



### This Month's Program:

**June 21, 2018**

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



Sandhill Crane. 2014 Chertok Photo Contest, Youth Category, Second Place Winner. Photo: *Mason Theurer*

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will celebrate the end of its season with an exclusive showing of eligible entries in the 2018 (30th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest.

The June 21st 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.7 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' 52nd year and the 30th year of this wonderful photo contest. We hope you join us!

*Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest*

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:

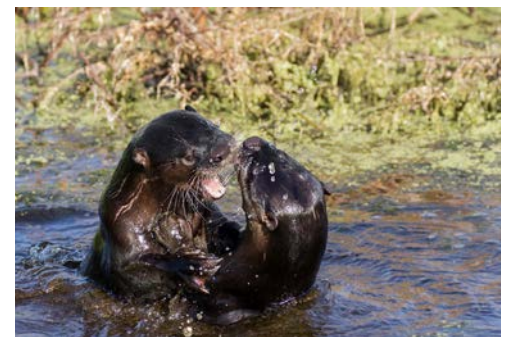
[www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/](http://www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/)



## Colonial Photo & Hobby Showcases Photos

Congratulations to 12 photographers whose images entered in Orange Audubon Society's 2017 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest were selected for displays at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. Each year, selections are made 'blind' - without knowledge of the photographers' names or whether the selected images placed in the contest.

Displays to be installed include 2017 entries from the Advanced Category: *I Got It—Belted Kingfisher* (Honorable Mention) and *Let's Play—Red Fox* by Diane Chenault-Parke; *Decisions—Barn Swallows* by Michael Libbe; *Chia Gator—American Alligator* by Steven Long; *Otters Playing Rough—River Otters* by Ruth Pannunzio; *Morning Glory—Roseate Spoonbill* by Jack Rogers; *Making a Beautiful Noise—Eastern Meadowlark on Broom Sedge* (Honorable Mention) by Joyce Stefancic; *Cigar Orchid Dreaming by Moonlight—Cyrtopodium punctatum* (Honorable Mention) by Prem Subrahmanyam; and *Spring in in the Air—Least Terns* by Robert Van Mierop.



Otters Playing Rough - River Otters. 2017 Chertok Nature Photo Contest entry on display at Colonial Photo and Hobby. Photo: *Ruth Pannunzio*

From the Novice Category: *Mourning Dove—God's Bird* by William Duncan; and *Good Morning—Barred Owllet and Owl* by Sharon Reed; and from the Youth Category: *Born to Fly Limpkin Chick* (Honorable Mention) by Alayna Hew will also be displayed.

*Continued on p.8*



## Summer Update

### Conservation Committee Members Needed

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) board members will take the summer off after our final program on June 21st. Or rather we will be planning the slate of activities for next year. Our summer board planning meeting is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 22nd, at 2725 S. Binion Road, Apopka, FL 32703. Many OAS committees are in need of help. There are even some board vacancies, if you are interested in getting more involved with your all-volunteer chapter.

In June you may be receiving an email or postcard from OAS if your membership has expired. It would be great if you would respond promptly, so that you will remain on the National Audubon Society (NAS) roster. It takes a few months to process new and renewing memberships once they have lapsed. If any questions on how the 3-way membership in National, Audubon Florida and OAS works, see the article on p. 7 in the May OAS*is*. In early September, OAS will send its one paper mailing of the new year, which will include the once-a-year fundraising Letter Appeal and the 2018-2019 Annual Brochure of planned activities.

The OAS conservation committee has the greatest need of help. Mike Jones, who served as conservation chair this past year, is moving from Florida, and the conservation committee really needs new members. There are several levels of involvement possible: With help from seasoned OAS leaders, committee members select the focus issue(s) they wish to follow; they write letters to decision-makers and letters for editorial columns, attend public meetings, and meet with officials. If you believe in OAS' mission to preserve native habitats and public access to them but have less time to commit, please join the OAS Central Florida Conservation Network and give us your email address to notify you of the urgent need for action as it arises. To get involved, contact incoming board president Deborah Green at [dgreen@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:dgreen@orangeaudubonfl.org). With ongoing growth and weakened laws protecting public lands and private conservation easements, Central Florida may be the most challenging place in the U.S. to work for conservation..

