



Bahama Warbler, Abaco Island; Red-faced Warbler, Mingus Mountain, Prescott National Forest, Arizona. *Photos: Frank Salmon*

### This Month's Program:

## September 20, 2018 Chasing Warblers

by Frank Salmon

America's small, hyperactive wood warblers are among the most sought after birds for birders, because they are colorful and have distinctive songs. Central Florida birder and photographer Frank Salmon caught the 'warbler bug' at the Orlando area's birding hot spot Mead Botanical Garden. He says, "It's these guys that get me out of bed at 5 a.m. I won't be satisfied until I see every species in North America."

Frank has enjoyed the Magee Marsh warbler mecca in Ohio in May when warblers are migrating north from their South American wintering grounds. He visits Fort DeSoto Park, Florida's spring warbler fallout site, and in Arizona has climbed a peak to photograph the Red-faced Warbler and located the vagrant Rufous-capped Warbler, traveled to Mt. St. Helens for other western species, and photographed tropical species in the Bahamas and Costa Rica. Frank has most recently photographed endangered songbirds in Hawaii, all [using eBird](#) to find the best spots and rarities.

In this presentation, he will tell us about his adventures chasing warblers and how eBird helps. This is a not-to-be-missed talk. Frank's photography can be seen [on his FLICKR site](#). Join us September 20th at 7:00 p.m. Location below.

*Rick Baird, Programs Chair*

### Monthly Field Trip:

## September 22, 2018 Lake Lotus Park

Lake Lotus Park is the City of Altamonte Springs' nature preserve, purchased back in 1972. This unspoiled 150-acre gem, tucked discreetly into Altamonte Springs along Maitland Blvd., abounds with birds and other wildlife. There is a mile of boardwalk allowing entry into the wetlands.

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the offsite parking area on the south of SR 414 (Maitland Blvd) and will take the shuttle over into the park. The address is 1153 Lake Lotus Park Rd, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714. Lake Lotus Park is also home to the Wekiwa Basin Bird Banding Station (p.2).

Free. No registration is required. Bring drink, sun protection, insect protection, closed-toed shoes, and birding gear.

Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, contact me at (407) 647-5834 or [lmartin5@msn.com](mailto:lmartin5@msn.com).

*Larry Martin, Field Trips Chair*



Lake Lotus Park boardwalk. *Photo: Larry Martin*

## Wekiwa Bird Surveys

Starting September 8th, Orange Audubon Society will assist Wekiwa Springs State Park by repeating bird surveys done in the 1990s. The park has been a leader statewide for its prescribed burn program, and anecdotal evidence indicates that birds dependent on well-burned pine habitats, like Brown-headed Nuthatches and Bachman's Sparrow, have increased. You do not have to be an expert birder to join us, but walking in sandy habitats is required. If interested, contact Kathy at [riglingk@aol.com](mailto:riglingk@aol.com) or (407) 488-9559.

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/)





## President's Message

Welcome to a new year in which Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will host informative programs, local and overnight field trips, wildlife identification classes, photography workshops, school programs and a birding festival. And after years of wishing, thinking and planning for a nature center that OAS might call home, we believe we are getting closer to solidifying a site on the Lake Apopka North Shore.

You will soon be receiving our one print mailing of the year, containing OAS' 2018-2019 annual brochure, graced by winning images from the 2018 Chertok photography contest. We hope you will again generously support OAS financially, responding to our once-a-year fund raising letter appeal included in the mailing. With your support, our all-volunteer chapter can continue to grow and meet our mission. I look forward to seeing you at our events. Thanks for being a part of Orange Audubon Society!

*Deborah Green, President*



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

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

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

To add your email address to our distribution list or report a change in email address, contact [newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org).

For other membership information, contact: Mike Daley  
[miked129e@gmail.com](mailto:miked129e@gmail.com)  
(407) 417-7818

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## Fall Migration: Where To See the BirDs; Get Your Yard Ready

Birds that breed across the Eastern United States and Canada are moving south as their food sources freeze up. Some will winter in our area, but many more will just pass through on their way to the Caribbean, Central or South America. Where are the best places to see them? Wooded areas on the Atlantic Coast are good for fall migrating songbirds. Our September 20th speaker will share his favorite spots and tell us how to use eBird to find warblers (see p. 1).



