



### Colonial Photo & Hobby Showcases Photos

Congratulations to 13 photographers whose images entered in Orange Audubon Society's 2016 Chertok-Florida Native Nature Photography Contest were selected for displays at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. From all eligible entries store staff made "blind" selections—without knowing who took the photographs or whether they placed in the contest.

Displays to be installed around press time include 2016 entries from the Advanced Category: *Gator Waiting for Dinner - American Alligator* (First Place) and *Palmetto Bug, It's What's for Dinner - Eastern Screech Owlets* by Larry Lynch; *A Little Rain Must Fall—Mydas Fly* (Third Place) and *Fight Night- Spider Wasp and Wolf Spider* by Steven Long; *Black-bellied Whistling Ducks* and *The Conductor - Hooded Merganser* by Ruth Pannunzio; *Eagle Affection—Bald Eagles* by Bill Redfoot; *Fish Hooks Ready—Osprey* by Bill Richardson; and *The Battle for Survival - Great Blue Heron and Banded* Continued on p.8



Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. 2016 Chertok Photo Contest entry to be displayed at Colonial Photo and Hobby. Photo: Ruth Pannunzio

### This Month's Program: June 15, 2017

### Annual Chertok Nature Photography Contest Awards Program, Party & Silent Auction

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will celebrate the end of its season with an exclusive showing of eligible entries in the 2017 (29th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest. The program provides a virtual criss-crossing tour of Florida, with beautiful images taken from east to west coasts and from the Panhandle to the Everglades.

OAS will furnish substantial finger foods so you don't need to worry about dinner before the program. Just arrive at 6:00 p.m. with an appetite for delicious food and beautiful photography. Your small donation (\$5 suggested) to help defray costs of the event will be sincerely appreciated. And please bring your wallet for the Silent Auction, which has become a tradition for this end-of-season event.

By 7:00 p.m. the Chertok show will begin and the suspense will mount ... who will win the contest in the Youth, Novice and Advanced Amateur/Professional categories? At the program's conclusion winners will be announced and over \$1,300 in ribbons, cash and other prizes will be awarded.

At the same time there will be heightened anticipation from friendly competition for dozens of Silent Auction donations from local restaurants, native nurseries, camera and outdoor retail outfitters, resorts, area theme parks, our fantastic members and more (see p.6 and 8 for a listing of donated items as of press time).

Proceeds from this program will benefit a future OAS nature center and/or related conservation and nature education projects. A large number of volunteers will make the check-out lines painless, especially if you bring check and cash. Credit cards are accepted but a little slower to process! Mark the date and don't forget to bring an appetite for good food and camaraderie, your wallet for the Silent Auction, and your best party attitude.

This is OAS' 51st year and the 29th year of this wonderful photo contest. We hope you join us!

*Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair*



Pileated Woodpecker Male Leaving Nest, Honorable Mention, 2013 Chertok Photo Contest. Photo: Jim Urbach

### Florida: Almost a Desert

Starting in the Sonoran Desert, draw a line east across nearly 7,500 miles until it hits the Sahara Desert. Central Florida sits right on that line. All that keeps us from being a desert is our location on the Florida peninsula surrounded by water. Evaporation from the ocean on the hottest days puts moisture into the air that may condense into raindrops. [Water cycle 101!](#) Please let's conserve!

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

Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September-June) and all except the June program 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/](http://www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/)





**Summer Conservation Efforts**

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will hold its final program of the 2016–2017 season on June 15th, and this will be the final newsletter until September. Conservation efforts, many of them discussed below, will continue. If you want to be notified and are willing to help, please make sure we have your email address as part of OAS' Central Florida Conservation Network.

The OAS board will be planning activities for the upcoming year at our summer board planning meeting on July 16th, 9 a.m.—4 p.m. at the University of Florida Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, 2725 S. Binion Rd., Apopka, FL 32703. Current non-board members may attend if they wish.

Linda Gaunt, a former volunteer at Center for Birds of Prey and an Eagle-watch volunteer, has recently joined the board, but there are still two board vacancies.

OAS has had an active season, with well-attended monthly programs, two overnight trips, 30 other field trips, plus beginning birding and photo classes. Last fall OAS sponsored its first dragonfly identification class.