*Rick Baird, OAS President*

## Migratory Bird Treaty Act Lawsuit Filed by Audubon

[National Audubon Society v. Department of the Interior](#) litigation was filed May 24th in the Southern District of New York, challenging the Trump Administration's move to eliminate longstanding protections for waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). National Audubon Society is joined by the American Bird Conservancy, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, and the Natural Resources Defense Council in this rare lawsuit.

The MBTA's prohibition of killing or "taking" of migratory birds has long been understood to extend to *incidental take* from industrial activities—meaning *unintentional but predictable and avoidable* killing. Under the Trump administration's revised interpretation, issued December 2017, the MBTA's protections will only apply to activities that *purposefully* kill birds. Any "incidental" take—no matter how inevitable or devastating the impact on birds—is *now immune from enforcement* under the law.

For oil and gas industry, wind energy development companies, and power transmission line operators, the risk of liability under the MBTA has long provided the incentive to minimize bird deaths. Without this incentive impacts of industries on already-declining populations of our nation's songbirds and other migratory birds will increase. When the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon blowout spilled more than 210 million gallons of oil in the Gulf of Mexico more than a million birds were killed. The \$100 million dollar fines BP paid under the MBTA have gone to support wetland and migratory bird conservation efforts, including in Florida. The new interpretation would bar the federal government from seeking such mitigation. Passed in 1918 as one of our first conservation laws, the MBTA sparked 100 years of conservation effort. National Audubon rarely seeks litigation but the MBTA protections are fundamental to Audubon's mission. If they ask you to donate, the cause is important.

*Deborah Green*



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 OAS*is* (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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## New Horizons in Conservation

This past Earth Day, the New Horizons in Conservation Conference held its inaugural meeting in Washington D.C. to discuss the state of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the current environmental movement. As a participant of the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program, I had the privilege to attend and meet with environmental leaders and other college-aged scholars from all around the country.

The two-day conference was both a history lesson and a call to action. Keynote speaker, Dr. Darceta E. Taylor from the University of Michigan, exposed the inequalities of the movement that reflect our nation's story of discrimination and inequity. These include biases in who is considered an environmentalist and lack of access to meaningful environmental experiences.

However, a series of panels, lectures, workshops, and a job fair revealed how much progress has been made in making the environmental movement one where multiple voices and experiences are valued.

Many environmental organizations now take a proactive approach to include diverse environmental experiences by collaborating with multicultural community centers, diversifying leadership, and revising their mission statements among other things. Deeohn Ferris, National Audubon Society's Vice President of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, addressed principles of environmental justice. Her vision for equity, diversity, and inclusion within the Audubon Society prioritizes meaningful involvement of communities that Audubon works with and in. Without the recognition and involvement of all of the communities that our organization crosses paths with, our reach is limited.

Situated in one of the most diverse regions in the state of Florida, our chapter has the opportunity to engage a great variety of citizens coming from many walks of life. This includes college students, families, immigrants, farmworkers, the Latino community, the LGBT community, and the list goes on. As we plan the upcoming year of programs, field trips, and outreach opportunities, I hope that

our chapter takes seriously the efforts required to make an organization that is both inclusive and sustainable. I look forward to doing my part to make our organization have a positive impact on all in the Greater Orlando community.

*Gabbie Buendia*

## Mark Your Calendars

The Lake Apopka Birding Festival will be January 17-21, 2019. Visit the [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates.



## Orange County Solar Co-ops June Opportunities

If you live in Orange County West of I-4, this is your opportunity to go solar. Homeowners in Florida are installing about \$1 million of photovoltaic solar per month through Solar United Neighbors' co-ops (\$20 million since they started). When homeowners join a co-op, they learn if their homes are suitable for solar PV and receive information on solar equipment, solar financing, and how this co-op helps them to bundle their buying power to receive a competitive price.

