



This Month's Program: October 17, 2019

The Monarch-Milkweed Initiative

by Scott Davis



Left, Scott Davis with native milkweeds. *Photo: Sophia Fonseca.* Top right, Swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata* visited by Queen butterflies. *Photo: Mary Keim.* Bottom right, Monarch nectaring on *Bidens alba*. *Photo: Michelle Wilson.*

Monarch butterflies are beautiful and captivate our imaginations as they make a 3,000+ mile migration from southern Canada to southern Mexico. But populations have declined 90-99% since 1990 because of habitat loss and fragmentation, pesticide use throughout this species' range, and intensified weather events. In 2014 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was petitioned to list the Monarch as endangered and will make a decision after December 2020.

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) October 17th program is by Scott Davis, a ranger at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, one of the sites we visit on our Panhandle Trip (p. 8). Scott started a native milkweed restoration initiative in 2015, since female monarchs lay eggs on milkweeds — the specific food source for the caterpillars. He started with one greenhouse table of seedlings and now scours the state for native milkweed populations to bring seeds back to propagate. Scott and volunteers have grown over 300,000 plants and established these in restoration projects at state parks, state forests and national wildlife refuges across Florida. Join OAS on October 17th at 7:00 p.m. for a fascinating program and bring your checkbook or cash to buy some native milkweeds that evening. Location below. *Rick Baird, Programs Chair*

Fall Bird Walks at Mead Botanical Garden October 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2019

To celebrate fall migration, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will host bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden on Saturdays, October 5, 12, 19, and 26, 2019. Each walk is led by an experienced birding leader.

The walks start at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours, with a slow pace and lots of stopping to look at birds. The walks are free and open to the public with no registration needed. 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.

We will meet in the parking lot at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. For information, contact me at (407) 647-5834 or lmartin5@msn.com.

Larry Martin, OAS-Mead Liaison

October is Florida Native Plant Month

The Florida Native Plant Society celebrates October as Native Plant Month and the Tarflower and Cuplet Fern Chapters, along with other nearby chapters and groups including Orange Audubon Society, host a kick-off event on October 1st at Leu Gardens. During the day are [walks and presentations](#). At 7 p.m. Dr. Craig Huegel will present from his [new book, *The Nature of Plants: An Introduction on How Plants Work*](#). Registration is not required but carpooling is encouraged.

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

Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September-June) and all but January and 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/



Catesby's Lily. *Photo: Mary Keim.*



Birds Need Help

A study published September 19, 2019 in the journal *Science* revealed that since 1970,

bird populations in the United States and Canada declined by 29 percent, or almost 3 billion birds. This signals a widespread ecological crisis with tremendous losses across diverse groups of birds and habitats — from iconic songsters such as meadowlarks to long-distance migrants such as swallows and backyard birds including sparrows.



The analysis included citizen-science data from the North American Breeding Bird Survey coordinated by the U. S. Geological Services and the Canadian Wildlife Service, the main sources of long-term, large-scale population data for North American birds — the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, and Manomet’s International Shorebird Survey. The study did not analyze the causes of the declines but **climate change** is thought to be compounding challenges by altering habitats and threatening plant communities that birds need to survive.

What can we do and tell others to do about it?

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology lists [7 Simple Actions To Help Birds](#):

1. Make Windows Safer, Day and Night;
2. Keep Cats Indoors;
3. Reduce Lawn, Plant Natives;
4. Avoid Pesticides;
5. Drink Coffee That’s Good for Birds;
6. Protect Our Planet from Plastic; and
7. Watch Birds, Share What You See.

Regarding Action 3: Why plant natives? It’s about re-creating habitat destroyed when our homes were built. It’s about utilizing landscaping that doesn’t require irrigation — except for the establishment period. Native plants require no fertilizer and little water once established, so this landscaping reduces runoff, protecting water quality in our springs and rivers, and reduces the need for excessive withdrawals from our aquifer. Florida native plants are essential host plants for butterflies such as the Monarch (p.1), for other native pollinating insects and for the food chain needed for migratory birds. Backyard Biodiversity Day provides a chance to learn more *and buy some plants*, as does Oklawaha Valley Audubon’s Festival of Flight and Flowers (both p. 5).

