



Reinier Munguia. Photo: Stephanie Munguia

Join Audubon Florida's EagleWatch Program

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 is hosting several additional trainings around the state. There is a training in Eustis on Sunday, October 8th from 2:00–4:00 p.m. and one in St. Cloud on Tuesday, October 10th from 7:00–9:00 p.m. Please visit [this link](#) for details on these and other dates and to register (space is limited so registration is required). The program is always looking for new volunteers! Contact Shawnlei Breeding, Eagle-Watch Coordinator at (407) 644-0190 or eaglewatch@audubon.org for more information.

Article and Photo Thanks

Many contributed articles for this OAS*is* issue, and the editors appreciate it! To contribute, please send to newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org. We also appreciate ongoing use of the fabulous photos of the Chertok Photo Contest winners, Mary Keim, and other great photographers.

This Month's Program:

October 19, 2017

Nature Photography Tips by Reinier Munguia

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) October 19th program will be presented by well-known nature photographer Reinier Munguia, who is president of Lake Region Audubon Society and past program coordinator of Audubon Florida's EagleWatch program.

Reinier leads workshops to the Galapagos, Costa Rica, Panama, and other locations, documenting nature and wildlife's struggles in a constantly changing environment. His work has appeared in books, magazines and scientific publications.

This full-time naturalist and nature photographer will present tips to improve the quality of one's photos.

This program is OAS' lead-in to the 2018 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest (deadline April 2018).

Topics may cover proper exposure, the dynamic range of modern digital cameras and use of filters, and how to solve problems in the field – harsh light, wind and other elements – that can affect the quality of your images.

Reinier will share his approach to seeing nature from a documentary perspective.

Join us October 19th at 7 p.m. for a great program. It will be full of great nature photography that can be enjoyed by photographers and non-photographers alike. Location details below. *Dena Wild, Programs Chair*

October 14, 21, & 28, 2017 Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks

Celebrating fall migration, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is again hosting bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. However, the park suffered considerable hurricane damage and as of press time, it is not officially open. We have just learned that the Backyard Biodiversity Event will still be happening on October 14th (p.5), so the Saturday October walks will be able to start that week.



Peek-A-Boo – Barred Owllet. 2014 Chertok Photo Contest Honorable Mention Winner, Advanced category. Photo: Jim Urbach

Walks will be on October 14, 21, and 28, 2017, with the October 21st walk in place of OAS' monthly field trip. Each walk will be led by an experienced birder. Many species of migratory songbirds pass through in October and winter residents will be settling in. These include warblers, thrushes, flycatchers and woodpeckers. And of course there are the ever-popular Barred Owls. A bird list is posted at [this link](#).

The slow-paced walks start at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours with frequent stops to observe birds. Loaner binoculars will be available. If you need to borrow a pair, please arrive a little early to sign them out.

If you have questions, contact me at (407) 647-5834 or lmartin5@msn.com. *Larry Martin, OAS-Mead Liaison*

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:

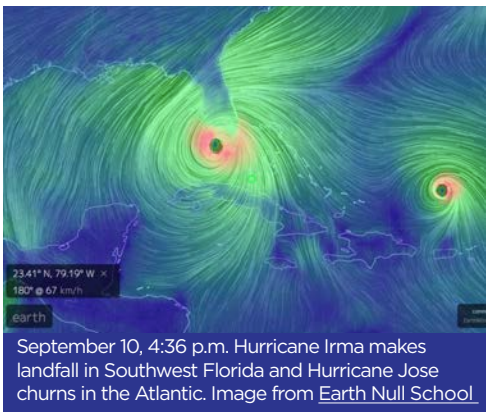
www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/





Hurricanes and Climate Change

We hope that you and yours were unscathed by Hurricane Irma. "Rising ocean temperatures can cause more intense hurricanes, and higher sea levels cause devastating storm surges. People in many parts of the world are suffering, dying, or losing their homes and businesses because of the effects of global warming. Entire communities are being abandoned because of it." These statements are part of Audubon Florida's Climate Resolution from a few years ago, among the resolutions adopted each year at Audubon Assembly (p.7). An authoritative reference is [Attribution of Extreme Weather Events in the Context of Climate Change](#).



