



Laura VonMutius with Scarlet, an immature Red-tailed Hawk that is non-flighted because of a gunshot wound. *Photo courtesy Audubon Center for Birds of Prey*

This Month's Program:

September 21, 2017 Birds of Prey

by **Laura VonMutius**
Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

Raptors prey on other animals using speed, excellent vision, and uniquely adapted claws, called talons. But raptors are vulnerable to natural and human-created hazards.

In Central Florida over 800 raptors a year are brought to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, into its Raptor Trauma Clinic.

Forty percent of the injured birds are rehabilitated and released back into the wild, while those with permanent injuries are placed into zoos and aviaries.

The center also receives orphaned raptors. Last spring, it cared for 294 babies, including 78 Red-shouldered Hawks, 37 Eastern Screech Owls and 32 Bald Eagles.

For Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) September 21st program, Laura VonMutius, the center's Education Manager, will share what the center does and bring several raptors to let us see up close. "What makes my job and our center so great is that I have these amazing living teaching tools that inspire people to become interested in conservation," she says.

Join OAS at 7 p.m. on September 21st, bring your questions, and get up close and personal with some birds of prey! This program is suitable for children and all ages. Location below.

Dena Wild, Programs Chair

Monthly Field Trip:

September 23, 2017 Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area

On Saturday, September 23, 2017 join Orange Audubon Society and Friends of Split Oak Forest for a nature hike at Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area. This beautiful 1700-acre Orange County Green PLACE and mitigation park off Narcoossee Road has a variety of habitats, wildflowers, and wildlife.

The walk will be approximately 2.6 miles and will lead us where Florida Scrub-Jays have been seen. Meet at 7:45 am in the Split Oak parking lot on Clapp Simms Duda Rd. This is off Narcoossee Road, 3.6 miles south of SR 417, on the way to Back to Nature Wildlife Sanctuary. Be aware that there are no facilities. Wear closed-toed shoes, a hat, and bring water. We will return to the parking lot before lunch. If you have questions, contact me at (407) 647-5834 or lmartin5@msn.com.

Larry Martin, Field Trips Chair



Brown-headed Nuthatch at Split Oak.
Photo: Mary Keim

Hospitality Help Needed

To make each monthly program a little friendlier, Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) offers "hospitality" drinks and snacks.

OAS's new hospitality chair, Laurel Roberts, can use your help. If you will be attending a program, please let Laurel know when you can bring some home-baked or store-bought goodies. Planning ahead will make Laurel's job much easier, so please contact her at (407) 277-3357.

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/



More Split Oak Forest Walks

To introduce new people to Split Oak Forest (see p.3 for an update), three other walks have been set up with the Friends of Split Oak Forest. Two evening hikes of 1.72 miles leave from the parking lot on Clapp Simms Duda Rd, on [Sept 9th at 7:30 p.m](#) and [Oct 28th at 6:00 p.m](#). A morning hike on [Oct 14th at 7:00 a.m](#) will begin at the the [South entrance on Cyrils Road](#). Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525 or sabalpress@mac.com if you have questions. Join us!



President's Welcome

Welcome members, to a new year of programs, field trips and classes, some new, some familiar, but all exciting and educational. The Orlando Wetlands Festival is back in February after a year's hiatus with more exciting sightseeing opportunities.

This year we will face a new challenge as things really heat up with our long planned Nature and Environmental Education Center at Lake Apopka. You will soon be receiving the Orange Audubon Society 2017-2018 Annual Brochure and letter appeal. Please donate to help your all-volunteer chapter move forward.

There are many local and regional issues that will have long lasting implications for conservation management, from new roads and new developments to projects that we can't begin to know right now. Sustainability projects with local governments will be big this year.

I hope that you all will resolve to be more involved in our community events planned throughout the year. Keep reading the *OASis* to keep up on our activities. If you ever thought about trying out for a position on Orange Audubon Society's Board of Directors, let this be the year that you do so.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our general membership programs on the third Thursday of each month at Leu Gardens at 7 pm. Thanks for your support!

Rick Baird, President

FROM THE REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Audubon Florida and the Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee (CFL RCC) believe that advocating for land acquisition in 2017-2018 may best be achieved by identifying specific properties to showcase to legislators rather than asking for approval for a pot of money.