OAS expanded the Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza into a real birding festival, bringing in people from 11 states including Florida (where 36 cities were represented) plus 3 provinces of Canada. We continue working toward our goal of creating a nature and environmental education center on the Lake Apopka North Shore and hope to have news of the location in the fall.

Thanks to all who participated in OAS programs, who volunteered, and/or donated. Remember that OAS is run entirely by volunteers. If you wish to contribute as a volunteer next year, please let us know.

Help with conservation efforts is always OAS' biggest need. Let us know if you can be called upon to write letters as part of the OAS Central Florida Conservation Network. If you have ideas for programs or any other suggestions, please contact me at [rbaird4@att.net](mailto:rbaird4@att.net).

*Rick Baird, President*



Eastern Amberwing Dragonfly on Broad Scale Yellow-eyed Grass. 2015 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention, Novice Category. *Photo: Jennifer Krigsner*

**Talk with your Representatives**

Most of the legislators are holding town halls and other meetings with the public between legislative sessions. These are important opportunities to meet these legislators. Stress the importance of environmental protection, Florida Forever funding, no fracking, removing obstacles to Solar, transportation issues or whatever you choose. The important thing is to let them know there are those among their constituents who want to conserve the environment. If you've met them, your future communications may have more traction.

To learn about town hall meetings, first find who your Senator is at [this link](#) and who your Representative is at [this link](#). Find your representative in Washington at [this link](#). Most have Facebook pages where they announce town hall meetings are announced. If you don't use Facebook, you can call their offices.

**PACE Funding**

The Property Assessed Clean Energy or PACE program allows homeowners to make energy efficient improvements to their home, such as solar panels, insulation and duct replacement, with little or no upfront costs - by taking out a loan that is paid back over a number of years through increased property taxes.

Energy efficiency savings can easily be over 12% (see article on Energy Efficiency on p.4), but homeowners hesitate to make these investments or invest in solar because they don't know if they will be in the home long enough for the energy savings to cover upfront costs. *Continued on p. 3*



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 the link e-mailed to OAS members.

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A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 1-800-435-7352, WITHIN THE STATE. FROM OUTSIDE OF FLORIDA CALL 1-850-410-3800. VISIT [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com) FOR HELP. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



**PACE**, *continued from p. 2*

In PACE in property owners repay their loan over a set time period—typically 10 to 20 years, and cost savings from the improvements make it easier to pay back the amount owed.

A PACE assessment is tied to the property as opposed to the property owner, so the repayment obligation transfers with property ownership.

In PACE a municipality partners with private companies and contractors to facilitate the lending and constructing process. The program uses third-party administrators that have been approved by the State of Florida for local communities to implement.

More than 60 cities and counties in Florida have enabled PACE financing, including City of Kissimmee and Miami-Dade County. City of Winter Park implemented PACE in early 2016, and the [City of Orlando began implementing PACE in fall 2016](#).

Cities have agreements with Ygrene Energy Fund, RenewPACE, The AllianceNRG Program™, and Renovate America's HERO Program to provide these loans.

The Solar and Energy Loan Fund ([SELF](#)) is a nonprofit clean energy financing provider for low- and moderate-income Florida households. Since its creation in 2010, SELF has enabled more than 600 Florida homeowners to upgrade their homes and lower their energy costs. SELF can guide a resident through the process, which may include PACE. First Green Bank also gives loans for solar and energy efficiency.

**PACE in Orange County?**

On May 23rd, Orange County District 5 Commissioner Emily Bonilla proposed implementing PACE in Orange County. Public comments were from local environmental advocates and companies that were partners in PACE.

To support Commissioner Bonilla's proposal to implement PACE in Orange County, please contact your commissioners in early June. The following are their emails: Mayor Teresa Jacobs <[Mayor@ocfl.net](mailto:Mayor@ocfl.net)>, Commissioner Betsy VanderLey <[District1@ocfl.net](mailto:District1@ocfl.net)>, Commissioner Bryan Nelson <[District2@ocfl.net](mailto:District2@ocfl.net)>.



[net](mailto:net)>, Commissioner Pete Clarke <[District3@ocfl.net](mailto:District3@ocfl.net)>, Commissioner Jennifer Thompson, District 4 <[Jennifer.Thompson@ocfl.net](mailto:Jennifer.Thompson@ocfl.net)>, Commissioner Emily Bonilla <[District5@ocfl.net](mailto:District5@ocfl.net)>, and Commissioner Victoria Siplin <[District6@ocfl.net](mailto:District6@ocfl.net)>.