These statements foretold the humanitarian crisis that began on September 20th as Category 4 Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico's southeastern side with sustained winds of 155 mph, moving northwest through the San Juan area. Maria was the strongest hurricane to hit Puerto Rico since the 1928 San Felipe Segundo hurricane, also called the Okeechobee hurricane. This monster hurricane drowned at least 2,500 people along Lake Okeechobee, mostly Afro-American sugarcane workers. The effects of the 1928 hurricane were dramatized in Zora Neale Hurston's 1937 novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, her best known work.

As Maria approached, Puerto Rico was still recovering from Hurricane Irma two weeks earlier, and approximately 80,000 residents had no power. Even before the hurricanes the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority had filed for bankruptcy, struggling with increasing debt, and had poor maintenance and outdated controls.

Hurricane Maria knocked out power for all 3.4 million residents, and gasoline to run generators is in short supply. Cell phone towers were destroyed. Many of our members are still waiting to receive news of loved ones on the island and to figure out how to send supplies. On September 28th the airport finally secured power, and the first international flights began. Access to clean water is another critical need. U.S. Congressman Darren Soto of Central Florida's District 9 and the first Florida congressman of Puerto Rican descent, has been letting his constituents know how to help. Soto and others recommend donations go to [United for Puerto Rico](#), an initiative of the First lady of Puerto Rico, Beatriz Rosselló.

Before Irma and Maria devastated coastal and inland Florida, Harvey devastated coastal Texas and Houston. Flooding from Harvey and other major storms leave no doubts that building in floodplains—areas subject to flooding—and paving over soil so that floodwater cannot permeate the ground, is ill-advised. Communities near Houston's oil refinery districts and chemical and other industrial facilities lining the Gulf Coast, are at greater risk of flooding and chemical spills.

As shared by Eric Draper, Audubon Florida (AF) Executive Director, AF's Keys staff were evacuated before Hurricane Irma hit, but all are concerned about their ability to resume their routines when they get back on the islands. They may have lost years of fish samples when backup power failed. Many Florida conservation lands were damaged and nests lost.

Let's all use this teachable moment in terms of the connection between hurricanes and climate change. AF's Conservation Priorities (finalized each year at Audubon Assembly) include [Climate Initiatives](#) that AF Centers and chapters are taking. See the Climate Initiatives in the 2017 priorities starting on p.16.

Deborah Green, 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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LIKE OAS ON [FACEBOOK](#)

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Hurricane Irma's breach of the Loop Trail about 1 mile south of the pumphouse, Sept. 15, 2017. Repairs are underway. Photo: Deborah Green

Post-hurricane Repairs Underway at Lake Apopka North Shore

Hurricane Irma did significant damage to the 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore property managed by the St. Johns River Water Management District (District). The incredibly popular Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive and Loop Trail are both closed until further notice.

The Loop Trail borders Lake Apopka, and Hurricane Irma's storm surge breached the levee that separates the lake from the Lake Apopka North Shore. This breach is approximately 3 miles north of Magnolia Park, south of the historic pumphouse. Lake water is still flowing north and eventually crossing Lust Road, as in the photo top right. District staff are starting the expensive and laborious patch of the worst section of the lake-side levee. Once this repair is made, lower water levels will allow the District to complete an inspection of damage to internal levees, roads, trails and other infrastructure. Currently, many parts remain underwater and cannot be inspected.

Property inspections have found flooding, trees down and other unsafe conditions. Understanding that the Lake Apopka North Shore is a popular outdoor recreation destination, the District has opened the Red Trail and the McDonald Canal Boat Ramp, off County Road 448A, and Lake County has opened the Green Mountain Trailhead. A video posted on the [District's Facebook page](#) shows that most wading birds and other wildlife are doing fine.