Chapter leaders in the CFL RCC are now identifying important properties from the [Florida Forever and the Rural and Family Lands priority lists](#). Legislators and other decision-makers will be invited to visit these properties and see first-hand why they are special places and have economic, ecological and recreational value to their constituents. We believe they will then be more apt to say, "We need to purchase this land (or conservation easement) because it is important to my district's residents and to my priorities."

Charles Lee and chapter leaders from Orange and Kissimmee Valley Audubon have been advocating alternate expressway routes for the SR 408 extension, Osceola Parkway Extension, and the Southport Expressway. In each case, the objective is to steer proposed expressways away from

important conservation lands. At risk are conservation lands along the Econlockhatchee River, the Split Oak Mitigation Preserve, and the Disney Wilderness Preserve.

Paula Wehr, CFL RCC Representative on AF Board of Directors

Florida Forever

State Senator Linda Stewart (District 13) has met with reps from environmental groups about what she can do to revive Florida Forever funding in the next legislative session. Stewart is a member of the Senate Natural Resources Committee. This is a very political process, and you may be asked to contact your legislator this session. Please stand by, and if you live in Senator Stewart's district, please thank her for these efforts.

Deborah Green

Bird Nesting Habitat

Audubon Florida is defending Little Estero Island Critical Wildlife Area (west coast near Ft. Myers) from a proposal to erect a private boardwalk across a state-owned mangrove lagoon and into nesting and wintering habitat for declining coastal birds, Least Terns and Snowy and Wilson's Plovers included. Legal fees may exceed \$40,000. [Click here](#) to read the background of this issue and how you can help. *Conservation Committee*



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's 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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Split Oak Update

In April 2017, the Central Florida Expressway (CFX) began conducting concept, feasibility and mobility studies on the unbuilt Osceola County Expressway Authority (OCX) Master Plan projects. The CFX, whose board includes representatives of all the Central Florida counties as well as City of Orlando, will be subsuming OCX in 2018. The goal of the studies is to determine which, if any, meet CFX requirements for viability and funding.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is particularly concerned about the Osceola Parkway Eastern Extension study, since this road was proposed to cross Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area. Audubon Florida, Florida Native Plant Society, League of Women Voters, Orange Audubon Society and Sierra Club formed an informal coalition early this year to try to help.

Working with Orange County District 4 Commissioner Jennifer Thompson and CFX, the coalition had success. The proposed route of the expressway no longer crosses the Orange County portion of Split Oak Forest.

This was important because Orange County had sold mitigation credits on this property, and this would set a disastrous precedent (mitigation is supposed to be in perpetuity).

Over 100 gopher tortoises had been relocated there and would have had their homes destroyed, if the route had been as originally planned.

However, the route specified by CFX's consultant now goes through the Osceola County portion of Split Oak.

Public meetings have been set for

- Thursday Sept 14th in Poinciana
- Tuesday Sept 19th in St. Cloud,
- Thursday Oct 5th in Lake Nona

We are trying to make the Lake Nona neighbors aware of Split Oak Forest and to create more advocates through a series of field trips with the Friends of Split Oak Forest and other groups. We hope you join us on one of the field trips (p. 1). Contact me to join our advocates email list at sabalpress@mac.com or (407) 637-2525. Thank you! *Deborah Green*

September Bird Highlight:

Fall Warblers

Wood Warblers, also known as New World Warblers, are small, often colorful songbirds in the family Parulidae. According to ebird, thirty-one warbler species were seen last fall in Orange County. Many of them are in Central Florida only briefly on their way to Tropical America. A couple of the more commonly-seen migratory species are American Redstart and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Some warblers arrive in the fall and then spend the winter here. Those include Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Black-and-White Warbler. Most of the rarer warblers I have photographed are from my backyard, planted with bird-friendly native plants. A few of the rarer ones are Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, and the Bay-breasted Warbler above, photographed in late October in a Hercules'-Club. *Mary Keim*



Bay-breasted Warbler on Hercules'-Club, Orlando Backyard. Photo: Mary Keim

Fertilizer Ordinance

The Orange County Commission passed revisions to the Orange County fertilizer ordinance at its June 6, 2017 meeting, including a statement of the importance of protecting Florida water and springs, in order to bring the ordinance into compliance with state law.