It would be useful to copy staff members Alan Marshall, Assistant to the Director, Community, Environmental and Development Services Department at [Alan.marshall@ocfl.net](mailto:Alan.marshall@ocfl.net) and David Jones, Environmental Programs Administrator at [David.Jones2@ocfl.net](mailto:David.Jones2@ocfl.net). Thank you for helping to make this tool available in the tool box toward independence from fossil fuels.

**Solar Coops Expand**

The first Solar Co-op in Florida was organized by the Central Florida Solar Advocates group with assistance from the Community Power Network, a Washington, D.C. nonprofit. All members of the Coop use the same solar installer, selected through a careful process, and this saves money for participants through economies of scale.

To spread Solar Coops throughout the state, [FL SUN](#) formed as a project of the Community Power Network in partnership with the Florida League of Women Voters.

Solar Coops formed last year in Orange, Broward, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and the Space Coast area, while Miami-Dade, Alachua, and Seminole are just forming. An organizational meeting for the Seminole County Coop [will be June 5th](#).

**Mayor's Commitment**

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer joined a growing group of U.S. mayors on May 25th when he signed a commitment to transition the City of Orlando to 100 percent clean and renewable energy by 2050.

**Transportation Corridors and Public Lands**

Isn't it sad that planners see a green space on a map and immediately think that's a great place for a road? This is the problem for the Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area and the Osceola Expressway Eastern Extension, as we have been reporting for several months.

The next milestone in our efforts to protect Split Oak is an August 29th Orange County Board of County Commissioners information session by Environmental Protection Division and Transportation staff. There will be an evening hike June 9th, starting at 7 p.m. and other hikes at Split Oak this summer we will let you know about. Please email Deborah if you want to be on the Split Oak advocacy email list, at [sabalpress@mac.com](mailto:sabalpress@mac.com).

**SR 408 Extension**

A proposed SR 408 extension is also a problem for some of Orange County's Green PLACE properties. OAS has followed Audubon Florida's lead and written to the Central Florida Expressway (CFX) asking that the route of SR 408 continue to follow SR 50, rather than deviate into public lands. On June 8th, from 5-7 PM, there is a Planning, Design and Engineering meeting with CFX's consultant at Corner Lake Middle School, 1700 Chulota Rd., a meeting to attend to hear the plans and talk to engineers. For more information, contact OAS Conservation Committee member Mike Jones at [mjonesenvironment@att.net](mailto:mjonesenvironment@att.net).

**Fertilizer Ordinance**

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners hearing on proposed ordinance revisions is June 6th. Your presence would be appreciated and calls to your commissioner or additional letters would be useful. For bullet points contact Mike Jones at [mjonesenvironment@att.net](mailto:mjonesenvironment@att.net).

**Senate Bill 10**

In early May Governor Rick Scott signed Senate Bill 10 into law. This Everglades restoration legislation was Audubon Florida's top legislative priority this year. For a University of Florida analysis see this [link](#), and for a Miami Herald article see this [link](#).

*OAS Conservation Committee*

## Energy Efficiency Retrofits Work!

Results are finally in from Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) program to help low-income residents of the City of Winter Park lower their energy bills! This effort was supported by a \$64,000 Toyota TogetherGreen by Audubon grant to OAS.



The grant-funded project was modeled on the Orange County Homeowners Energy Efficiency Program (OCHEEP) of 2010-2012 that had used American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Stimulus) funds. The OCHEEP program provided energy audits, energy efficiency retrofits and education to nearly 2,500 Orange County residents. OAS' Project director and former OCHEEP participant Deborah Green had noted the lack of publicity on the cost-effectiveness of energy savings from Orange County's exemplary program. So she sought to do a similar project with access to before and after energy use data. City of Winter Park obtains its energy from Duke Energy but has its own utility for billing purposes. The City has an active sustainability program, headed by architect Kris Stenger, who had worked with the OCHEEP Program as principal workshop instructor.

While the City of Winter Park is home to many wealthy residents, some of its residents live below the poverty line, mostly concentrated in historically Afro-American West Winter Park.

The City has an energy audit and energy efficiency rebate program in which residents are helped with costs of approved retrofits through a bill credit. However, low-income residents cannot pay up-front costs for the retrofits (but see the new PACE program-p.2 and 3).