Deborah Green

Youth & Family Photo Workshop, Oct 19, 2019

Do you have children or grandchildren who like photography and might want to improve their skills and enter the Youth Category of Orange Audubon Society’s (OAS) Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest?

OAS is offering a Youth & Family Photography Workshop led by nature photographer Susan Kirby on Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at Mead Botanical Garden (MBG), 1300 S. Denning Dr, Winter Park, FL 32789. Backyard Biodiversity Day will still be going on (p.5).



Big Daddy—White-tailed Deer. 2019 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention: Youth Category. Photo: Jake Turner

Children ages 10-17, must be accompanied by at least one registered adult for the entire workshop. Adults must be accompanied by at least one registered child. Cost per adult is \$5 (Audubon members), and \$15 (nonmembers). Youth are FREE with a registered adult(s). To register contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796. For additional workshop information, please contact Susan at (443) 994-9909.



Orange Audubon Society (OAS) mission: To promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it; 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.

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The OASis (Orange Audubon Society information source) newsletter is published monthly, September–June, and posted on the OAS website. A link announcing new issues is e-mailed to subscribers.

Never miss out on OAS happenings. Add or update your email address by contacting newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org.

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

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Jim Cox of Tall Timbers Research Station preparing to band Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Photo courtesy Tall Timbers

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Why We Still Need the ESA

As unusual as it is, it's nice to hear good news about wildlife. As with the Bald Eagle and the California Condor, human intervention is helping the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) recover from near extinction. Jon Hoch from the Florida Forestry Service introduced Orange Audubon Society (OAS) to the federally-endangered RCW's recovery plan at the Withlacoochee State Forest Citrus tract and the Croom tract, both large, well-managed tracts of mature longleaf pine sandhill.

The non-migratory RCW is endemic to the SE Coastal Plain. Its historic populations are estimated at 1.6 million birds, but by 1978 there were fewer than 10,000 birds—the losses due primarily to logging. RCWs need old-growth longleaf pine trees with red heart rot for their cavity excavation. Cavities are tedious to excavate, so the birds are very territorial. They use cooperative breeding strategies in which the subdominant males assist with defense of the cavity. Longleaf pines exude a resin coating that protects the cavity from predators like rat snakes.

Managing RCWs involves burning every three years to reduce mid-level height vegetation. And since so few places have pines old enough to have heart rot, biologists began installation of artificial cavities by drilling holes that mimic natural cavities or installing boxes called 'inserts' within a suitable tree. The insert technique was developed after Hurricane Hugo in 1989 destroyed 87% of the active cavity trees on South Carolina's Francis Marion

National Forest, which had the second largest RCW population at the time. A recent [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service article](#) on the 30th anniversary of Hurricane Hugo shows that populations have been restored to pre-hurricane levels through this technique. Craig Watson, who is OAS' guide on our South Carolina trips, was a young Forest Service biologist after Hugo's devastation of the forest and introduced the cavity insert program.

When RCW management began in 1998, Croom had just three active clusters of birds. Today, there are 92 clusters! The translocation of juvenile birds is conducted by members of the Southern Range Translocation Cooperative. These dedicated professionals kidnap juvenile RCWs from the cavity around sunset, transport them to a distant recipient site in the dark of night, deposit them into a cavity insert, temporarily screen them in, and release them into the early hours of dawn in the hopes that the birds will take up residence and start a new cluster in the new location. The project has been so enormously successful that Croom and Citrus tracts can now donate juvenile RCWs to new recipient sites.

Currently only two Florida state parks have RCWs: St. Sebastian River Preserve State Park, aided by translocation, and Ochlockonee River State Park, apparently with natural RCW colonization from the Appalachian National Forest.

Wekiwa Springs State Park has the largest expanse of sandhill in the state park system and has "growing season" burns. It also has extensive pine flatwoods, also well-burned. Since the last commercial logging at Wekiwa ended in the 1930s, the trees could be as old as 90 years and may have heart rot.

