. The closest Jay Watch sites are Lyonia Preserve, Blue Spring State Park, North Peninsula State Park, and the St. Johns River Water Management District's Lake Monroe Conservation Area (all in Volusia County), and the District's Buck Lake Conservation Area in Brevard County.



Florida Scrub-Jay. Photo: Marlo Hill

Jay Watch will conduct a statewide survey from June 15 to July 15, 2016. To become a Jay Watch volunteer, you must take a free half day training session in which you will learn standardized survey methods.

The closest Jay Watch workshop is on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Lyonia Preserve on Providence Blvd. and Eustace Ave. in Deltona. If you cannot attend on that date, other sessions around the state are listed at [this link](#). To register, contact Audubon Florida's Jacqui Sulek at jsulek@audubon.org. We hope you will consider getting involved with Jay Watch!

Baby Owl Shower May 7, 2016

You are invited to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey's Annual Baby Owl Shower on Saturday, May 9, 2015 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 to care for young raptors. See the wish list at [this link](#). Cash and gift card donations are also appreciated. Contact the Center at (407) 644-0190 if you have questions.

This is a great event for young and old who can participate in fun activities and meet the Center's resident raptors and this season's non-releasable babies.

Orange Audubon Society will offer nature-inspired merchandise and the kids' art activity.

The event starts at 10 a.m. but set up help is needed at 9 a.m. The event ends and tear-down begins at 2 p.m. To help, please contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

Genius Drive Workday, May 15, 2016

On May 15, 2016 Orange Audubon Society (OAS) volunteers are needed for a 2-hour "Workday" in the restored cedar grove of Genius Drive Nature Preserve. OAS workdays began in 2006 and remain an important element in the success of a 2003-2008 ecological restoration effort directed by Bruce Stephenson, professor of environmental studies at Rollins College. Project goals included protecting and restoring the native and historical elements of this 48-acre 'old Florida' landscape in Winter Park; providing a working laboratory in landscape restoration for Rollins faculty and students; and providing a working model for others to use in developing similar endeavors. In 2008 the OAS-nominated restoration project won a prestigious 1000 Friends of Florida Better Community Award as a well-planned and implemented effort to restore and protect an important piece of open space in an urban setting and as an exemplary community partnership.

The property is also an important oasis for resident and migrating birds. In September 2007, OAS began bird surveys led by Bruce Anderson. To date surveyors have documented 182 species. If you can help with the Workday on May 15th, please contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796. Thank you!

Limited Edition Field Trip, Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, May 28, 2016

Orange Audubon Society will explore Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and nearby Joe Overstreet Road in May. 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, Snail Kite, Sandhill Cranes, waders, waterfowl and assorted passerines. White-tailed Kite has been seen in the past. 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.

This trip is limited to 15 people and costs \$10 per person for Audubon 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) 459-5617.



Pine Warbler. Photo: Brad Rohman

Please Send Birdathon Contributions

This year's Orange Audubon Society (OAS) Birdathon was held on Saturday, April 9, 2016. The weather was great and our birding teams and individuals picked specific areas in their attempts to find and identify as many interesting, beautiful, and unique bird species as possible.

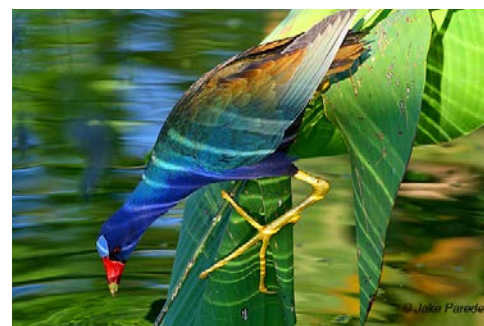
OAS extends its congratulations to all of our Birdathon participants for their skills and efforts and our thanks for spending your personal time and gasoline on this fund-raiser for OAS.

Thanks also to those of you who worked to receive and collect pledges for this go-beyond-our-membership fundraiser; it's good for those who aren't members to show their appreciation for what OAS conservation efforts make possible.

If you haven't yet made your contribution or asked others to support OAS by making a tax-deductible donation, please do so and send them to Orange Audubon Society, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142. Thank you for your support.

The person or team recording the most bird species and the person securing the most pledges will be announced at OAS' May meeting. Birdathon donations will be used to fund OAS conservation, advocacy and education efforts. Thanks! Go out and bird!

Brook Rohman and Brent Mobley, Birdathon Co-Chairs



Purple Gallinule. First Place, 2007 Chertok Photo Contest. Photo: Jake Paredes



Luna Moth Among the Leaves. 2013 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention. Photo: Michele Flacco

June Silent Auction: Donation Items Needed

On June 16, 2016 Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will present its final program of the season, showing the 2016 Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest entries, announcing the winners and awarding prizes. We also have a Silent Auction fundraiser, for which OAS can use your help. 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 personal creation? To make a donation, please contact me at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com and provide details: your name and phone number, description of item(s), retail or appraised value, starting bid amount (if desired).

Proceeds from the Silent Auction will benefit an OAS future nature and environmental education center and/or related projects at a site we anticipate will be at the Lake Apopka North Shore.

Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair

MAY/JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive 1st Anniversary

May 1, 2016

Contact Deborah at (386) 690-4705

Baby Owl Shower, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

May 7, 2016

Contact Center for Birds of Prey at (407) 644-0190

Forgotten Coast Premiere

May 10, 2016

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Jay Watch Training

May 14, 2016

Contact Jacqui Sulek at jsulek@audubon.org

Genius Drive Workday

May 15, 2016

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Monthly Program, The Secret Life of Dragonflies by Deborah Green and Mary Keim

May 19, 2016

Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

Monthly Field Trip, Charles H. Bronson State Forest, Chuluota

May 21, 2016

Contact Mary at rsmhkh@gmail.com

Limited Edition Field Trip, Three Lakes WMA, Osceola County

May 28, 2016

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Chertok Nature Photography Contest Awards Program and Silent Auction

June 16, 2016

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796