There is no fee to join a co-op and no obligation to sign the contract presented by the solar installer who will be chosen by co-op members.

To join the West Orange Solar Co-op sign up at [www.SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Orange](http://www.SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Orange) or go to one of the two June information sessions:

Monday, June 4, 6 p.m. John Bridges Community Center, Building A 445 West 13th Street. Apopka, FL 32703. Click [here to RSVP](#)

Saturday, June 23, 11:30 a.m., Jackson Neighborhood Center, 1002 West Carter Street, Orlando, FL 32805. Click [here to RSVP](#).

## June Challenge

June is an exciting month for birders in Florida. Back in 2004, Alachua Audubon established the June Challenge as an easy-going contest to get birders out in the field in one of the hotter and more difficult times to find birds. Summer birding in Florida is trying! The heat is awful, and birds are hard to find.

Migrants are not normally here in June, so we are down to summer residents, like Purple Martins and Swallow-tailed Kites, plus our year round "feathered friends."

A birder individually picks a county, any county they like in the state (or more than one), and tries to compile the biggest list of species for that county.

Kathy Rigling, incoming First Vice President of Orange Audubon Society (OAS), has offered to compile OAS territory birder's lists at the end of the month and transmit to Alachua Audubon, who maintains the June Challenge data statewide. OAS would like to improve its connections to local birders. We suggest you just start your June list and as you are out birding, ask fellow birders if they are participating. Then the competition begins!

As a reference point, during the June Challenge in 2015 Bob Siculo won with 126 species and in 2016 former OAS board member Lori Mathis won with 119 species.

All birds are countable and follow the American Birding Association (ABA) [checklist](#). In totals, you list your ABA species number first, and then any non-ABA birds, like House Sparrows or Muscovy Ducks.

One twist for the June Challenge is that you *have to see the bird*, not just hear it.

That makes it harder and more engaging. Kathy, who actively uses eBird, suggests that if you are recording eBird lists for a location, which *do* allow you to count birds that are heard but not seen, that you write "heard only" in details for specific birds.

A form for recording your June Challenge sightings is available. Email compiler Kathy Rigling at [riglingk@aol.com](mailto:riglingk@aol.com) to obtain the form and to send your sightings after June 30th. See you out there!

*Deborah Green with Brook Rohman*





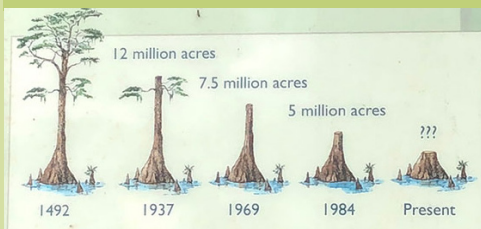
## South Carolina Magical Birding

Orange Audubon Society began its spring trip of 2018 at Congaree National Park near Columbia, South Carolina. A boardwalk hike took us through cypress swamps and woodlands, sprinkled with songs and calls of passerines in the canopy. In this last large expanse of preserved bottomland hardwood swamp in the South, the loblolly pines, cypress and tupelos were the biggest I have seen (see third photo). There had been recent heavy rains, and we suddenly heard the sound of gunfire, then firecrackers, then a cannon and turned to see an enormous tree crashing to the ground a distance away. Once darkness fell, the forest was lit by a multitude of fireflies that gathered in groups. When these clusters collected, an entire field of vision in the dense undergrowth was lit by synchronized pulses of light. We caught it just right for this once-a-year phenomenon.

A Saturday morning visit to the Orangeburg Sod Farms allowed us views of Horned Larks and Pectoral Sandpipers. Francis Beidler Forest, a sanctuary owned by Audubon South Carolina, preserves over a thousand acres of the last virgin cypress swamp. Our walk along the boardwalk was often temporarily blocked by Brown Water Snakes lounging in the sun, but we had close looks at pairs of Prothonotary Warblers that perched and sang in full view. Some of the Prothonotaries were banded by researchers from Audubon South Carolina. Photographer Bob Sena captured a Prothonotary nest in a hole in a tree. A foraging Yellow-crowned Night Heron and family of Barred Owls added to the magic of this beautiful preserve.