Bird banding at Lake Lotus Park,  
Photo courtesy Andrew Boyle

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) holds free guided bird walks every Saturday in October at Mead Botanical Garden, a highly accessible fall migration hot spot (see p.4). And our local [bird banding station](#) welcomes visitors, including children. That station is located at Lake Lotus Park, site of our September 22nd field trip (p. 1). The banders set up their nets on Sundays starting before daybreak and quit by about 10:30 a.m.

To attract insect-eating songbirds to your yard, convert lawn to wooded areas with native plants. Attend Backyard Biodiversity Day to buy plants and learn more (see p. 4). An immediate thing you can do is to install a fountain or just add a dripper to your bird baths. Songbirds migrate at night and can hear running water below. Backyard bird watching is a great pleasure for all ages, plus when we create bird habitat within urban and suburban areas, in a small way we help make up for loss of natural habitats.

## Year of the Bird

National Audubon Society, National Geographic, BirdLife International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have designated 2018 the "Year of the Bird." However, instead of being able to go forward with new strategies to protect birds and share the joy of birding with more people, bird advocates are having to defend the 100-year old Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), America's most important bird protection law. Passed in 1918 with the support of Audubon advocates and other early conservationists, the MBTA is credited with saving numerous species from extinction: the Snowy Egret, Wood Duck, Sandhill Crane, and millions, if not billions, of other birds. The current administration announced an interpretation of the MBTA that would give a free pass for all bird deaths from industrial activities. Similar legislative proposals have been advanced in Congress. National Audubon has, in a highly unusual move, led a coalition of national environmental groups, including the American Bird Conservancy, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, in filing litigation, [National Audubon Society v. Department of the Interior](#). Visit [National Audubon's action page](#) and please act in support.

OAS Conservation Committee

## Kites Migrate South

Swallow-tailed Kites have started their 5,000-mile migration to South America for the winter. These beautiful kites were once seen along the Mississippi River as far north as Minnesota, but loss of habitat has resulted in a breeding range of only one-third its historic size. Most of the population is here in Florida.

One of Orange Audubon Society's favorite presenters, Dr. Ken Meyer of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) in Gainesville, is the source of all we know about these fascinating birds. We are pleased to have Gina Kent, who has worked for ARCI over the past 18 years, as an upcoming speaker on May 16th.

When Dr. Meyer co-founded ARCI in 1997, no one knew where the kites went when they disappear from Florida each August. For the past 22 years ARCI has been tracking these birds with satellite transmitters and more recently, GSM (cell phone) telemetry. Since transmitters are solar-powered, if one stopped transmitting, it was assumed the kite wearing it was not exposing its back to the sun and had probably died. But more recently two kites were seen alive and well after their transmitters stopped signaling. ARCI has 12 kites now transmitting. The record for continuous transmission is from a kite tagged in South Carolina that is beginning her eighth trip since tagging.

ARCI's data indicates that to reach their final winter destination, the humid plains of Brazil, most of the tracked kites leave from the southern tip of Florida for the eastern shore of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, passing over or near the western portion of Cuba. Kites from Louisiana usually follow the Texas Gulf coast into Mexico. The whole southbound trip may take from 8 weeks to 3 months.

The birds usually linger for a short time in the bountiful tropical forests of Mexico, Guatemala, or Belize before continuing southward. They move slowly and steadily, feeding when food is available, until reaching their wintering destinations. Their northbound migration to set up breeding territories is more hurried, as it is for many other migratory bird species.

About March they arrive here and build nests in secluded areas. One or two young kites fledge and learn to do their amazing aerial foraging. They capture dragonflies and beetles out of the air and pluck anoles and frogs from trees, devouring everything on the wing.

Around July the young are self-sufficient and the family joins other kites in large congregations to put on fat reserves for the journey to South America. Last year there were pre-migratory feeding groups at the sod fields on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. This summer the gathering must have been in another part of the Lake Apopka North Shore.

In the May 2018 *OASis* (p.6), we told the unusual story of Apopka, a radio-tracked kite that had been injured and rehabilitated. At the time it was tagged and released, it was being called "Miss Apopka." But by the following April, ARCI received DNA results indicating that Apopka was a male. The sexes look so similar even the researchers can't distinguish them without DNA evidence.

