



Left, Pine Warbler with caterpillar Photo: Robert Sena;
Right, Prairie Warbler with Caterpillar. Photo: Lee Ann Posavad.



How Important Are Caterpillars for Birds? Critical! March Program by Deborah Green, March 20, 2025

Most birders and native plant gardeners know about berries and seeds sustaining songbirds in winter and in migration but may be less clear about the importance of insects to songbirds. One insect group, the small caterpillars known as microlepidoptera, are the most valuable players. How microlepidoptera tie in to warbler migration to our wonderful Eastern deciduous forests is an amazing story that Orange Audubon Society president Deborah Green loves to share, invoking the work of Scott Weidensaul (*Living on the Wind*). Migration timed to the leafing out the forests shows the complexity of our natural world.

Deborah will suggest how we can help, from not using pesticides to growing specific native plants for these nestling-nourishing caterpillars. Deborah earned her Ph.D. in entomology from the University of California, Berkeley, with a community ecology study involving caterpillars. She was a member of the California Native Plant Society, and, moving back to Florida, she joined the Florida Native Plant Society in the late 1980s. With her home landscape now over 90% native, she enjoys some great songbirds in her own yard, and through her HOA's Arbor Committee is working to spread the message about natives.

Deborah is a big fan of Dr. Doug Tallamy, who promotes the importance of insects as the "little things that run the world," and she tries to simplify Tallamy's message for us locally, emphasizing the caterpillar connection. Join us at Leu Gardens on March 20th, 7 p.m. for a fascinating program. Meeting details below.

Alan Shapiro, Programs Chair

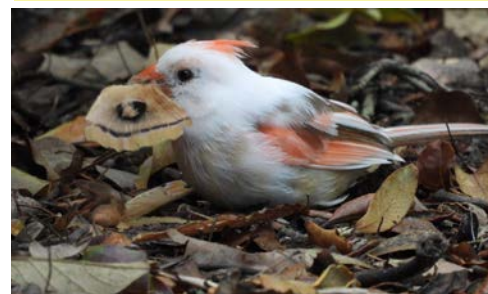


Dr. Doug Tallamy (right), Dr. Jay Exum and members of Deborah Green's HOA Arbor Committee touring Deborah's yard. Photo: Deborah Green

Where to Buy Native Plants

The Leu Gardens Plant Sale will be March 8th and 9th, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Look for the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) to buy from our good friends at Tarflower. Volunteers are experienced native plant gardeners and can help in your choices.

And to see some natives in a garden setting, when you are at the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, check out the native landscape behind the welcome shelter. This garden was spearheaded by Orange Audubon board member Alan Shapiro. Let him know if you can help at alangrandiflora@gmail.com. Natives are beautiful and support birds.



Candy, the partially leucistic Northern Cardinal at Leu Gardens. Photo: Kathy Rigling

Birding and Botanizing Mead and Leu Gardens, March 15, 2025

Join Orange Audubon Society as we explore two local botanical gardens to learn about plants for birds while searching for unusual resident birds and early migrant warblers. Led by plant expert and birder Alan Shapiro, joined by birder Glenn Blaser, we will explore flora and fauna at Mead Botanical Garden and Harry P. Leu Gardens.

We will begin at Mead at 7:30 a.m., searching for warblers, vireos, thrushes, kinglets, raptors, owls and other resident and migrant birds. Second we will migrate to Leu, where Alan will point out the diverse collection of plants that you can install to attract birds, bees, and butterflies. We hope to see Candy, the partially leucistic Northern Cardinal that has been a resident for the past few years.

The trip is free, but there is a \$15 admission charge to Leu Gardens. Limited to 20 participants. To reserve a spot, visit Orange Audubon's website [under Activities and then field trips](#). If you have any questions, contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY programs are free. No reservations necessary.



Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September–June) at 7:00 p.m. and all but December are at **Harry P. Leu Gardens in the Camellia Room** at 1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando, FL 32803
For map and directions, visit:
www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/

Scary Times for Parks and Young Professionals

Two things that Orange Audubon stands for, along with our parent organizations National Audubon and Audubon Florida, are preservation of our parks and fostering a new generation of nature lovers and conservation professionals. Both of these things have entered scary times. Many of us know someone in a conservation field who has recently had his or her federal job terminated. We are aware of threats to our precious National Park system, by reduction in staff, if nothing more. We will take our cues from National Audubon, but we want our members to know that we continue steadfast in our mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems and in our support of conservationists.