For updates on eventual reopening of the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive and Lake Apopka Loop Trail, visit the District's website, www.sjrwmd.com. Everyone has to be patient as staff does its work.

Deborah Green



Aerial view (historic pumphouse on Lake Apopka in foreground with pumphouse pond) showing how the entrance road has been flooded from levee breach shown to left. Repairs are underway, and birds are apparently doing well in the wetlands. Photo: St. Johns River Water Management District

Lake Apopka Water Quality Improvements

Reflecting on the Lake Apopka North Shore's history, Orange Audubon Society takes this opportunity to recall that the 20,000-acre north shore area was purchased in order to stop farm nutrient inputs into the lake and restore water quality, which has gradually been occurring. In late August, St. Johns River Water Management District (District) staff shared that progress with Florida legislators. Legislative funding is providing \$5 million per year over a 10-year period to help continue and accelerate the District's restoration work at the 30,800-acre lake that straddles Lake and Orange counties.

Lake Apopka's story was once grim — its water turned green from too many nutrients released from wastewater and citrus processing plants and discharges from area farms. Game fish and underwater vegetation died off. Today, however, we are seeing good progress in the lake's recovery, according to the District.

For example, long-term water sampling shows that phosphorus levels have decreased by 50 percent since 1987, while water clarity is improving. The native aquatic vegetation is expanding, measured at more than 80 acres along the lake's perimeter in 2016. Sport fish habitat had improved significantly enough by 2016 that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission stocked nearly a million bass in the lake. These improvements and others have drawn visitors and locals alike to county parks and the District's Lake Apopka North Shore, where the district's wildlife drive has drawn more than 200,000 visitors since opening in 2015.

The District's work continues with filtration of the lake's water and removal of nutrients in the marsh flow-way, a dredging project and a "vacuuming" project to remove accumulated sediments from the bottom of a portion of the lake. The lake's ongoing recovery would not be possible without the District's many partners, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Lake County Water Authority, whose investments have included help with native vegetation plantings and game fish restocking. District priorities will continue to focus on in-lake habitat, fishery recovery, helping with water quality improvements by reducing phosphorus, managing lake levels, pesticide exposure, and managing water levels and flood risks.

From St. Johns River Water Management District September 2017 Press Release

Last 2017 Concept Studies Public Meeting October 5, 2017



September 26th Concept Studies Public Meeting in St. Cloud. Submitted photo.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is concerned about four concept, feasibility and mobility studies on the unbuilt Osceola County Expressway Authority (OCX) Master Plan projects being managed by the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX). Charles Lee of Audubon Florida and chapter leaders from Orange and Kissimmee Valley Audubon Societies advocate for alternate expressway routes for these roads to protect public conservation and recreation land.

The Osceola Parkway Eastern Extension is of concern to OAS because this proposed toll road may cross Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area. See more details in the September OAS*is* about OAS' efforts. Two public meetings have already been held in Osceola County.

The only public meeting in Orange County in 2017 will be Thursday, October 5, 2017 at Lake Nona High School in the gymnasium from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The final meetings in 2018 may be too close to the final project findings to have much influence, so we are encouraging all interested parties to attend this October 5th meeting and send in their comments. Since the rescheduled homecoming game will be the same night, look for the special parking section dedicated to workshop attendees. If you cannot attend but would send an email on the importance of Split Oak Forest and why the road should avoid it completely, contact me at sabalpress@mac.com or (407) 637-2525. I can provide addresses and bullet points for your email. Thank you!

Deborah Green, Conservation Committee Member

SR 408 Extension Routes Being Considered

CFX is also doing a Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) study on a proposed SR 408 extension. Audubon Florida and OAS are advocating that this extension follow the SR 50 corridor and not deviate to transect public lands as currently proposed. For more information, [see this link](#). If you would make a simple comment to this effect, email 408study@CFXway.com.