The City's data indicated that these low-income homes were high energy users, since most of the homes were built in the 1950s or 1960s with no recent upgrades. Air leaks through small cracks in building walls, roofs, doors and windows contributed to

high energy use. Weatherization, insulation and duct repair had been determined to be most cost-effective in Orange County's program, so this was the focus of the OAS/Winter Park program.

### Implementation

Participation invitations were sent to 368 low-income homes. Twenty-eight low-income City of Winter Park electricity customers went through the program and secured energy efficiency improvements. Retrofits were also performed on 7 commercial properties - Flowers Temple, Flowers Temple Annex, New Fellowship Church of God, Ward Chapel, Bethel Baptist Church, Mt. Moriah Baptist Church and Wellbourne Avenue Nursery and Kindergarden.



Energy Efficiency workshop at Flowers Temple, taught by Kris Stenger. Below, Duct Test prior to retrofit at Flowers Temple Annex. Photos: Deborah Green

During the 2015 project year, sixty participants attended one of eight energy efficiency workshops taught by Kris Stenger. Workshop participants learned simple energy efficiency measures and signed a pledge agreeing to implement some of these practices. They were given weather-stripping and caulking materials, purchased by the City at a discount from Miller Hardware, and had a chance to practice their use.

Participants then booked a free energy evaluation (audit). Based on audit recommendations, they secured insulation and/or duct repair by a trained licensed contractor, paid directly by the City through the grant.

Among the 28 homes doing retrofits, average conditioned space was 1208 square feet, and most were between 44 and 67 years old. Ventilation also was improved in 5 ten-year old affordable homes. Several homes and churches had window film installed to reduce solar heat gain in summer and heat loss in winter. One older church was provided with a lighting retrofit from incandescent bulbs to LEDs.

### Survey Methods

The target was the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimate of 10% reduction through energy efficiency retrofits.

In order to have roughly comparable environmental conditions and be able to determine energy use reductions, usage must be compared with usage in the same month in successive years (called Baseline Year and Comparison Year). Since the last retrofits were completed in December 2015, OAS eagerly awaited the City's analysis of the billing data starting after December 2016.

City staff entered the billing data into the EPA's tool Energy Portfolio Manager, which created annual weather normalized site energy use intensity (EUI) based on 30-year average weather conditions. EUI is expressed in kilowatt hours (kWh) per square foot of the property's gross floor area.

City staff also administered a participant survey in March 2017 to help eliminate factors such as changes in number of people in the home, additional retrofits, and to account for behavioral changes.

### Results

The project showed EUI improvement in 79% of the homes (22 out of 28 homes). For those homes that reduced their energy consumption, average annual EUI improvement within the group was 12.4%.

A Representative Group of 9 homes was selected among the surveyed participants. These reported minimal changes in the energy use pattern  
*Continued on p. 4*



**Energy Efficiency**

*Continued from p. 4*

during the Baseline Year versus the Compared Year; had the same property use – single family residential; were built between: 1950 and 1975; had the same AC system installed - central; had at least one of the same retrofit types implemented - insulation. Average annual weather normalized EUI improvement within the Representative Participants was 13%.

The 6 homes that failed to show a decrease in energy consumption appear to have been a result of change in property use and/or aging or failing of AC units or other electrical equipment. For the churches, difficulties in achieving significant energy efficiency may have been due to cooling, heating, and lighting being used only limited hours per week.

**Conclusions**

What we learned was that yes, energy efficiency for older homes can meet or exceed the EPA's estimates - as mentioned, in the 9 representative homes, there was a 13% reduction in energy use. An average \$1100 was spent per home on the retrofits (\$342-\$2299), so with monthly bills averaging \$130, a 13% reduction would produce a savings of \$202 a year, and the cost of the retrofit would be paid back in just over 5 years. For older low-income homes, insulation and duct repair were the most cost-effective retrofits. Upgrading of aging AC and heating systems and/or water heating systems can also be cost-effective. Newer homes with an abundance of high-tech appliances can save by turning off unused appliances and being conscious of plug load. LED lights have come of age and can save significant amounts of energy, particular when replacing old incandescents. [This link](#) lists energy tax credits and rebates.