On Sunday we were guided by USFWS bird specialist Craig Watson into the ACE Basin in coastal South Carolina. On the Edisto Nature Trail a highlight was spotting a perched male Swainson's Warbler. For several minutes, its clear song rang through the forest. Our group was also able to hear an elusive Wood Thrush and a Hooded Warbler that defied our attempts for a clear sighting. The trip was capped off by a visit to Bear Island Game Management Area where we were treated to Gull-billed Terns, a Screech Owl, Least Bitterns, and even Roseate Spoonbills. The rains threatened but never spoiled the trip, and the group saw (or heard) over 100 unique avian species, many of them lifers. Birding South Carolina was really fun! Look forward to doing it again.

*Danny Raleigh, Past Orange Society Board member*



Photos: Congaree Sign; Congaree boardwalk by David Marano; "the girls" with enormous loblolly pine at Congaree, by Barbara Lieske; Orangeburg sod fields, by Deborah Green; Horned Lark at sod fields, by Bob Sena; eBirding, by Deborah Green; Loss of Swamps display, by Audubon South Carolina; Prothonotary Warbler at Beidler Swamp and Swainson's Warbler at Edisto Nature Trail, by Bob Sena; our group searching for the Swainson's Warbler, by Pam Ford; our guide Craig with Pam Ford at Bear Island WMA, photo courtesy Craig Watson.



*In Case You Missed the Program...*

## Bird Feathers by Bruce Anderson

For Orange Audubon's May program attendees were treated to an energetic presentation on bird feathers by our very own expert, Bruce Anderson. Anderson graduated from UCF with a degree in biological sciences and has been exploring the world of bird feathers since then.

The origin of birds extends all the way to the time of the dinosaurs. Feathers were not as present in the dinosaur age, but a related predecessor simply known as "fuzz" provided the backbone for the evolution of feathers.

Feathers are broadly defined as an "epidermal growth of keratin" similar to beaks, nails, or horns found in other vertebrates.

Feathers have very complex structures including hooks and barbs that birds zip together while preening in order to close holes in wing feathers, as Mr. Anderson demonstrated for the audience. Different feather types include flight feathers found on the wing and tail, down feathers that surround birds with a layer of air for thermoregulation, contour feathers that contribute to aerodynamics, semiplume feathers which provide the base for contour feathers, bristle feathers that function like eyelashes to keep debris away from birds' beaks, and filoplume feathers that are used as sensory devices.

The colors of bird feathers serve to attract mates, camouflage, and give other birds and animals warnings about who they are. If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, then we as humans are missing out on a whole lot of beauty! Birds are specially equipped to see in the UV range and can see a greater range of colors than humans can. Nevertheless, the rich, fluorescent colors that we do see are something to marvel at. And marvel we did as Bruce Anderson pulled out a collection of bird feathers for audience members to survey including the regal tail of the Lyrebird and several Birds of Paradise.

To learn even more about bird feathers, check out [The Feather Atlas of North American Birds](#).

*Gabbie Buendia*

## Have You Seen This Melodious Leaf-tosser?

After heavy rain in May, two Brown Thrashers appeared in my yard to forage for insects and worms under a large magnolia tree.

Their rufous bodies blended with the fallen leaves, and I was captivated by their large yellow eyes, curved bills, striking long tails, and the teardrop-shaped streaks on ivory breasts.

Brown Thrashers are frequent visitors to my yard, and I had often marveled at their vigorous dust baths. Who needs water? This time, however, they were near a window and I had an intimate view. No binoculars needed. I could study them while they hopped about tossing dead leaves in search of food.