But it takes a dedicated staff person to do RCW translocation, so Wekiwa would have to invest in that. Some federal funding can be secured *as long as the RCW is listed as endangered*. If it is downlisted (to threatened) or delisted, that funding dries up. And there is a current weakening of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), [September OASis, p.2](#).

When asked what it takes to be a recipient site for RCWs today, Jon Hoch said, just willingness by the park to take it on and an active prescribed

burning program. If you have ideas on bringing RCWs to Wekiwa, email info@orangeaudubonfl.org.

Terry Piper with Deborah Green



America's First
FOUR-TIME
WINNER

Congratulations to the Florida State Parks

Our wonderful Florida State Parks were recognized as best in the nation last month. This is now the fourth time: 1999, 2005, 2013, and 2019. No other state has earned such an honor!

Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Kenansville October 13, 2019

On Saturday, October 13, 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 host very interesting birds, including Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Short-tailed Hawk, Snail Kite, Crested Caracara, Burrowing Owl, Sandhill and Whooping Crane, and Bald Eagle.



Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area. Photo: Greg Miller.

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

Turnpikes Task Force Meetings #2 Starting

Senate Bill 7068, the 2019 bill to create three toll roads to facilitate additional growth, was a sad certainty in this legislative session, and when that was clear, Audubon Florida (AF) worked to make it better.

The legislation established three Task Forces to study whether, where, and how these three turnpikes might be built. AF will be represented on the three Task Forces, with Director of Advocacy Charles Lee serving on the Suncoast and Northern Turnpike Connector Task Forces, and Dr. Paul Gray, AF's Everglades Science Coordinator, serving on the Southwest-Central Florida Task Force. Other environmental organizations represented on the Task Forces are Defenders of Wildlife, 1000 Friends of Florida, the Nature Conservancy, the Florida Wildlife Corridor, and the Everglades Foundation.

For public input as the task forces proceed in their deliberative process, AF recommends that you go to the new web page established by DOT (<http://floridamcores.com/>), and follow the schedule of task force meetings, public hearings, and community workshops. Task Force Meeting #2 for the Northern Turnpike Connector is October 22, 2019, 9:00 a.m. at the College of Central Florida, Citrus, Learning Center, 3800 S Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, FL 34461. Task Force Meeting #2 for the Suncoast Connector is October 23, 2019, 9:00 a.m. at the same location. Task Force Meeting #2 for the Southwest-Central Florida Connector is October 30, 2019, 9:00 a.m. at Polk State College - Lakeland Campus, 3425 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland, FL 33803.

The three proposed turnpike routes are not new. The Northern Turnpike Connector proposal has been considered by the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) for over 40 years. The extension of the Suncoast Parkway (Suncoast Connector) has been in planning stages by DOT for over 10 years, and the Southwest-Central Florida Connector (formerly known as the "Heartland Parkway") has been in DOT studies for approximately 15 years.

The Legislature created a detailed evaluation process to decide whether these three turnpike routes should be moved forward into engineering design. This process requires that the protection of environmentally sensitive areas, wildlife corridors, and the acquisition of new conservation lands and conservation easements be considered on an equal footing with the desire to build new roads. The law also requires DOT to provide funding to help acquire new replacement conservation lands.

AF was successful in achieving improvements and land acquisition in a similar process with regard to the "Wekiva Parkway" in Orange, Lake and Seminole Counties.

How We Can Help

When attending public meetings, emphasize these important points:

- New turnpikes should avoid crossing existing conservation lands to the greatest extent possible;
- If there is no alternative to crossing existing conservation lands, significantly larger areas of replacement lands should be acquired by DOT, assuring that there is a "net positive benefit" to habitat and natural resources.
- New turnpikes should be co-located with existing major roads to the greatest extent possible, similar to the Wekiva Parkway utilizing the SR-46 right of way;
- Interchanges in rural areas should be avoided or strictly limited to only existing major state road crossings and the location of existing towns;
- Wildlife corridors should be protected by inclusion of extensive bridging in turnpike design, and all significant wetlands should be bridged with bridges terminating well into upland areas to allow for wildlife movement.
- Because highway projects can induce urban growth and sprawl, known Florida Forever Projects and Rural and Family Lands Easement Projects within the area must be considered as necessary environmental infrastructure