The Toyota TogetherGreen program was founded in 2008 by National Audubon Society and Toyota Motor Corporation, and over \$7.2 million has been awarded to more than 260 environmental projects nationwide. 2015 was the last year of the collaboration, with \$565,000 awarded to 19 projects. OAS' project was the only Florida project and second largest in the final year. The project fits with OAS' climate efforts, as well as Audubon's goal to increase conservation in underserved populations.

*Deborah Green*

**Competitive Birding**

Friendly competition is a real engine to push the "sport" of birding forward. And when birding moves forward, knowledge of populations and habits of birds increases, which allows National Audubon Society, Audubon Florida and our local chapter to work more effectively in bird conservation.

The American Birding Association (ABA) works hard to produce and update a verified list for North America of breeding species, regular visitors, and accidentals (species strayed here without direct human aid).

Included on the ABA checklist are well-established introduced species that are now part of North America's avifauna, for example, the Rock Pigeon of city parks and highway underpasses. With 993 species, the ABA checklist encompasses the continental United States, including Alaska, Canada, and adjacent islands and waters. Not included are Mexico, Bermuda, and Greenland. Hawaii has just recently been added.

**Big Years**

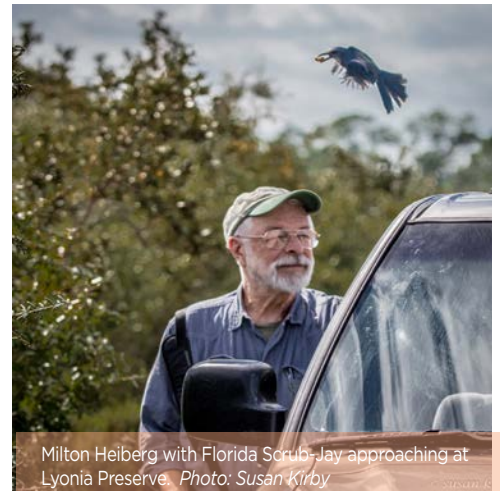
Most of you know the 2004 book *The Big Year* by Mark Obmascik and the 2011 movie by the same name, starring Steve Martin, Owen Wilson and Jack Black. Greg Miller (played by Jack Black) and the two other birders did their highly competitive Big Year in 1998.

In 2015, former OAS board member Gallus Quigley did a Big Year for Lake County, where he works for Lake County Parks and Trails Division as planner/biologist/events coordinator and park ranger. He was competing with friend Chris Newton who birded in Osceola County, where he is a member of Kissimmee Valley Audubon Society. Gallus won with 243 species. Chris ended the year with 236 species + one Rufous/Allen's type hummingbird.

In 2016, past OAS board member Lori Mathis did a Florida Big Year in friendly competition with birding friend Graham Williams. Several other birders, including OAS field trips chair Larry Martin, are actively working on their Florida year lists, chasing rarities and at any point they may call it a Big Year. Competition pushes one to actively bird. Join the fun!

*Deborah Green*

**In case you missed it ...  
How the Florida Scrub-Jay  
Can Save Florida  
by Milton Heiberg**



Milton Heiberg with Florida Scrub-Jay approaching at Lyonia Preserve. Photo: Susan Kirby

Photographer, photography teacher, and Orange Audubon Society (OAS) board member Milton Heiberg is a fan of the Florida Scrub-Jay. Looking at the scrub habitat to which this species is restricted, he sees a connection between the scrub-jay's survival and survival of our water supply.

For OAS' May program, Milton shared information on scrub-jay biology from his experience as a Jay Watch volunteer and laid out his thesis that if we allow people to know the scrub-jay they will care more about the scrub-jay's habitat. The scrub habitat on the sandy ridges of Florida, where the scrub-jay lives, is where water is able to infiltrate into the aquifer, the source of drinking water for most Floridians. His article "How the Florida Scrub-Jay Can Save Florida" is available at [this link](#).  
*Deborah Green*

**Lyonia Preserve Field  
Trip Report**

At the May 18th field trip to Lyonia Preserve in Deltona, 7 participants explored the scrub habitat. We saw many Florida Scrub-Jays, Eastern Towhees, and a Red-tailed Hawk. We heard Northern Bobwhites and saw typical scrub plants: rusty Lyonia, shiny blueberry, and Florida rosemary. We had fun trying to identify tracks in the soft sand, observing a gopher tortoise burrow and a six-lined racerunner.