Mike Jones, Conservation Chair

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.r.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. Trips start from the McDonald Canal area. Tell your out-of-town family and friends who have wanted to visit that Birdapalooza weekend is a great time. Registration opens in early October at [this link](#). For further information, contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525 or sabalpress@mac.com. On Saturday, January 20th, enjoy the free Birdapalooza festival, now in its 6th year. To volunteer on Saturday, please contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559 or riglingk@aol.com.

Split Oak Forest Walks

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) four+ mile hike at Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area on September 23rd, led by Field Trips Chair Larry Martin, was attended by 26 people and was a lot of fun. First time Split Oak Forest visitor Kathy Rigling (of the OAS board) said "Now I know what all the fuss is about."

Three October walks have been set up with the [Friends of Split Oak Forest](#), led by Valerie Anderson, whose master's thesis was on the historical ecology of the property.

On Sunday, October 8th, from 8:30-11:00 a.m. am, a morning hike will start at the main entrance. This will be a scenic 3.28 mile route to view the beauty of Lake 1. On Saturday, October 14th, another morning hike will begin at 7:00 a.m. at the [South entrance on Cyrils Road](#). This will be a vigorous hike in search of Florida Scrub-Jays.

An evening hike of 1.72 miles will leave from the main parking lot on [Oct 28th at 6:00 p.m](#) to Bonnet Pond and site of the namesake Split Oak.



Above, September 23rd Split Oak Forest hike. Photo John Hall. Below, Zebra swallowtail on Blazing Star. Photo: Susan Kirby.

The main Split Oak trailhead is at 12176 Clapp Simms Duda Road, Orlando. The South Entrance is at 5850 Cyrils Drive, Saint Cloud, with parking along the north shoulder of Cyrils Drive. There are no facilities but there are kiosks with map. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525 or sabalpress@mac.com if you have questions. Join us!

Bird-Friendly Communities



"It's simple: By gardening with native plants —no matter where you live or how small or large your space is —you can help sustain wild-life." —Doug Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home*

**BRINGING
BIODIVERSITY BACK
INTO URBAN YARDS!**

LEARN HOW TO BRING YOUR YARD BACK TO LIFE!

October 3rd • 7PM
Leu Gardens • Camellia Room

FREE ADMISSION!

A CENTRAL FLORIDA EVENT!

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT MONTH

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 will 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.

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. If you have any questions, contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com.

Polasek Museum Birding October 8, 2017

The Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens announces a free morning bird walk on Sunday, October 8, at 8:00 a.m. This program will be led by Larry Martin from Orange Audubon Society and held in conjunction with the museum's fall exhibit, *Captured in Paint: Central Florida in Art*.

Admission to the exhibit will be free for participants after the bird walk for a unique combination of wildlife viewing and fine art.

This walk gives participants an opportunity to learn about the birds that make their homes within the Central Florida landscapes depicted in *Captured in Paint*. The Polasek Museum's three-acre lakeside garden is a National Wildlife Federation-certified habitat that has documented 70 species on its property in 2017. The Polasek grounds are featured as a "Bird Hot Spot" on www.Ebird.org.

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.

Orlando Wetlands Park Trip

On Saturday, September 30th, Bob Sanders lead a Limited Edition Field Trip to Orlando Wetlands Park instead of to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, since the refuge still had hurricane damage to roads. Participants saw 54 species, including shorebirds: Least, Western, Semipalmated and Pectoral sandpipers, and a rare inland Ruddy Turnstone. A Great Blue Heron was seen eating a siren, and a few Bald Eagles were seen. Gray Catbirds, vireos, and first of the season Eastern Phoebe were also seen.

Orlando Wetlands Park is a great place to visit, particularly in the cooler months when migrants and winter residents are here. And after a year's hiatus, the Orlando Wetlands Festival will be back on February 17th!

October Bird Highlight: Thrushes

Thrushes are medium-sized songbirds in the Family Turdidae along with bluebirds and robins. Thrushes are mostly brownish on the back and light on the belly. Their breasts are spotted. They inhabit woodlands and often hop on the ground. The young are fed primarily insects, but their diet during migration and winter is primarily fruit.