Instead of scratching the ground, Thrashers use their strong bills like a pitchfork, and with powerful side strokes, send dead leaves flying in all directions. One of the birds cleared a spot with its bill and then dug a hole about two inches deep. It hoped for a fat earthworm, but it was not to be. Perhaps dry sand is better.

Although common year-round in the Southeast, and summer migrants to much of the U.S., Brown Thrashers are considered inconspicuous, perhaps even "secretive" or "elusive." This is because they spend most of their time on the ground, fly close to the ground, and hide in thickets when bothered.

I fell in love with the species about 10 years ago when new to birding. For weeks I had been hearing a loud, unrelenting but melodious bird song. It began in early morning and persisted non-stop throughout the day.

My neighbor informed me that it was a Brown Thrasher; she had seen it calling from the top of the tallest tree in her yard, a typical strategy of the male to attract females and locate a nest. "I wish it would find a mate," she said.

This persistent but melodious mating call of the male Brown Thrasher is well known. Individuals often hear the bird, as I did, before seeing it far off at the top of one of the tallest trees on an exposed perch calling its heart out.

The Brown Thrasher may have the largest song repertoire of any North American bird. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology notes they sing more than 1,100 different song types, including some imitations of other birds. And some ornithologists say the Brown Thrasher's songs are richer, fuller, and more melodious than that of the Northern Mockingbird.

Male and female Brown Thrashers look identical and both help incubate the eggs and feed the young. Nestlings begin to fledge nine to 13 days after hatching and the parents may raise two to three broods in a year.

Staunch defenders of their nests, thrashers can be very aggressive toward any perceived threats. Several sources noted the birds, when aggravated, had attacked humans and dogs, at times drawing blood to defend their young or territory.

Often mistaken for a Wood Thrush, the Brown Thrasher is a larger bird. It is 9 to 12 inches long, has a wingspan of 11 to 13 inches, white wing bars, and a longer tail. The Wood Thrush has dark spots rather than streaks on its breast, dark eyes, no wing bars, and less rust color overall than the thrasher.

Western relatives of the Brown Thrasher include the Curved-Bill Thrasher, Long-Billed Thrasher, and the Sage Thrasher. All are lovely birds, but none of them is as beautiful as our audacious Brown Thrasher, with the striking ferruginous body, brilliant yellow eyes, and teardrop-like streaks on its ivory breast.

*Linda Carpenter*



Brown Thrasher pair. Photo: Sherry Fischer



## Being in the Right Place at the Right Time

After praying to the panther gods many, many times in my three months as an intern at Corkscrew Swamp Audubon Sanctuary, I FINALLY SAW A FLORIDA PANTHER!

Fellow intern Lee Martin and I had gone out to practice taking photos on a Canon camera that we use to record Wood Stork flights. We saw two deer feeding 30 to 40 feet in front of us. Lee wanted to practice taking action shots if they ran.

Suddenly there was movement on the left that spooked the deer, their tails flipping in the air, a behavior called 'flagging' that warns of danger. In an instant both took off with a Florida panther in pursuit. Predator and potential prey were quickly lost to sight, while Lee and I were left shaking and speechless.

The panther was clearly stalking the deer, camouflaged in some dead grass and cabbage palms, maybe for some time. With the deer distracted, focused on us, the panther had the perfect opportunity for a stealth attack. The chance of seeing this elusive predator is slim, which made witnessing its pursuit of prey as exciting as any National Geographic or Planet Earth special.

With a storm rolling in, other wildlife became active: hogs, other deer, raccoons, wading birds, Red-shouldered Hawks, and Crested Caracaras. Wildlife activity increases before and after storms.

Lee did a great job in such an intense moment! When we first started out by car to take these photos, he mentioned that today was the day we were going to see a panther. He spoke it into existence!