By press time, most of the tracked Swallow-tailed Kites had started their migrations. ARCI's Swallow-tailed Kite journey blog is <http://www.swallow-tailedkites.org>.  
*Deborah Green*



Swallow-tailed Kite, July 2017, Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. Photo: Mary Keim

## Limited Edition Field Trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge September 29, 2018

On Saturday, September 29th, 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 Roseate Spoonbills, Black Skimmers, gulls, terns and shorebirds, and possibly early arriving ducks, grebes and White Pelicans.

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 14, 2018.

## National Public Lands Day

The 25th annual National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is this September 29th. Take the opportunity to get out to one of [Orange County's Green PLACES](#), one of Florida's State Parks or Preserves or Canaveral National Seashore, our nearest national park.

The Orange County Green PLACE NPLD celebration will be September 22nd from 9 a.m. to noon at Pine Lily Preserve, at the south end of CR 13 in Bithlo. Participants for this and another event at Hidden Pond Preserve will meet at 20206 State Rd 520, Orlando. Volunteers will help mark the Florida National Scenic Trail, clean up debris, remove invasive plants, and install picnic benches.

On a third site, Orange County's Crosby Island Marsh Preserve, adjacent to Moss Park, volunteers will also mark the Florida National Scenic Trail. Contact Beth Jackson or Carrie Mohanna at 407-836-1400 for more details.

## Florida Native Plant Month Celebration October 2, 2018

October is Florida Native Plant month and the Tarflower Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society is celebrating on October 2nd.

Tarflower and other local chapters are hosting native plant cultivation author Rufino Osario. To learn more about creating wildlife habitat through native plantings, don't miss this presentation. It will be October 2nd at 6:45 p.m. at Leu Gardens.

## Beginners' Bird Watching Class October 6, 13, & 20, 2018

Orange Audubon Society offers a Beginners' Bird Watching Class this fall, taught by Bob Sanders. An "outdoor" classroom session and mini-field trip are both on October 6th at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and 2 field sessions are on October 13th and 20th at OWP and Lake Jesup, respectively.

All sessions are 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. If you miss a fall session, you may make-up the class in spring 2019. 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 wishing to join will be given instructions upon registration. Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. For questions about the class, contact Bob at (407) 459-5617.

## Fall Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden October 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2018

To celebrate fall migration, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will host bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden on Saturdays, October 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2018.

The walks are free and open to the public with no registration needed. Each walk will be led by an experienced birding leader.

Walks start at 8:00 a.m. and will last 2 to 3 hours. The pace is slow with lots of stopping to look at birds.

Loaner binoculars will be available. If you need to borrow a pair, please arrive early to sign them out and to be shown how to use them for the most enjoyable experience.

Location is Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. We will meet in the parking lot.

For information, contact me at (407) 647-5834 or lmartin5@msn.com.

*Larry Martin, OAS-Mead Liaison*

## 30th Anniversary Chertok Photo Contest Thank You

When Orange Audubon Society founded the Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest 30 years ago, who knew how it would grow? This year approximately 400 entries challenged the 3 judges (p.5) who selected winners.

The June 21st awards event was attended by over 200 people, and the Silent Auction was an excellent fundraiser, thanks to the hard work of many people and the generosity of donating businesses and members.

With hopes I have not forgotten anyone, I would like to particularly thank Silent Auction Co-Chairs Linda Gaunt and Lori Parsons, as well as Della Allen, Rick Baird, Michael Broussard, Linda Carpenter, Phyllis Gray, Deborah Green, Marah Green, Milton Heiberg, Kim Kampe, Mary Keim, Susan and Charlie Kirby, Jessi Lambricht, Larry Martin, Jackie and Tom Masterski, Andrea Miller, Brent Mobley, Kathy Rigling, Laurel Roberts, Loretta Satterthwaite, Robert and Flo Sena, Randy Snyder, Mary Soule, Bob Stamps, and Bill and Joyce Stefancic.

*Teresa Williams, Chertok Photo Contest Chair*

## Backyard Biodiversity Day Mead Botanical Garden October 20, 2018



For the 5th year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is teaming up with the Florida Native Plant Society and Mead Botanical Garden, Inc. to sponsor Backyard Biodiversity Day. This year's event will be Saturday, October 20th from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park.

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 add to the fun. If you would like to help at the OAS table at the event, contact riglingk@aol.com or (407) 488-9559.