Thanks to all who joined us on the field trips this year. Looking forward to next year!

*Larry Martin*

## It's June Get Out and Bird!

Several years ago, the June Challenge was established as an easy-going contest to get birders out in the field in one of the hottest and more difficult times to find birds. Summer birding in Florida is trying! The heat is awful, and the birds are hard to find. Migrants are not normally here in June, so we mostly have our resident Florida birds, like the waders and our year-round backyard feathered friends.

A birder individually picks a county, any county they like in the state, and tries to compile the biggest list of species for that area. Rex Rowan of Alachua Audubon Society is gracious enough to compile all the sightings per county.

All birds are countable and follow the ABA checklist. You list your ABA species number first, and then the non-ABA birds, like a Mute Swan at Lake Eola.

One twist for the June Challenge is that you have to see the bird, not just hear it. The rules, from Alachua Audubon, are at [this link](#).

Last June, some of us were out of state, and the only Orange County birder who submitted her totals was my friend Lori Mathis, who was doing her Big Year competing with Graham Williams. Lori saw 119 species in June 2016.

In 2015 quite a few of the local birders participated in an Orange County June Challenge. Here are the results:

- Bob Sicolo 126 (119/7)
- Lori Mathis 123 (116/7)
- Brook Rohman 116 (110/6)
- Larry Martin 110 (105/5)
- Deb Machamer 105 (105/0)
- Bob Sanders 105 (105/0)
- Bill Stefancic 105 (105/0)
- Joyce Stefancic 105 (105/0)
- Ellen Rocco 88 (81/7)

Doing the June challenge was lots of fun and I had some stiff competition! I birded all over Orange County, usually with Lori, and we had a great time. Birders shared their findings with each other and we did do a little chasing. Some of exciting birds were a Gray Kingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Common Nighthawks on

## A Great Summer Read

In *The Moth Snowstorm: Nature and Joy*, Michael McCarthy invites us to feel both the joy of richly diverse nature and the pain of the thinning.

With the ecstasy of a poet and precision of a scientist, he immerses us in the profound joy of thriving nature blessed with a profusion of life, describing England's country creeks, farm hedgerows and vast estuaries with abundant birds, butterflies, moths and fish.

But time and again he reminds us of the great thinning that is underway, with formerly lush nature reduced to fragmented remains -- from the loss of traditional farmlands in England, salmon in the Thames and sparrows in London to the deaths of migratory birds in the 100,000 acre deadscape by the gigantic sea wall of Saemangeum, Korea -- a place that formerly 50 million migrant birds could count on for refueling on 5000 mile migrations.

As Florida birders we too see the ongoing thinning, with just 6000 endemic scrub jays remaining, down 90% in the last century; the formerly pristine Indian River lagoon -- home of Pelican Island, the first National Wildlife Refuge -- choking with algae; the Everglades River of Grass blocked and polluted.

As we watch the disheartening thinning of nature because development lacks absolutely essential environmental design and planning components, we will find in McCarthy's heartfelt writing both reasons and ways to reverse the devastation.

*Bettie Sommer*



Together - Great Egrets. 2011 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention, Amateur Category.  
Photo: James Kochanowski

the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, and an American Redstart at Orlando Wetlands Park (should have been up north). The Yellow-breasted Chat was a life-bird for me and was super exciting!

Get involved this June if you can! It is a great way to get outside, get some exercise, and find out what your county has to offer. Happy Birding!

*Brook Rohman*

## More Summer Reading Suggestions

A few lists to check out:

[Top 10 Books Every Birder Should Have from American Birding Association \(ABA\)](#)

[Ten Great Books on Birds - A Big Year Reading List](#)

[2015 Twelve Best Bird Books](#)

## The Kingbird Highway

*The Kingbird Highway* is a true classic about birding. Kenn Kaufman was 19 when he did his Big Year in 1972, traveling around the country from one end to the other, following bird migration and rare bird appearances by hitch-hiking. Kaufman, now a highly respected birder and field guide author, is field editor for Audubon magazine and writes [Kenn Kaufman's notebook](#).

He wrote *The Kingbird Highway* years after his Big Year, making me marvel at the depth of his memory (and his note-taking). He tells how the sport of birding grew up, how listing became a thing, about the places to see birds, and about the community of birders. The book is frequently hilarious and always fascinating. If you have read it over ten years ago and have been an avid birder since, it's time to read it again. Fun summer reading.