*Melissa Gonzalez, Education Chair*



Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, two deer being chased by Florida Panther. Photos: Lee Martin, courtesy of Melissa Gonzalez

## On the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

### Participate in our Limpkin Survey

Help us learn how limpkins use the wildlife drive

Scan the code below or go to:  
<https://bit.ly/2INshJR>



## Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area Trip

Orange Audubon Society's last Limited Edition field trip of the year was to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area and nearby Joe Overstreet Road on May 26th. We had a wonderful field trip! We saw all of the targeted birds included Red Cockaded Woodpeckers, Bachman's Sparrows, Crested Caracara Snail Kite and then some! Thank you Bob Sanders for your great leading!

*Kathy Rigling*



Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Photo: Kathy Rigling



## Silent Auction Donations

### Admission Tickets for Boat Tours, Museums, Orlando City Soccer, Theaters & Theme Parks

Albin Polasek Museum, Winter Park – Admission tickets  
 Aquatica, SeaWorld's Waterpark – 4 one-day admission tickets  
 Audubon Center for Birds of Prey – Behind-the-Scenes tour & Raptor VIP Experience  
 Busch Gardens Tampa Bay – Admission tickets  
 Bok Tower Gardens, Lake Wales – Admission tickets  
 Enzian Theater – Evening for Two certificate (tickets and food); & "Ebux" for food, beverages, or tickets  
 Morse Museum – Admission tickets  
 Orlando City Soccer vs NYC FC on July 26, 2018, Club Level seating includes food and beverages. 2 primo tickets (donated by Lori & John Parsons)  
 Orlando Shakespeare Theater – Two tickets to a 2018-2019 Signature Series production  
 Orlando Science Center – Admission tickets  
 Premier Boat Tours, Mt. Dora – Gift Certificate for Tour-for-2  
 Rusty Anchor Boat Tours, Mount Dora – Gift certificate  
 SeaWorld Orlando – 4 one-day admission tickets  
 Sleuth Mystery Dinner Shows – Admission for 2 adults (donated by Rick Baird)  
 Universal Orlando Resort – Admission tickets  
 Wekiva Island – Gift card for canoe rental, etc. and gift basket  
 Winter Park Playhouse – Theatre gift certificate  
 Winter Park Scenic Boat Tour – tickets

### Art & Photo Notecards

Burrowing Owl photo on canvas, 11" X 14" (donated by Sherry Fischer)  
 Clyde Butcher commemorative, Preservation 2000 poster, framed; "Rondeau" mixed media print by M. P. Marion (donated by Lorri Lilja)  
 Commemorative poster of Florida Panther; signed, limited edition print by Ben Essenburg (donated by Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite)  
 Framed artwork: Bird House #2; White Owl (donated by Sarah Whitaker)

Great Blue Heron canvas print, by Robert Sena, created for a Lake Apopka exhibition  
 Local bird photos, ~4" x 6" on greeting cards, ~5" x 7" (created and donated by William Duncan)  
 Milton Heiberg photography prints (donated by Jackie & Tom Masterski)  
 Nature photographs, 8" x 11" (created and donated by Delsy Rodriguez)  
 Nature prints, plaque-mounted, 16" x 24" (donated by Jim Urbach)  
 Original notecards; matted and framed photos (created and donated by Susan Kirby)  
 Water color painting Wading Birds Field Guide Art Print (created and donated by Kate Dolamore)

### Books & Other Media

*The Birdlife of Florida* by Henry M. Stevenson and Bruce H. Anderson (new) (donated by Bruce Anderson)  
*Birding in the American West: A Handbook*, by Kevin J. Zimmer; and *Stephen Shore: Uncommon Places, The Complete Works* (donated by Linda Carpenter)  
 Classic series of bird life histories by Arthur Cleveland Bent (donated by Walter Taylor)  
 Audio and regular books including AUDUBON GUIDE - *All the Birds of Eastern and Central North America*. 1953 (donated by Kathy Rigling)

### Enrich & Indulge Yourself

Rollins College Center for Lifelong Learning – Certificate for class  
 Salon Muse, Winter Park – Gift certificate for hair services by Ana Yebba (donated by Ana Yebba)  
 Total Wine & More – Wine class/ tasting of 8 premium wines for 20 people