## 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 nearest training will be Sunday October 7th from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Discovery Center, Central Florida Zoo, 3755 Hwy 17-92, Sanford, FL 32771. To register, visit [this link](#). Contact Shawnlei Breeding, EagleWatch Coordinator, at (407) 644-0190 or eaglewatch@audubon.org for more information.



The [Florida Birding & Nature Festival](#) is October 12-14, 2018 at Hillsborough Community College in Brandon, co-sponsored by Tampa Bay Audubon.

## Festival of Flight and Flowers, October 12-14, 2018



Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS) is Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) sister chapter in Lake County

with whom OAS collaborates on issues affecting Lake Apopka and the Wekiva River Basin. OVAS is hosting a three-day Festival of Flight and Flowers on October 12-14, 2018. The festival features guided field trips each day—advanced registration is required and can be made [here](#).

On Saturday, October 13th, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., enjoy a free festival in downtown Eustis with food vendors, entertainment, speakers, kid-friendly activities, plus artists, photographers and crafters displaying and offering their works for sale. If you would like to help at the OAS table at the event, contact riglingk@aol.com or (407) 488-9559.

## 2018 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest Results

In its 2018 (30th Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) sponsored Youth, Open/Novice and Advanced Amateur/Professional competition categories with the theme *Florida Native Nature*.

Winners were announced on June 21st at Harry P. Leu Gardens, Orlando, where over 200 members and guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and a presentation of all eligible contest entries. Here are the 2018 winners:

### YOUTH CATEGORY

#### 1ST PLACE

**Claire Goodowens**, Winter Park  
*Dragon - Blue Dasher*

#### 2ND PLACE

**Alayna Hew**, Apopka  
*Nature's Garbage Disposal - Black Vulture*

#### 3RD PLACE

**Claire Goodowens**, Winter Park  
*Eye See You - Magnolia Green Jumper*

#### 4th PLACE

**Alayna Hew**, Apopka  
*Whoooo Done It? Burrowing Owl Portrait*

#### 5th PLACE

**Alayna Hew**, Apopka  
*Eye See You - Alligator Eye*

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Alayna Hew**, Apopka  
*Focus - Burrowing Owl*

**Lillian Frazer**, Orlando  
*Green Jewel - Eastern Pondhawk on Silver Buttonwood*

**Claire Goodowens**, Winter Park  
*Fly Guy - Blue Dasher\**



Bad Day in the Swamp - American Bittern and Black Swamp Snake. Honorable Mention, 2018 Chertok Photo Contest, Novice category. Photo: Michelle Wilson



Painting with a Twist - Painted Bunting. 2018 Chertok Photo Contest Honorable Mention, Novice category. Photo: Andria Hoag

**Jake Turner**, Nokomis  
*Sunning - Florida Scrub-Jay*

**Levi Davis**, Belle Isle  
*Tropical Fish - Parrot Fish*

### OPEN/NOVICE CATEGORY

#### 1ST PLACE

**Michelle Wilson**, Apopka  
*Sneak Attack - Female Regal Jumping Spider and Female Eastern Pondhawk*

#### 2ND PLACE

**Michelle Wilson**, Apopka  
*Date Night at Sundown - Hooded Mergansers\**

#### 3RD PLACE

**Stacey Kelly**, Eustis  
*Happiness is like a Butterfly - Palmetto Skipper on Fire Flag*

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Michelle Wilson**, Apopka  
*Bad Day in the Swamp - American Bittern and Black Swamp Snake*