Left, Suncoast Turnpike Connector Study Area. Middle, Northern Turnpike Connector Study Area. Right, Southwest-Central Florida Connector. *FDOT.*

and should be funded and acquired as part of the project design;

- Water and Sewer infrastructure built in conjunction with new roadways should be prioritized to eliminate existing septic tanks, protect springs, and reduce contaminated runoff to coastal estuaries.
- DOT should make early determinations on the financial feasibility of each of the three corridors, insisting that any new turnpikes meet the financial feasibility test in Chapter 338, Florida Statutes, which requires that at least the debt service on bonds to build roads be paid by toll revenues by year 12 of operation.

We should investigate the ecosystems, existing conservation lands, proposed Florida Forever projects, wildlife corridors and other important natural features within each corridor study area. Working together, AF, Audubon chapters, and our members can effectively influence this process with a logical, science-based and fact-based approach.

Beth Alvi, AF Policy Director

Volkswagen Update

Many of you wrote the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) encouraging clean electric buses using the Volkswagen Settlement money. In July the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) published [its draft plan](#) for use of the money as follows: 15% (the maximum allowed) for charging stations for light-duty vehicles; 70% for buses: transit, school, shuttle; and 15% for the State DERA fund (diesel emission reduction act) for vehicles that don't have an electric option yet. School districts are now gearing up to apply for funding. Thanks to the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and League of Women Voters for this update.

Beginners' Bird Watching Class
October 5, 12 & 19, 2019

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 5th at Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) and 2 field sessions are on October 12th and 19th 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.



Festival of Flight and Flowers, October 11-13, 2019

The Festival of Flight and Flowers weekend features information on native plants, outdoor recreation, wildflowers, and bird and butterfly watching around Lake County. Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society (OVAS) will host this three-day festival on October 11-13, 2019.

There are guided field trips each day—advanced registration can be made [here](#). On Saturday, October 12th, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., enjoy a free festival at the Eustis Community Center with entertainment, speakers, kid-friendly activities, plus arts and crafts and food, for sale.

Celebrate Florida's unique plants and animals!

Backyard Biodiversity Day
and Native Plant Sale



a fun, FREE, family-friendly event

October 19, 2019 | 9 AM – 3 PM

Mead Botanical Garden, 1300 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park 32789

Backyard Biodiversity Day
Mead Botanical Garden
October 19, 2019

For the 6th 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 19th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 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 info@orangeaudubonfl.org or (407) 637-2525.

Butterfly Identification
Field Trip, October 26, 2019

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is offering a Butterfly Identification Field Trip on Saturday, October 26th. Trip is at Orlando Wetlands Park, 25155 Wheeler Rd, Christmas, FL from 9:00 am until noon. The trip is limited to 15 participants, and registration is required. Cost is \$10 for Audubon members, \$15 for non-members. To reserve a space, contact OAS Treasurer Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796.



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Tosohatchee Wildlife Mgmt Area, September 2015. Photo: Mary Keim.

Participants please bring binoculars, drink and snacks. Be prepared for sun and biting insects. Wear closed-toed shoes that you don't mind getting wet. An optional recommended item to bring is *Butterflies of Central Florida: A Guide to Common and Notable Species* available [at this link](#). Leaders are Randy Snyder and Mary Keim, butterfly counters since 1991. If you have questions about local butterflies or the field trip, contact Randy or Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com.

Wekiwa Springs State Park Survey: Then and Now

For the past year, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has been completing bird surveys at Wekiwa Springs State Park. OAS was requested to do these surveys so that park biologist Paul Lammardo can document the results of prescribed burning and other land management practices on bird populations in the nearly 7000-acre state park. Both hiking and driving surveys have been completed every month since September 2018. On the hiking surveys birders of all levels of expertise have been welcomed.



Red-headed Woodpeckers, Seminole State Forest, September 2019. Photo: Mary Keim.