### For Birds, Birders, Hikers & Pet Lovers

Dog chew toy & gift certificate (donated by Hounds & Kitties, Maitland)  
 Gift cards and a gift basket (donated by Wild Birds Unlimited, Winter Springs, FL)  
 Nestboxes (donated by Richard Poole)  
 REI Flash 22 pack and trail supplies, Lifeproof iPhone 7 Plus & trail chair (donated by REI Co-op)  
 Stokes Select squirrel resistant feeder (donated by Miller's

Hardware)

Tube bird feeder and bird seed (donated by Wild Birds Unlimited, Eustis, FL)

### For Photo Hobbyists

Camera tripod (donated by Jackie Masterski)  
 Camera gear (donated by Lorri Lilja)  
 Cool merchandise for photo hobbyists (donated by Colonial Photo & Hobby, Inc., Orlando)  
 Heiberg, Milton – Free registration to a photography workshop  
 Kiwi Camera Service – 2 gift certificates for professional camera and lens cleaning and testing  
 Orlando Camera Club – Annual individual membership

### Guided Birding Tours and Gardening Consultation

Archaeopteryx Birding and Nature Tours – Guided birding by owners Beck Smith and Gallus Quigley  
 Birding with David Simpson – Birding-for-4 certificate (donated by David Simpson)  
 Gardening Consultation – Certificate for 3-hour consultation by Dena Wild (donated by Dena Wild)

### Lodging Gift Certificates

Anna Maria Sound vacation home, one week stay (donated by Mike Broussard and Kathy Putnam)  
 Oakland Manor House – 2-Day/1-Night stay with continental breakfast  
 Rock Springs Run Nelson Family Cabin, weekend stay with canoes (donated by Mayor and Mrs. Nelson)

### Plants and Native Plant Nursery Gift Certificates

B. B. Brown's Gardens, Clermont – 11 native plants & gift certificate  
 Biosphere native plant nursery, Winter Garden – Gift certificate  
 Central Florida Ferns and Foliage – 12 various Fern and foliage plants  
 Green Images native plant nursery – 9 plants including Bee balm  
 Green Isle Gardens native plant nursery, Groveland – Gift certificate  
 Orchids (donated by Krull-Smith Orchids, Apopka)  
 Native plants (6 plants donated by Deborah Green)  
 Native plants (4 plants donated by Richard Poole) *continued on p. 9*

## Bioblitzes Using iNaturalist

In early May, OAS members participated in two bioblitzes using iNaturalist. So what is a bioblitz, what is iNaturalist and can I use iNaturalist, too?

A bioblitz is a citizen science effort to record as many species as possible within a specific location and time period. The two recent bioblitzes were at [Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area](#), managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and at [Econ River Wilderness Area, near U.C.F.](#) managed by Seminole County Natural Lands. Bioblitzes can help connect people with nature and generate useful data. Bioblitzes involve naturalists, scientists, and nature-lovers. Every observation can contribute to biodiversity science and can contribute to the individual observer's knowledge of the environment.

iNaturalist is an on-line site, associated with the California Academy of Sciences, used to record and organize nature findings. As of this writing, iNaturalist has 744,513 observers with 9,747,347 observations of 162,691 species. In Florida, there are currently 9613 observers with 193,116 observations of 8228 species. You can use a cell phone and iNaturalist mobile app or any other camera or an audio recorder to make observations. The instructions for getting started are at <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. iNaturalist hopes to create community awareness of biodiversity and promote further exploration of local environments.

Whether you have a Ph.D. or just love the outdoors, iNaturalist can bring you closer to nature and to fellow naturalists. You can help iNaturalist by adding your observations and helping others identify their observations. As an iNaturalist user myself, 469 people have so far helped identify my observations. I appreciate all of their help.