Supported by Orange Audubon Society and other groups, the County also required using slow release nitrogen fertilizer; strengthened the enforcement and penalty provisions for violations; and required in-store signage about the summer fertilizer ban.

It reaffirmed the current ban for nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer application during the June 1 - September 30 rainy season. It left in place two exceptions: commercial applicators and residents who have taken a training course. The Commission ordered staff to revisit the ordinance after Wekiva area water testing results and other science become available; and may consider a summer ban with no exceptions at that time.

Mike Jones, Conservation Chair

Orlando No Foam Zone

Orange Audubon Society supports the grassroots "No Foam Zone" campaign to encourage restaurants to end the use of foam products, especially in 'carry out' containers.

Polystyrene - used to manufacture

foam products - is a health risk, and harmful chemicals may leach into food - especially if the food is reheated in a foam container. Foam containers are not bio-degradable, and there is little demand for recycled foam. Foam floats and clogs our waterways, threatening birds and other wildlife.

Alternatives of paper, recyclable plastics, or plant materials are either truly recyclable or are easily compostable. These are used at the following local restaurants: Cork n' Fork, Dandelion Communita, Drunken Monkey, Ethos Vegan Kitchen, 4 Rivers, Gringo's, Hawkers Street Food, Hubby Bubbly, JJ's Grill, Maxine's on Shine, Olea, Panera, Pom Pom's, Prato, Rasa Asian, and Zoe's Kitchen, among others.

Michael Jones, Conservation Chair

Renewable Commitment

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer joined a growing group of U.S. mayors on May 25, 2017 when he signed a commitment to transition the City of Orlando to 100 percent clean and renewable energy by 2050. Urged by a coalition of environmental groups, including Orange Audubon Society, on August 8th the City of Orlando became the 40th city in the nation to make this commitment and the third city in Florida, joining Sarasota and St. Petersburg. For more details on the commitment [see this article](#). More information on the City's initiatives is at [this link](#). *Conservation Committee*



Gabbie Buendia (center in University of Michigan t-shirt) with fellow Doris Duke interns
Photo courtesy Gabbie Buendia

Learning About Environmental Justice

The University of Michigan's Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program supports the next generation of conservation leaders through internship opportunities spanning over two summers. In this my first summer I conducted research with the University of Michigan's Center for Sustainable Systems, attended weekly seminars on environmental current events, and participated in service trips around the region and field trips to the Great Lakes.

Growing numbers of people think of the environment as where they live, work and play, in addition to distant, scenic landscapes championed by the conservation movement. This shift has been led by voices representing people of color, women and working class communities and has been labeled "environmental justice."

Existing and emerging environmental organizations and the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency recognize that promoting environmental justice benefits everyone.

The Center for Sustainable Systems focuses on mechanisms and processes of various systems including renewable energy, waste management and distribution of water. As part of their Education and Outreach initiatives, I developed an environmental justice factsheet highlighting another perspective - how these systems interact with people's daily lives through pollution, land loss and health risk exposures. I and many of my peers envision and hope for a future where grassroots movements and large-scale conservation groups can work together to create a healthy environment for all. I look forward to working towards this mission again next summer and seeing how the conservation movement can continue to transform to serve more people.

Gabbie Buendia

Orange Audubon Society member Gabbie Buendia is a Rollins College junior in environmental studies and a participant in Audubon Florida's Conservation Leadership Initiative.

Exciting Events Coming Up: Reserve Early

North Florida Birding & North American Wolf Encounter

By popular demand, Orange Audubon Society plans a return trip to the Florida Panhandle Dec 7th-10th. This year's destinations are Seacrest Wolf Preserve (private tour Friday), Tall Timbers/Red Hills Region (where we will tour the Stoddard Bird Lab), St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Maclay Gardens State Park. Costs including local expert guides, field trip fees and some meals are: Weekend - \$80 members/\$95 non-members; Birding only - \$55/\$70; or Seacrest private tour only - \$35/\$45. For registration, lodging, and other details contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Birdapalooza Birding Weekend:

The Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza, January 18-21, 2018, is now a weekend event with field trips led by expert birders and keynote talks with dinners. Orange Audubon Society seeks to put the 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore on the map nationally! Trips, starting from the McDonald Canal area, will search for recently sighted rarities, and as many of the 360+ bird species documented on the North Shore as possible.