We have had great views of the specialized species of well-burned uplands. Surprises included a Green-winged Teal on Lake Prevatt and a Magnolia Warbler in September 2018, a covey of Northern Bobwhite quail in October 2018, and a Solitary Sandpiper in a puddle after a particularly rainy week in November 2018. The heat of summer netted both a dark morph and a light morph Short-tailed Hawk. This August we spotted an early migrant Eastern Wood Pewee. We also see deer and other wildlife of the park and enjoy the wildflowers and grasses.

Long-time OAS member Nancy Prine participated in earlier surveys of the park and comments, "The park continues to be well maintained. Wekiwa has had an active prescribed burn program over the years, and park management has done a great job with this. In the area around Sand Lake after a drought, pine beetles caused considerable damage, and the park logged out the sand pines. But the area is changing to the appropriate scrub habitat, consistent with the soil types of the area. Many years ago there was a family (maybe more than one) of Florida Scrub-Jays north of Sand Lake. They were easily seen and fun to watch." Scrub-jays have thrived on nearby Seminole State Forest and have colonized adjacent Rock Springs Run State Reserve, so

it wasn't a total surprise when one jay was recently seen at Wekiwa. However, the extent of scrub habitat at Wekiwa is probably not enough to support scrub-jays, according to Lammardo.

Wild Turkeys, Red-headed Woodpeckers and Bachman's Sparrows were not so common back then as they are now, according to Nancy. Contact me at riglingk@aol.com or (407) 488-9559 to sign up for a survey. The next survey will be October 5th at 7:00 a.m. Join us in birding this great park! *Kathy Rigling*

The Swamp Film Showing October 7, 2019

The Swamp, a film made for PBS from the book of the same name, tells the dramatic history of human attempts to conquer the Florida Everglades.

A discussion afterwards will be led by Maggie Hurchalla, winner of the National Wetlands Award, and Dr. Leslie Poole of Rollins College. Program is October 7th, 7 p.m., in the SunTrust Auditorium, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park, FL. Free. [See Rollins link](#) for other environmental programs.

Overnight Trips and Festivals: Register Early

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has three overnight trips and a four-day festival coming up. All are fund-raisers toward OAS' nature and environmental education center fund. If interested, sign up early!

North Florida Birding & Seacrest Wolf Preserve Private Tour, December 5-8, 2019. See p.8 for details and if interested, register soon!

North Shore Birding Festival, January 16-20, 2020.

This is the fourth year of Orange Audubon Society's festival highlighting the Lake Apopka North Shore, an Important Bird Area and the top eBird hotspot in Florida. The 2019 North Shore Birding Festival attracted attendees from 18 states including Florida (with 40 cities represented), plus 2 Canadian provinces and the U.K. These "birding ecotourists" boost sales at local hotels, restaurants and other businesses.

This year OAS hosts 37 trips over four days with some amazing new trip leaders who are attracted to the high quality birding on the Lake Apopka North Shore. Read about all the trips, the three keynotes, the locations and leaders [on the website](#) and LIKE the [Facebook page](#) for updates. Registration is already open, and some trips will fill quickly.

Puerto Rico Birding with Wildside Nature Tours Professional Guide: Gabriel Lugo, March 11-16, 2020.

Wildside Nature Tours, one of the sponsors of the North Shore Birding Festival, offers birding and photography trips throughout the world and has offered OAS a private trip in which \$100 per person will be contributed back to our chapter. After considerable thought, we have chosen [Puerto Rico Birding](#) with [Gabriel Lugo](#) as our first ambitious trip like this, exploring Puerto Rico's prime birding locations in search of the island's endemics and specialties. We will individually arrive in San Juan and stay at the airport hotel and the next morning meet Gabriel and our van(s). Over the next four days, based out of three hotels in different parts of the island, we will explore habitats from the northern Atlantic coast to the forests of 'haystack hills' to the west (Arecibo), to the southwest coast and dry forests along the Caribbean Sea (La Parguera), and the central mountain rainforest and eastern coastal region (Fajardo). Day 6 is travel home. Cost is \$1700-double occupancy; including guide, meals & lodging (5 nights). Trip limit is either 5-7 or 10-14 participants. For information, call Deborah at (407) 637-2525.