Thanks to all who participated in the two recent bioblitzes and who helped identify species for those that participated. *Mary Keim, Naturalist*



Sand Wasp (*Bembix* sp.) from Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area. Six-lined Racerunner from Econ River Wilderness Area. Photos: Mary Keim

## Thanks for a Great Year!

See you at the June 21st Chertok program and then again in September. Good birding!

*Your Orange Audubon Society Board*

## Jay Watch

Jay Watch volunteers contribute to preservation of the threatened Florida Scrub-Jay through citizen science research. With the Florida Scrub-Jay dependent on Florida's shrinking scrub habitat, Jay Watch volunteers will conduct a statewide survey from June 15 to July 15, 2018. The closest Jay Watch sites are Lyonia Preserve, Blue Spring State Park, North Peninsula State Park, and Lake Monroe Conservation Area (all in Volusia County), and Buck Lake Conservation Area in Brevard County. For information, [visit this link](#) and contact Audubon Florida's Jacqui Sulek at [jsulek@audubon.org](mailto:jsulek@audubon.org). We hope you get involved with Jay Watch!



Florida Scrub-Jay. Photo: Susan Kirby

## Colonial Photo & Hobby Showcases Photos

From p. 1. 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*

## SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Chertok Nature Photography Contest Awards Program and Silent Auction

June 21, 2018

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

### Summer Board Planning Meeting, Apopka

July 22, 2018

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

### September Monthly Program, Speaker TBA

September 20, 2018

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



## Silent Auction Donations

*continued on p. 9*

### Restaurant Gift Certificates

Antonella's Pizza – Gift card, specialty olive oil and balsamic vinegar

Armando's Pizzeria Cucina Italiana – Gift card

Bubbalou's BBQ, Apopka – Dining certificates and gift basket

BURGERFI – Gift cards

Dixie Crossroads, Titusville – Gift certificates

First Watch Restaurant – Gift cards

Hunger Street Tacos – Gift certificate

Mellow Mushroom, Mt. Dora – Mellow Bucks

Mellow Mushroom, Orlando/Winter Park – Gift cards

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

SOCO contemporary restaurant, downtown Orlando – Dining certificate

Thai Basil Restaurant, Winter Springs – Gift certificate

The Tap Room at Dubsdread – Dinner for Two certificate

### This & That & BEANIE BABIES!!

Banana bread large loaves & peanut butter cookies, fresh baked (donated by Betty & Dan Schnurr)

71 BEANIE BABIES – Rekindle the Craze!! (donated by Jackie & Tom Masterski)

Books; women's zip-off field pants; Cork board; Wolf design purse; & Flower shaped bag (donated by Lorri Lilja)

Crafts by Colombian artisans (donated by Melissa Gonzalez)

DSW overnight/travel tote; Garden sign; 'Sisters' mug & Car trunk organizer with matching cooler, houndstooth design (donated by Teresa Williams)

Hand-crafted/hand-painted jewelry sets made with hypoallergenic materials, each in unique cloth bags (donated by Joy Fox)

Lamp: Ikea whimsical owl lamp shade and base (donated by Meg Keucker)

Mantel Clock, Bulova Frank Lloyd Wright Willits, 14", walnut finish (New) (donated by Mary Jane Fries)

Natural history books, Florida Native Plant Society Scrub-Jay design, Florida

Ornithological Society tee-shirts and native plants (donated by Deborah Green)

Nature-inspired merchandise (donated by Atlas Screen Printing/Wild Cotton)

Orlando Wetlands Festival T-shirt, size LG (donated by Michael Kay)

Owl cookie jar (donated by Kathy Rigling)

Pimpernel acrylic game birds coasters (set of 6); Silk scarf with bird design; soapstone owl made in Kenya & vintage Florida coasters (set of 4) (donated by Bob Stamps and Loretta Satterthwaite)

Starbucks merchandise for java junkies – (donated by Starbucks, Aloma at Balfour location)

Vintage hand painted pheasant bar glasses with mixing pitcher (donated by Mary Soule)

Wire wine rack, vintage, 7-bottle, open design (donated by Wendy Johnston)

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 21st 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*