*Deborah Green*



## Silent Auction Donor Acknowledgement

Orange Audubon Society gratefully acknowledges donors who, at press time, have pledged to make contributions for the silent auction on June 15th.

As other donations are received we will update a list on the website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org). Stay tuned.

Below are donations pledged to-date:

Albin Polasek Museum, Winter Park – Admission tickets

Anderson, Bruce – *The Birdlife of Florida* by Henry M. Stevenson and Bruce H. Anderson (New); “A masterpiece of Florida Ornithology. Pick a species and learn more than you ever thought possible about its range and natural history.”

Armando’s Pizzeria Cucina Italiana Restaurants, Winter Park and College Park – Gift card

Atlas Screen Printing/Wild Cotton – nature-inspired merchandise

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland – Behind-the-scenes tour and an annual pass to the Center for Birds of Prey

Aquatica, SeaWorld’s Waterpark – 4 one-day admission tickets

Biosphere native plant nursery, Winter Garden – Gift Certificate

Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Wales – Admission tickets

Carpenter, Linda – “Life is Simple. Eat. Sleep. Bird” baseball cap.

Colonial Photo & Hobby, Inc., Orlando – Cool merchandise for photo hobbyists

Commissioner Bryan and Debbi Nelson – Weekend stay (2 nights/3 days) in Cabin, Rock Springs Rd, near Kings Landing, Apopka

Dexter’s Restaurants, Dexter Richardson – Gift Cards

Green, Deborah – 2 *Watching Wildlife in the Wekiva River Basin* + 2 *Paradise Preserved* natural history books

Green Isle Gardens native plant nursery, Groveland – Gift Certificate

Heiberg, Milton – photographic prints

Hellenga, Caitrine – Watercolor and colored pencil portrait of Elvis, male American Kestrel education bird at Center for Birds of Prey

Hounds & Kitties, Maitland – Benebone dog chew toy and Chi-Cat-A Banana YEOWWW! Catnip (both made in USA) and Gift Certificate for healthy pet foods & treats, toys, etc.

Johnston, Wendy – Exquisite coffee table book: *The National Audubon Society’s Speaking for Nature – A Century of Conservation*

Kirby, Susan – Original notecards and framed, matted photo

Kiwi Camera Service – Gift certificate for professional sensor cleaning, complete camera and lens cleaning and testing

Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza – festival t-shirts

Lakeside Inn, Mt. Dora – 2 day/1 night Gift Certificate

Mad Cow Theatre Company – 2 tickets to regular performance

Masterski, Jackie – ARCI t-shirt, World of Birds DVD set (11 films), leather shoulder bag, evening bag and a field guide to *Birds of Mexico and Central America*

Mary’s Country Kitchen, Tavares – Gift Certificate

Mellow Mushroom, Mt. Dora – “Mellow” money

Miller’s Hardware – Store merchandise and a Gift Certificate

Orlando Camera Club – One-year individual membership

Orlando Science Center – Admission tickets

Petco, Apopka – Gift basket with dog toys and treats

Poole, Richard – 3 nestboxes and 12 native plants

Premier Boat Tours, Mt. Dora – Gift Certificate for Tour for 2

Rigling, Kathy – Perky Pet Elegant Copper Hummingbird feeder and Ready-to-use nectar; New books: *Insects, a Golden Guide, Critters of Florida Pocket Guide, The Little Green Book of Gardening Wisdom, Birds, Fact or Folklore?, 8000 Amazing Things You Should Know, The Concise Guide to Gardening, Hints and Tips, The World of the Fox, Art and the Gardener, Fine Painting as Inspiration for Garden Design*

Rollins College Center for Lifelong Learning – Certificate for class

SeaWorld Orlando – 4 one-day admission tickets

Simpson, David and Dee – Birding for 4 with David Simpson and hand-made bird puppet

Sloane, Margie – *Ibis Landing* – framed digital photo

Sonny’s Barbeque, Apopka – Gift basket with dinner certificates

Spratley, Gail – Book: *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks into the Nest* by Julie Zickefoose

Starbucks (Aloma at Balfour), Winter Park – Coffee and merchandise for java junkies

Tarflower Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society – Tshirt of Scrub-Jay overlaid with scrub habitat