On Saturday, January 20th, enjoy the free Birdapalooza festival, now in its 6th year (and volunteer to help Orange Audubon Society, if you will). Tell your out-of-town family and friends who have wanted to visit that Birdapalooza weekend is a great time. See www.orangeaudubonfl.org/birdapalooza. For further information, contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525 or sabalpress@mac.com. To volunteer on Saturday, please contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559 or riglingk@aol.com.



South Carolina Magical Birding

No more Flamingo Quest/South Florida Birding! We struck out twice on seeing the American Flamingos, and participants are now familiar with a dozen great birding locations in South Florida, which they can visit on their own. A new adventure beckons! On May 18-20, 2018, Orange Audubon Society's fun fund-raising trip will go to the Columbia, South Carolina, area. On Friday, we'll drive 6 hours from Orlando, with a lunch stopover in Savannah, to [Congaree National Park](#). Southeastern breeding birds and lingering spring migrants are singing up a storm at that time, and our visit will span the evening [to see the fireflies!](#) Saturday includes guided birding at the [Audubon Center & Sanctuary at the Francis Beidler Forest](#) and a search for the rare Swainson's Warbler. We will visit the [ACE Basin](#) on the way home. Cost, including local expert guides, field trip fees, and picnic supper Friday, is \$60 members/\$75 non-members. We will be negotiating with a hotel for a group rate for the two nights and need a minimum number of participants ready to book. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525 or sabalpress@mac.com if you are interested or for more information.

Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge September 30, 2017

On Saturday, September 30th, popular birding guide Bob Sanders will lead a Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the extraordinary 140,000-acre refuge near Titusville.

At this time of year, we will see a variety of ducks, grebes, American White Pelican, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Sora, American Coot, Black Skimmer, gulls, terns and some shorebirds, including American Avocets.

Limited Edition Field Trips are limited to 15 people. Cost is \$10 per person per trip for members and \$15 per person for non-members. Reservations are required and will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

Orange Audubon Society's next Limited Edition field trip will be to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area in Osceola County on Sunday, October 15, 2017.

Fall Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden

To celebrate fall migration, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is again hosting bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park on Saturdays, October 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2017.

Mead Garden is a songbird migration stopover, with water and plenty of insects and seeds in the dense vegetation. Each walk will be led by an experienced birding enthusiast.

Walks start at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours covering as much of the part as possible. The pace will be slow with lots of stopping to look at birds. Loaner binoculars will be available. If you need to borrow a pair, please arrive a little early to sign them out and to be shown how to use them for the most enjoyable experience. For information, contact me at (407) 647-583 or lmartin5@msn.com.

Larry Martin, OAS-Mead Liaison

Insect Migration Champion



Wandering Glider at Pine Lily Preserve.
Photo: Mary Keim

Wandering gliders may be seen in swarms over paddy fields, playgrounds or open areas and fly tirelessly with typical wandering flight lasting hours without making any perch. Their flight speed is up to about 11 miles per hour (5 m/s). Especially in the autumn, the wandering glider flies in large swarms, using thermals to advantage. See [Odonata Central](#) for dragonfly information.

Deborah Green

The wandering glider or “winged wanderer” (*Pantala flavescens*) has been declared the insect champion for migration, ousting the monarch butterfly for that record. Scientists analyzed the insects’ genetics using samples collected in North and South America and Asia to track their movements, since existing tracking devices are too large for the tiny animals. The large surface area of their wings enables them to ride the prevailing winds, often at altitudes of more than 3000 feet, while dining on aerial plankton and small insects.

National Public Lands Day is September 30, 2017

Get out to one of [Orange County's Green PLACES](#), one of Florida's State Parks or Preserves or go to Canaveral National Seashore, our nearest National Park, to commemorate National Public Lands Day.