While Hermit Thrushes spend the winter in Florida, several other thrushes just pass through our area briefly on their migration routes.

Some of the distinguishing features of the various thrushes are the shade of brown of the back, the color of the cheek, the presence or absence of an eye ring and the amount of spotting on the breast.

Mary Keim



Above, Veery on Firebush. Below, Swainson's Thrush on American Beautyberry. Photos: Mary Keim

Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area October 15, 2017

On Sunday, October 15th, popular birding guide Bob Sanders will lead a Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area in Osceola County.

Three Lakes and nearby Joe Overstreet Road offer outstanding scenery and some very interesting birds. Some possibilities include: Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Short-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Snail Kite, Crested Caracara, Burrowing Owl, Sandhill and Whooping cranes, and lots of Bald Eagles. The Florida Grasshopper Sparrow breeds here but in such small numbers that, unfortunately, it will be very difficult to find, but we'll try.

Participants should plan on a long day. Definitely pack a lunch!

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. Required reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis the week prior to the trip. Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

Hurricane-driven Rarities

Hurricanes often blow Caribbean birds off course, and avid birders try to get out after hurricanes to see what they can find.

On a boat trip September 15th to check on the status of an eagle nest on the Lake Apopka North Shore and see the flooding, a small group of birders had great views of a Bridled Tern, a bird of tropical oceans.

This beautiful species was feeding with some Black Terns, which are regular fall migrants on our lakes.

Several other birders saw what was presumably a different Bridled Tern the day before on Lake Jesup, and closely related Sooty Terns were seen at other locations. *Deborah Green*



Bridled Tern on Lake Apopka, September 15, 2017. Photo: Phoebe Gonsalves

In Case You Missed the Program...

Meeting Some Beautiful Raptors

At the September 21st Orange Audubon Society program, Laura VonMutius and Clare Robinson from the Audubon's Center for Birds of Prey (CBOP) introduced a fleet of raptors to an eager crowd. Before showing off the stars of the show, Laura told us how CBOP was constructed in 1924 on the banks of Lake Sybellia as a grovehouse. The property was donated to the Florida Audubon Society in the 1950s and served as office space for about 25 years before Doris Mager transformed its purpose.

Doris went down in history as the "Eagle Lady" after sitting in an eagle's nest for seven days to raise awareness about the dangers facing our nation's symbol. Inspired by her courage and dedication, CBOP now educates the public on raptors and their habitats through extensive education initiatives, reaching out to schools and community festivals; and providing opportunities for citizen science through the EagleWatch program. This past year, the EagleWatch program monitored a total of 511 nests in the area and witnessed an 81.9% success rate in fledged young.

Raptors are injured in collisions with vehicles, by gunshot wounds, electrocution, poison, territory fights and falling out of nests as babies. A CBOP patient undergoes rescue, recovery, rehabilitation and release; with release being the center's top priority and goal. Since 1979, the center has successfully released 40% of the 20,000+ patients that they have received.

After this crash course in CBOP's history, the raptors came out to play. First, the audience met Lance, the American Kestrel. American Kestrel's are the smallest member of the falcon family. To be classified as a falcon or bird of prey typically suggests that a bird is a carnivore, has a hooked beak, sharp talons and is monogamous. After Clare graciously demonstrated an American Kestrel call for the audience, they found out that Kestrels have a special gift — they can see UV rays! This allows them to detect trails such as mouse urine and follow potential prey.

Next, the audience met Gopher, the burrowing owl. Gopher gets his name from the Gopher Tortoise burrow that he calls home. He was brought to the center with a wing injury. Burrowing owls are diggers and they have long legs designed for this purpose and for looking over the tall grasses of the upland scrub where they are found. They have a special talent too — they can mimic the sounds of rattle snakes! This is important for keeping them safe from all of the competition that burrowing owls can encounter in tortoise burrows. Burrowing owls are found throughout much of South Florida and the Southwestern United States and are believed to have spanned the entirety of the South at one point.