**Angie Jore**, Orlando  
*Fire in the Sky - Fire Rainbow (circumhorizontal arc)*

**Jan Pewsey**, Ocoee  
*The Waving Otter - River Otter*

**Andria Hoag**, Ocoee  
*Painting with a Twist - Painted Bunting*

**Dustin S. Mahoy**, Eustis  
*In the Darkness - American Alligator*

**John Bailey**, Orlando  
*Pair of Hooters - Barred Owls*

### ADVANCED AMATEUR/ PROFESSIONAL CATEGORY

#### 1ST PLACE

**Peter Brannon**, Tampa  
*All Tucked In - Sandhill Cranes\**

#### 2ND PLACE

**Jim Urbach**, Sanford  
*White Morph Reddish Egret Fishing*

#### 3RD PLACE

**Peter Brannon**, Tampa  
*Unforgettable Encounter - Bobcat*

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

**Jim Urbach**, Sanford  
*Snail Kites Mating\**

**Peter Brannon**, Tampa  
*How About a Hug? Great Egret and Pig Frog*

**Jim Urbach**, Sanford  
*Sandwich Terns Strutting*

**Susan Kirby**, Orlando  
*Liftoff - Double-crested Cormorant*

**Joyce Stefancic**, Clermont  
*Outta the Starting Block - Snowy Egret*

**Robert Sena**, Belle Isle  
*Resigned to Its Fate - American Bittern and Pig Frog*

**Paul Rebmann**, Ormond Beach  
*Bee Fly on Roseling - Poecilogonathus Bee Fly and Florida Scrub Roseling*

Images marked with an asterisk (\*) are on the 2018-2019 OAS brochure. All winning images are on OAS' website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) where 2019 contest information will soon be available.

Thank you to all the photographers who entered. We look forward to your participation in 2019.

*Teresa Williams, Chertok Photography Contest Chair*

## Thanks to the 2018 Judges

Artist Edward Feldman, naturalist Bruce Anderson and photographer Wayne Bennett were Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) 2018 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest judges.

Edward Feldman earned his Bachelors of Fine Arts from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and began his career in New York City and Philadelphia as a graphic designer. Although he started in the days of hand art work, he quickly mastered digital graphic design. After moving to Orlando in the late 1980s, Edward has had many commercial clients, but his work for OAS is among his favorites. He has assisted OAS with current format of the OASis and branding for the North Shore Birding Festival, starting with posters in 2016, and two versions of the logo, website and ads in 2018. Edward also developed the OAS graphics for five kiosks, the raptor and waterfowl kiosks that are currently on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, *continued on p.6*

## 2018 Judges, continued

and three plant kiosks that will soon be installed. Edward founded and co-manages the Adobe InDesign and Creative Suite User Group. His artwork appears in the Jai Gallery and has been featured on the cover of the *Winter Park Magazine*. See his work at [www.feldman.graphics](http://www.feldman.graphics).

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*. This large book contains records, including breeding records, of all bird species occurring in Florida, and is the authoritative compendium. Since retirement, Bruce has increased his world travel to six continents, and his life list to over 2900 bird species.

Wayne Bennett has been a professional photographer for the past 25 years, specializing in nature photography. He has traveled extensively and photographed on all continents except Antarctica. He is a proud charter member of the North American Nature Photographers Association and the Orlando Camera Club (OCC), of which he was the second President. In OCC's annual photo competition, the photo of the year earns the Wayne Bennett Award. Among awards for his own photography, Wayne had an image selected as Highly Honored in the 2009 Nature's Best Contest that was displayed at the Smithsonian. He has taught out-of-state and international workshops with Great American Photography Weekends group for 15 years and with the Disney Institute for 5 years. His work can be seen at [waynebennettphotography.com](http://waynebennettphotography.com).

OAS thanks Edward, Bruce and Wayne for contributing their valuable time and talents to help make the 2018 Chertok photography contest a success.

*Teresa Williams, Chertok Photography Contest Chair*

## Learning About Environmental Justice, Part II



I have completed my second and final summer with the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program (DDCSP) at the University of Michigan. DDCSP focuses on increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the environmental conservation field. This summer I interned with the Great Lakes Program at the Michigan chapter of the Sierra Club in Detroit where I explored the state of rain gardens and green stormwater infrastructure throughout the city.

For the Sierra Club I investigated how effective rain gardens were in the city and how influential job training programs for rain garden installation would be. With another DDCSP scholar, I conducted market research, attended meetings with other nonprofits, visited an environmental engineering lab, and gathered data from constructed rain gardens. This work reaffirmed the importance of collaborating with other groups and working directly for community members' needs.