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.-Rachel Carson



Audubon Adventures

Audubon Adventures is an excellent nature education resource for grades 3-6, after-school programs, and other groups. It is packaged as a Classroom Kit to serve 32 students with teacher materials and 3 or 4 topics a year. Developed by environmental educators and National Audubon Society staff, contents include hands-on activities and scientifically accurate information about birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. Students look forward to using the fun activities.

Audubon chapters defray the cost of these kits (about \$46 with shipping for a classroom set). Orange Audubon Society typically provides the kits to 25 or more classrooms. Can you help? Along with the financial support that we hope you will send in response to OAS' Letter Appeal, you can indicate you would like to sponsor one or more classrooms with *Audubon Adventures*. Thank you! If there is a specific classroom you would like to sponsor, contact me at education@orangeaudubonfl.org. Melissa Gonzalez, Education Committee Chair

Join Audubon Florida's EagleWatch Program

The season for EagleWatch is approaching. Is there an eagle nest near your home or office or would you just like to get involved in a great citizen science effort? The Audubon EagleWatch Program will be hosting several trainings around the state.

The two nearest ones are Saturday, September 9th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Trout Lake Nature Center, 520 E County Rd 44, Eustis, FL 32736 and Sunday, September 17th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, 1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751. If you've never attended a training, please visit [this link](#) for more details and to register to attend (space is limited so registration is required). The program is always looking for new volunteers! Contact me at (407) 644-0190 or eaglewatch@audubon.org for more information.

*Shawnlei Breeding,
EagleWatch Coordinator*

Wildflower Symposium September 22-23, 2017

The 9th Annual Florida Wildflower Symposium offers field trips, hands-on workshops, and educational presentations on planting and growing native wildflowers, and creating habitat for pollinators. Events will be held Friday and Saturday, September 22-23 at the Orange County UF/IFAS Extension, 6021 South Conway Road, Orlando, FL 32812. See [link](#).

Bringing Biodiversity Back into Urban Yards October 3, 2017

October marks the 3rd Annual Florida Native Plant Month, and Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) chapters have initiated city and county-level proclamations.

Orange Audubon Society members are invited to join Tarflower Chapter for a presentation by University of Central Florida Biology professor Dr. Patrick Bohlen on *Bringing Biodiversity Back Into Urban Yards*. The free program is Tuesday, October 3rd at 7 p.m. at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando.



Eagle chasing Osprey. Photo: Mary Keim

Beginners' Bird Watching Class October 7, 14, & 21, 2017

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) offers a a Beginners' Bird Watching Class this fall, taught by Bob Sanders. It includes an "outdoor" classroom session and mini-field trip on October 7th at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and 2 field sessions on October 14th and 21st at OWP and Lake Jesup, respectively. All sessions are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The course teaches bird ID techniques including bird habitat and anatomy; provides binocular basics (OAS has "loaner" binoculars for use during the class) and tips on using field guides; and discusses birding ethics.

If you miss a fall session, you may make-up the class in spring 2018. The class is limited to 20 students and registration is required. Total cost for all three sessions is \$30 for Audubon members, \$45 for non-members and \$10 for children through age 12 with a registered adult. Non-members can join, as instructed when you register. Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. For questions about the class, contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

Backyard Biodiversity Day October 14, 2017

For the 5th year, Orange Audubon Society is teaming up with the Florida Native Plant Society and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. to sponsor Backyard Biodiversity Day at Mead Botanical Garden (MBG) in Winter Park. The event will be October 14th from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



This free event features a native plant sale, the proceeds of which will benefit MBG in restoring its upland habitat. Come early to buy the best selection of native plants to attract birds, butterflies and other pollinators to your landscape. Walks, talks, vendors, music, and food trucks make this a fun event. Additional details will be in the next *OASis*.

Thanks For Articles

Many contributed articles for this *OASis* issue. If you would like to contribute an article, please send to newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org.

2017 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest Results

Winners of Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 29th Annual Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest were announced at the June 15th awards program and silent auction at Leu Gardens where ~200 enjoyed seeing all eligible entries before awards were presented. Winners and winning image titles are listed below.