After Gopher, Ronya the Red-shouldered Hawk came to play. Red-shouldered Hawks are found in wetlands habitat and feed on frogs, fish, snakes and other slimy eats. They are very vocal and often let out a variety of calls. When Ronya was a young bird, a human found her and decided to take care of her. Though this may sound like a benevolent act, it was actually quite harmful for Ronya in the long run. Ronya no longer sees humans as a threat and doesn't view other birds as her kind. She can not survive in the wild because she is dependent on humans and can not interact with other birds. Despite Ronya's tragic past, she is still a fan favorite.

The night ended with everyone's favorite Bald Eagle, Trouble. Trouble has been a CBOP ambassador for 31 years. Though he is strong and capable in many ways, his scissor beak is what brought him to the center and what has kept him from being released into the wild. The room filled with excitement when Trouble came out and the crowd laughed at Trouble's energy and attitude. Laura revealed a fun fact about eagles, and that is that their signature "bald" head doesn't appear until they are at least 5 years old. When baby eagles hatch, they do so with mostly brown plumage. Eventually, they grow a new set of feathers that give them a white head and tail.

Overall, many children and adults alike were excited to hear stories and backgrounds of the CBOP ambassadors.. With this curiosity came concern as people asked about proper ways to engage with injured birds of prey. Reaching out to wildlife officials and the Center for Birds of Prey, engaging in citizen science programs and raising awareness for these populations are all excellent ways to advocate for our beloved raptors. To find out what to do if you find an injured bird, or how else you can engage, visit the [CBOP's website](#).

Gabbie Buendia



Bird's Eye View (Red-shouldered Hawk).
2010 Chertok Photo Contest Honorable
Mention Winner, Youth category.
Photo: Chelsea Kasper

Audubon Assembly

October 20-21, 2017

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. You are invited! Audubon Assembly offers the opportunity to participate in forming Audubon's 2017 conservation priorities, join field trips, and learn new conservation skills. A part of Audubon Assembly for the past 6 years, the Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) program brings college students into the Audubon fold. Chapter leaders volunteer to be paired with a student in a mentor-mentee relationship. For more information, [click this link](#).

Mark Your Calendars: Fiesta in the Park

The Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival, Nov 4th-5th, 2017 with setup Nov 3rd, 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



Canaveral National Seashore Turtle Report

Canaveral National Seashore has 24 miles of undeveloped beach in Volusia and Brevard counties and is a key nesting area for sea turtles. The 2017 season set a record with 12,272 nests. The second highest year was 2013 with 7,933 nests. Loggerhead turtles accounted for 4558 nests, a good year but not a record. Green Sea Turtles made 7,691 nests almost twice the number of the second best year. Leatherback turtles made 26 nests, about the average for the last few years. About half the nests had hatched before Hurricane Irma hit, destroying virtually all that remained. Although this loss was significant, the number of successful nests compared to the nest counts of 10 years ago make 2017 a banner year.

Mike Daley, OAS Database Manager and sea turtle researcher

Genius Drive Nature Preserve Workday October 22, 2017

The 48-acre Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park needs some maintenance. The Preserve is home to many resident bird species and an important ecological stepping stone for migrants. It is not open to the public, so workdays are a great way to do some birding there. Workday will be October 22nd from 9-11 a.m. To participate, contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

Youth Field Trip November 4, 2017

Orange Audubon Society's first Youth Field Trip of the season is on November 4th at 8:00 a.m. to Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Contact leader Melissa Gonzalez at melissagonzalez@knights.ucf.edu or (239) 404-9248.



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Bird Walk at Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens

October 8, 2017

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden

October 14, 2017

Contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks

October 14, 21, and 28, 2017

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

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, St. Augustine

October 20-21, 2017

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Youth Field Trip, Mead Botanical Garden

November 4, 2017

Contact Melissa (239) 404-9248

Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park, Orlando

November 4-5, 2017

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Limited Edition Field Trip to Lake Apopka North Shore, Clay Island

November 11, 2017

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

November Field Trip: PEAR Park, Leesburg

November 18, 2017

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834