Northeast Florida, Georgia, & South Carolina Birding, May 8-10, 2020.

We are modifying this fun trip to emphasize migrating shorebirds. More details to come, but mark your calendar.



Bald Eagle. 2019 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention: Advanced Category.
Photo: Paul Eisenbrown

Join Audubon Florida's EagleWatch Program

EagleWatch season is now! 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 trainings around the state and an online training session from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 6th. If you've never attended a training, please visit [this link](#) for more details and to register to attend (space is limited so registration is required). The program is always looking for new volunteers! Contact me at (407) 644-0190 or eaglewatch@audubon.org for more information. *Shawnlei Breeding, EagleWatch Coordinator*

Kite's Journey South

After breeding throughout Florida and other locations in the Southeast, Swallow-tailed Kites are now on their 5,000-mile migration to South America.

Sixteen kites are now being tracked by the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) in Gainesville. The kite named Apopka started south on August 20th, reached the Peruvian border in September where his transmitter lost contact with cell towers. He made it safely through the Andes Mountains and as of the end of September is approaching Rondonia, Brazil where he spent the winter of 2017 and 2018.

See the [May 2018 OASis, p.6](#), for the unusual story of how this kite was rehabilitated after injury and tagged. Follow Apopka and the other kites through ARCI's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ARCIInst/> or blog: <http://www.swallow-tailedkites.org>.

Deborah Green with Gina Kent



It's Fiesta Time!! — Volunteers Needed

November 2 and 3, 2019 will be the Lake Eola Fiesta in the Park Arts and Crafts Festival, which is Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) biggest public outreach event. City of Orlando gives us a great spot, and we have the chance to speak with many new people. If we have enough volunteers, we can do the Kids Art activity.

We really do need your help. Set-up is on Friday evening November 1st, starting around 5:00 p.m. Friday preparations will consist of helping to set up the tent, tables, etc. Saturday and Sunday (8:00-6:00 each day) mainly consists of setting up and taking down of merchandise and—the fun part—helping to sell merchandise and talking to people about OAS.

Please mark your calendar and commit to helping OAS meet its financial goals and reach out to new members. To volunteer or ask questions, please contact me at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796. Thank you! *Teresa Williams*

North Florida Birding & Seacrest Wolf Preserve Private Tour, December 5-8, 2019



Left, Seacrest's Brat Pack exchange howls with Brent Mobley and Susan Kirby. *Photo: OAS archives.* Top right, Jim Cox at Tall Timbers, *Photo: Susan Kirby.* Bottom right, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge lighthouse. *Photo: Pat Husband.*

Once again Orange Audubon Society has organized a trip to the Florida Panhandle.

This year's pilgrimage includes a private, hands-on tour at Seacrest Wolf Preserve; birding the Red Hills Region with Jim Cox, Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS); and St. Marks NWR with Jeff O'Connell, Apalachee Audubon Society.

Weekend cost of \$100 members or students/\$115 non-members includes local expert guides, Seacrest admission, 3 lunches and grill night.

Seacrest private tour only cost of \$45/\$55 includes Seacrest admission and lunch.

Weekenders may stay at Walter Lodge under the tall trees and starry night skies of TTRS.

For registration, lodging at Walter Lodge and other details contact Teresa: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/EARLY DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey

October 5, 2019
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

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

October 5, 12 & 19, 2019
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park

October 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2019
Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Festival of Flight and Flowers, Eustis

October 11-13, 2019
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

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

October 13, 2019
Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

October Program: The Monarch-Milkweed Initiative - Scott Davis

October 17, 2019
Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden

October 19, 2019
Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Youth & Family Photo Workshop, Mead Botanical Garden

October 19, 2019
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Audubon Assembly, Gainesville

October 25-26, 2019
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Butterfly Identification Field Trip

October 26, 2019
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Fiesta in the Park, Lake Eola

November 2-3, 2019
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

North FL Birding & Seacrest Wolf Preserve Private Tour

December 5-8, 2019
Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796