Tijuana Flats, Apopka – Gift certificate

Total Wine & More – Private Wine class/tasting of 8 premium wines for 20 people

Travel Country Outdoors, Altamonte Springs – Gift certificate and backpack

Universal Orlando Resort – Admission tickets

Vincent’s Italian restaurant, Mt. Dora – Gift Certificate

Walt Disney World – 4 Park Hopper one-day tickets

Wekiva Island, Longwood – Two gift certificates for canoe rental

Whitaker, Sarah – *Bird House #2 – 20” X 24”* framed acrylic painting of Yellow-headed Blackbird, Spectacled Monarch, House Sparrow and Golden Crowned Kinglet by James Carter of Southbury, CT; *White Owl* by Angela Carlsen of Halifax, Nova Scotia

Wild Birds Unlimited, Eustis – Tube bird feeder and calendar

Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour – Tickets to tour 3 canal-linked Winter Park lakes

Some restrictions may apply to time and use of gift certificates and/or tours. Florida sales tax of 6 1/2% will be added to the final bid price of taxable items.

Additional donations are expected before the June 15th event, so bring cash, checks and credit cards and be prepared to outbid even your best Audubon buddies!

OAS is grateful for your participation as a contributor, bidder or both. YOU make YOUR OAS chapter a big success.

*Lori Parsons and Teresa Williams, Silent Auction Co-Chairs*

## Colonial Photo & Hobby Showcases Photos

Continued from p. 1

*Water Snake* by Debbie Tubridy.

From the Novice Category: *Gus the Caterpillar - Spicebush Swallowtail* (Second Place) by Pam Clark; *Mouthful - American Alligator* by Lynn Marie Folts; and *Softshell Turtle* by Bonnie Vanzant will be displayed; and from the Youth Category: *Sandhill Crane* by Hank Tushek will also be displayed.

Colonial Photo & Hobby has co-sponsored the Chertok competition since 2004 by contributing some of the prizes for winning photographers and featuring selected entries within their iconic and ever-busy retail premises. All displays credit the photographers who beautifully portray Florida's natural world and help to increase interest in the annual competition and nature photography.

*Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair*

## Birdapalooza 2018

The 2018 Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival and Birdapalooza will be Saturday, January 20th at Magnolia Park - the 6th annual free family-oriented festival. Orange Audubon Society invites local and out-of-town birders to take field trips on the Friday before (January 19th) and the Sunday after (January 21st). Updates will soon be available [at this link](#). For information, contact Deborah at [sabalpress@mac.com](mailto:sabalpress@mac.com).

## Lake Apopka Summer Sightings

A visit to the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive in summer provides a chance to see a lot of juvenile birds, for example, Common Gallinules, Black-necked Stilts and Boat-tailed Grackles. Secretive Least Bitterns have been more easily seen this year than we remember, and the most observant visitors have seen them feeding fuzzy chicks. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (usually found in coastal habitats), Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and Orchard Orioles are exciting sightings, as are Roseate Spoonbills and Wood Storks feeding with the herons and egrets. A few rarities sighted are Mississippi Kites, a Cave Swallow (a Southwestern bird), and White-faced Ibis (also from the West). The most exciting sighting has been the Fork-tailed Flycatcher, a South American species that also made a stir when it showed up on the Lake Apopka North Shore in 2013.

*Deborah Green, with Paul Hueber, Kathy Rigling, and Larry Martin*

## Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) May Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area turned up over 55 bird species, including Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, Crested Caracara, and Common Nighthawks. For OAS, thanks very much to Bob Sanders for leading all the OAS Limited Edition Field Trips.

*Kathy Rigling*



Common Nighthawk at Three Lakes. Photo: Kathy Rigling



2016 Chertok Photo Contest entry now on display at Colonial Photo and Hobby. Palmetto Bug, It's What's for Dinner - Eastern Screech Owlets. Photo: Larry Lynch



Fork-tailed Flycatcher at Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. Photo: Liz Kearley

## Help Still Need for Silent Auction

If you can help before, during or after the big June 15th event, please let Teresa know at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or (407) 644-0796. Thank you!

## SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Chertok Awards Program and Silent Auction

June 15, 2017

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

### Orange Audubon Society Summer Board Planning Meeting

July 16, 2017

Contact Rick at [rbaird4@att.net](mailto:rbaird4@att.net)

**Orange Audubon Society Wishes Everyone a Great Summer!**