DDCSP also gave me the opportunity to explore environments of Michigan and beyond. A visit to the state's Upper Peninsula and Mackinac Island (technically America's first national park) showed me the beauty of the Great Lakes. Our capstone trip to Yellowstone National Park exposed me to high-altitude geothermal environments that made me feel like I was on a different planet. I have unforgettable memories of the landscapes and the other scholars that I shared them with. I feel fortunate every day to be able to continue my growth as an environmental steward through both my academics and Audubon. If you are a currently enrolled college freshman, sophomore or junior, I encourage you to apply for this rewarding [two-summer program](#). *Gabbie Buendia*

## Exciting Events Coming Up: Reserve Early

### North Florida Birding, Buffalo Hunt & North American Wolf Encounters

By popular demand, Orange Audubon Society plans a return trip to the Florida Panhandle December 6th-9th. This year's destinations are Seacrest Wolf Preserve with a private tour Thursday, Tall Timbers/Red Hills Region with an optional tour of the Stoddard Bird Lab, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, and on the way home, Paynes Prairie. Costs including local expert guides, field trip fees and some meals are: All weekend - \$100 members/\$115 non-members; Birding only - \$65/\$80; or Seacrest private tour only - \$45/\$55. For registration, lodging, and other details contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com).

### North Shore Birding Festival

The North Shore Birding Festival, January 17-21, 2019, is a weekend event with field trips led by expert birders and keynote talks with dinners. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) seeks to put the 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore on the map internationally! There are 25 field trips scheduled, most of which start from the McDonald Canal area at the end of CR448A in Lake County, and allow driving into areas that are otherwise inaccessible except on foot or bicycle. We will search for recently sighted rarities and as many as possible of the 360+ bird species documented.

Birdapalooza, the free family-oriented festival, which OAS co-founded with Orange County and other partners and which we co-sponsor, was cancelled last year due to Hurricane Irma damage. This year it is still not certain if and when it will be held, but if it is held, we will let you know, and OAS will be there.

The newly rebranded North Shore Birding Festival targets out-of-town as well as local birders and features nationally recognized as well as local guides. Last year registrants came from 17 states, including Florida, where 40 cities were represented, and 1 Canadian province. See [www.orangeaudubonfl.org/festival](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/festival), follow updates on [Facebook](#), or contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525 or [festival@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:festival@orangeaudubonfl.org) for more information.

## Four-spotted Pennant

The Four-spotted Pennant (*Brachymesia gravida*) is a slender dragonfly in the skimmer family (Libellulidae). Sometimes abundant at the edge of quiet water, they often perch, facing into the breeze, at the top of aquatic vegetation such as bulrushes, cattails and willows. They feed in swarms near dawn and dusk.



The female lays eggs in open water or in algal mats. The male may hover over the female to guard her from other males.

A mature male is easily recognized by a dark, pea-sized spot on each of its four wings. Identification of the female and immature male requires closer inspection, but they can be distinguished from other Florida dragonflies by the following feature: They all have a small white spot (the *pterostigma*) near the end of the leading edge of each wing.

[Odonata Central](#) is a good source for dragonfly information. If you want some field experience identifying dragonflies, my husband Randy and I will lead a May 11, 2019 OAS dragonfly walk at Orlando Wetlands Park. Until then, check out our local dragonflies at a wetland near you.

*Mary Keim, Survey Committee Chair*



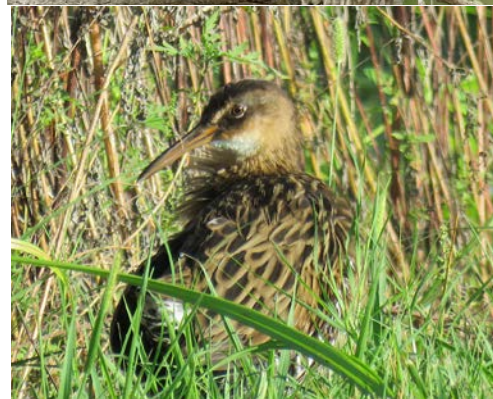
Four-spotted Pennants, on left, in typical rest position, above, male showing 4 spots, and below, female or immature showing only weak spots and a reddish color. The key identifying mark is the white pterostigmas.

*Photos: Mary Keim*

## Happenings on the Lake Apopka North Shore

The St. Johns River Water Management District created public access to the Lake Apopka North Shore by opening the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive in May 2015 and visitation is sky-rocketing. With close-up views of the marshes, the drive provides a chance to see diverse waders, other birds, alligators, otters, raccoons, and bobcats, all from the comfort of one's car.