YOUTH CATEGORY

1ST

- Alayna Hew**, Apopka
 • *Give a HOOT! Barred Owl Nest*

2ND PLACE AND 3RD PLACE

- Mason Theurer**, Kissimmee
 • *Spot Among Spots - American Bullfrog*
 • *Leucistic Eastern Gray Squirrel*

HONORABLE MENTIONS

- Avery Chan**, Oviedo
 • *Warbler on a Stick - Black-throated Blue Warbler*

- Lillian Frazer**, Orlando
 • *Ornate Pennant*

- Alayna Hew**, Apopka
 • *Born to Fly - Limpkin Chick*

- Perla Llabona**, Orlando
 • *Heron at the Beach - Great Blue Heron*
 • *Thistle in the Glades - Purple Thistle*

- Mason Theurer**
 • *Flick of the Tongue - Peninsula Ribbon Snake*
 • *Unamused Turtle - Wood Duck and Peninsula Cooter*

- Hank Tushek**, Gettysburg, PA
 • *Eye-to-Eye - Black-crowned Night-Heron**

OPEN/NOVICE CATEGORY

1ST AND 2ND PLACE

- Sharon Reed**, Altamonte Springs
 • *Sleeping Beauty - Cattle Egret*
 • *Splash Down - Least Tern*

3RD PLACE

- Terry Godbey**, Orlando
 • *Unusual Brown-eyed Beauty - Burrowing Owl*

HONORABLE MENTIONS

- Pam Clark**, Orlando
 • *Beauty in Reflection*
Debra Harper, Orlando
 • *Mirror, Mirror - Pied-billed Grebe*
Caitrine Hellenga, Orlando
 • *White Plumes - Great Egret*



I Got It - Belted Kingfisher. 2017 Chertok Photo Contest Honorable Mention Winner, Advanced Amateur/Professional category. Photo: Diane Chenault-Parke

- Mary Lander**, Apopka
 • *Aggressive Snacking - American Alligator and Great Blue Heron*
Subra Narayan, West Lafayette, IN
 • *Roseate Spoonbill Splashing*
Angela Tribble, New Smyrna Beach
 • *Okay, Now What? Anhinga*

ADVANCED AMATEUR/PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY

1ST PLACE

- Peter Brannon**, Tampa
 • *The Embrace - Royal Terns*

2ND PLACE

- Tim Barker**, Orlando
 • *Nest Building—Passing the Stick - Great Egrets**

3RD PLACE

- Jim Urbach**, Sanford
 • *Barred Owllet Peeking*

HONORABLE MENTIONS

- Peter Brannon**, Tampa
 • *Last Words - Reddish Egret*
Diane Chenault-Parke, Orlando
 • *I Got It - Belted Kingfisher*
Jennifer Hew, Apopka
 • *A Lizard's New Skin - Green Anole on Ragweed**
 • *A Birder's Nightmare - Great Blue Heron and Female Red-winged Blackbird*
Marina Scarr, Sarasota
 • *Three Little Owlets - Eastern Screech Owls*
Joyce Stefancic, Clermont
 • *Making a Beautiful Noise - Eastern Meadowlark on Broomsedge**
Prem Subrahmanyam, Altamonte Springs
 • *Cigar Orchid Dreaming by Moonlight*
Robert Van Mierop, Palm Coast
 • *Spring is in the Air - Least Terns*
 • *The Eagle Eye - Bald Eagle*
 • *Incoming Scrubby - Florida Scrub-Jay*

Images marked with an asterisk (*) are on the 2017-2018 OAS brochure. All winning images are on [OAS' website](#) where 2018 contest information will

soon be available. OAS appreciates all photographers who entered the 2017 contest and looks forward to your participation in 2018. *Teresa Williams*

Thanks to the 2017 Judges

Artist Marianna Hamilton Ross, naturalist Bruce Anderson and photographer Ken Blye were Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2017 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest judges.

Marianna Ross, a longtime OAS member, is an artist, art teacher and art judge. She holds art degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara; San Francisco Art Institute and the University of Arizona. Her work in watercolor is exhibited at the Casselberry Art House and at AAA, The Renaissance Hotel, St. Thomas, South Carolina State Art Collection, Valencia College, and Walt Disney World.