Some sightings from this May through July include Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, Least Bitterns, Black-necked Stilts, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Orchard Orioles, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and Gray Kingbirds. Exciting sightings were juvenile Glossy Ibises and King Rails.



Juvenile Glossy Ibises, June 2018, *Photo: Joyce Stefancic*; King Rail, August 2018, *Photo: Kathy Rigling*

By August there were also sightings of Pectoral Sandpipers and other shorebirds in the sod fields towards the end of the drive, and migrating Yellow Warblers in the willows. Fall and winter can only be more exciting. There will be ducks, many species of warblers and raptors, including Northern Harriers, Cooper's Hawks, Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and Merlins.

The 11-mile drive is open to the public Friday through Sunday plus federal holidays, from sunrise to an hour before sunset. The unpaved, one-way road begins at Lust Road in Apopka and empties onto Jones Road in Zellwood.

Speed limit is 10 mph. At the historic pumphouse, you can take the lakeside route where you will share portions of the road with hikers and bicycle riders on the Lake Apopka Loop Trail or an inner route. Allow at least two hours to go through the drive. The Lake Apopka North Shore has been designated by the American Bird Conservancy as an Important Bird Area and, with the lake, as an Audubon Florida Special Place; Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is dedicated to protecting it.

OAS has long been working toward a Nature and Environmental Education Center on the North Shore. Six kiosks (with 3 designs) have already been installed and four more (with 3 more designs) are awaiting installation. OAS has assumed responsibility for a pollinator garden just past the entrance gate, with workdays on the 1st Saturday of each month. Bob Sanders will lead Birds of Prey classes on Sundays, December 2nd, January 6th, and February 3rd.

OAS is working to show that birding can be an economic engine for the area with our North Shore Birding Festival (p. 6). If you have not had a chance to visit this local treasure, treat yourself. Every pass through the [Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive](#) reveals something new and wonderful.

*Deborah Green*



## Audubon Adventures

*Audubon Adventures* is an excellent nature education resource for grades 3-6, after-school programs, and other groups; it comes packaged as a Classroom Kit (serving 32 students with teacher materials, four times 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. Teachers report that students look forward to using the fun activities, which are correlated to the Sunshine State Standards.

Last year Orange Audubon Society (OAS) supplied kits to 25 classrooms, at just under \$50 with shipping for a kit. Can you help OAS do so again this year? As 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*. The teacher of your own child or grandchild might appreciate these materials and you can specify which classroom you wish to sponsor. Thank you for supporting this education effort. Contact me at [education@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:education@orangeaudubonfl.org) for more information.

*Melissa Gonzalez, Education Committee Chair*

## Audubon Assembly 2018 - Rising Tides

Audubon Assembly is Florida's premier conservation event and conference, this year to be held on October 19-20, 2018 at the West Palm Beach Marriott in West Palm Beach. The theme is "Building Common Ground for Climate Change Solutions!" Please visit [this link](#) for the latest information, mark your calendar and make your reservation!

At Assembly, the Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) is a program to bring college students into the Audubon fold. Chapter leaders are paired with students and together go on field trips and participate in interactive indoor sessions, emphasizing positive conservation action.

Orange Audubon Society board member Melissa Gonzalez first participated in CLI in 2013 and now helps Audubon Florida staff to coordinate the program. If you are going to Audubon Assembly and would like to be a CLI mentor or if you are a student interested in getting involved, contact Melissa at [education@orangeaudubonfl.org](mailto:education@orangeaudubonfl.org).

*Deborah Green*

## SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/EARLY NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey

September 8, 2018  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### September Program: Chasing Warblers - Frank Salmon

September 20, 2018  
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

### September Field Trip: Lake Lotus Park, Altamonte Springs

September 22, 2018  
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

### National Public Lands Day, Pine Lily Preserve, Bithlo

September 22, 2018  
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

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

September 29, 2018  
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

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

October 6, 13, & 20, 2018  
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

### Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park

Oct 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2018  
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

### Festival of Flight and Flowers, Eustis

October 12-14, 2018  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Kenansville

October 14, 2018  
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

### October Program: Coexisting with Florida Panthers - Jennifer Korn

October 18, 2018  
Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

### Audubon Assembly, West Palm Beach

October 19-20, 2018  
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

### Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden

October 20, 2018  
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

### Fiesta in the Park, Lake Eola

November 3-4, 2018  
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796