Bruce Anderson, a/k/a 'da godfather of birding' studied biological sciences at UCF and zoology, specifically birds, at the University of Oklahoma. He is past president of Florida Ornithological Society and past regional editor of the American Birding Association's journal, *North American Birds*. He reviews all Rare Bird Forms for Florida Christmas Bird Counts and has published many articles. He coauthored (and is proudest of) *The Birdlife of Florida*.

Ken Blye's photographic experience spans 30 years. A past president of the Kendall Camera Club, Miami, Ken co-founded the Orlando Camera Club (OCC) and was president from 2004-2005. He has judged numerous photo competitions. Though primarily a bird photographer, he loves nature, travel and scenic photography. Ken and 8 other members of OCC won the *Nature's Best Magazine's* 2008 Camera Club competition, competing against 2400 camera clubs from around the world. Their winning images, displayed afterwards in the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, currently hang in the Smithsonian's administrative office area.

Thank you, Marianna, Bruce and Ken, for contributing your valuable time and talents to help make the 2017 Chertok photography contest a success.

*Teresa Williams,
Chertok Photography Contest Chair*

Audubon Assembly 2017 October 20-21, 2017 in St. Augustine

Audubon Florida's signature conservation event, Audubon Assembly, brings together representatives of Audubon Florida's 45 chapters with conservation leaders, scientists, educators and policy makers. This year's gathering will be held at the Renaissance St. Augustine Resort in St. Augustine, and you are invited! Audubon Assembly offers the opportunity to participate in forming Audubon's 2017 conservation priorities, to join exciting field trips, and to learn new conservation skills. The theme for this year's event is "Water for Florida's Future." For more information, [click this link](#).

Conservation Leadership Initiative 2017

A part of Audubon Assembly for the past 6 years, the Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) is a program that brings college students into the Audubon fold. In this program chapter leaders volunteer to be paired with a student in a mentor-mentee relationship. Groups go on field trips introducing conservation efforts and have interactive indoor sessions, emphasizing positive conservation action. The hope is that students continue the relationship with the local chapter and become conservation leaders. University of Central Florida student and Orange Audubon Society board member Melissa Gonzalez first participated in the program in 2013 and is now assisting Audubon Florida staff in coordinating the 2017 program. Check it out when you register for Audubon Assembly.

Deborah Green



Wekiwa Springs State Park CLI 2016 field trip. Photo: Deborah Green

Bioblitz Help Needed

Orange County Environmental Protection Division has organized a BioBlitz in the Econlockhatchee Basin from September 25th through October 2nd. Teams are being coordinated to survey birds, plants, aquatic macro invertebrates, herps (reptiles and amphibians), terrestrial inverts, and mammals. If interested, email Tina McIntyre at Tina.McIntyre@ocfl.net.

Mark Your Calendars: Fiesta in the Park

The Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival is on Nov 4th-5th, 2017 (setup Nov 3rd) and is Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) biggest public outreach event.

The City of Orlando traditionally gives OAS a well-located site near the bandshell, but before confirming participation we need a pool of volunteers lined up. Please consider a 3- or 4-hour shift, or helping all day or all weekend at this fun event!

OAS needs 4 people, minimum throughout the day (5 best for setup) to make the event doable. If you can commit, you will help OAS meet financial goals and reach out to new members. Contact me to volunteer at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

Teresa Williams

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September Program: Birds of Prey - Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

September 21, 2017
Contact Dena at 4shosha@gmail.com

September Field Trip: Split Oak Forest

September 23, 2017
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Titusville

September 30, 2017
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Bringing Biodiversity Back Into Urban Yards, Florida Native Plant Society Presentation

October 3, 2017
Contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com

Beginners' Bird Watching Class: Orlando Wetlands Park and Lake Jesup

October 7, 14, and 21, 2017
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks

October 7, 14, 21, and 28, 2017
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden

October 14, 2017
Contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com

Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area

October 15, 2017
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

October Program: Nature Photography Tips - Reinier Munguia

October 19, 2017
Contact Dena at 4shosha@gmail.com

Audubon Assembly, Maitland

October 20-21, 2017
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park, Maitland

November 4-5, 2017
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796