About a potential bear hunt: Audubon Florida has let us know that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) wants to hear our thoughts on black bear hunting and has scheduled a virtual public meeting on March 13, beginning at 6 p.m. EDT. Those interested in attending can join by going to MyFWC.com/Hunting and clicking "Florida black bear." The public can also email their comments to BearComments@MyFWC.com.

The 2025 Florida Legislative Session starts March 4th and continues 60 days. Audubon Florida has excellent policy staff in Tallahassee working to promote good legislation and to make bad legislation better. At the end of each week of Session, Audubon Florida will update us through the *Audubon Florida Advocate* newsletter and let us know when our voices can make a real difference. If you have not already, please [sign up for the Audubon Advocate at this link](#) and act. Thank you!

Orange Audubon Conservation Committee

Nature Center Update

Last March Orange Audubon Society (OAS) secured its long-term lease from the City of Apopka for the 69.5-acre Apopka Birding Park at the entrance to the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. We are fundraising toward construction of our nature center, toward restoration of the Apopka Birding Park property into bird habitat and toward a sustainable endowment for operations. Large donations can fund parts of our building, such as the bird observatory annex, and come with naming rights. If you, or anyone you know, might want to explore possibilities, please email info@orangeaudubonfl.org.

To update on recent progress: Little Diversified Architectural Services has completed design for the renovation of the



Planned Orange Audubon Nature Center at the Apopka Birding Park. Design by Little Diversified Architectural Services

old cement block truck shop into a beautiful nature and environmental education center. The building will be certified under United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. The construction designs are already permitted. Fundraising continues prior to our being able to start construction.

At the same time, we continue making plans to restore the disturbed nursery site. A Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission grant to treat the invasive cogongrass has been secured.

OAS' nature center effort comes from our chapter. We are profoundly grateful to those making monetary contributions. Others will be making donations of their time, and we will mention those in coming issues.

Generous donations in late January or February were received from Linda and Richard Maxson, Jay Exum, Elizabeth Osborne, including a Young Birder's scholarship, Delsy Rodriguez, Jacob Richardson and in memory of Nathan Bower, Ralph Bowling, Ann Morrison, Birgid Niedenzu and Armen Silverbach. Jennifer Allen donated in loving memory of Mary Jane Fries. Generous donations along with memberships were made by Jan Addison, Liz Bartell, Darren Chastain, Amy Frazier, Eric Guess, Mark Jager, Daniel Jones, Suzanne Moore, and Janette and Richard Wojciak.

Donations to OAS are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. [You can donate online at this link](#) or mail checks to Orange Audubon Society, P.O. Box 941142, Maitland, FL 32794-1142.

For those with IRAs who are over 73 years of age, making qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) directly to non-profits may count towards your required minimum distribution, providing a significant tax benefit. QCDs can already be made now for the 2025 tax year. Donations coming in early in the year will help us as we choose our contractor and decide when we can move forward with construction. Thank you!

*Deborah Green, President with
Teresa Williams, Treasurer*



Orange Audubon Society (OAS) mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Orange Audubon Society
P.O. Box 941142
Maitland, FL 32794-1142
www.orangeaudubonfl.org

President and *OASis* Editor:
Deborah Green
info@orangeaudubonfl.org
(407) 637-2525

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: membership@orangeaudubonfl.org

JOIN OAS' [MEETUP](#) GROUP

LIKE OAS' [FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

OAS welcomes those who wish to volunteer and become more involved in our efforts. Email volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org.

Orange Audubon Society, Inc. is a Florida not-for-profit organization, tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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REGISTRATION NO. CH2330

Apopka Birding Park Bird Surveys Last Weekend of the Month

As Orange Audubon works on the former nursery site, now called the Apopka Birding Park — that we are transforming to native vegetation and bird habitat— volunteers are documenting an anticipated increase in bird species.

During our monthly Apopka Birding Park bird surveys, trails are being carved out and a cleanup initiative has begun throughout the park. During the late February survey, we counted 37 bird species, including two Brown Thrashers, Northern Parula, and Orange-crowned Warblers, all singing! Around the Gopher Tortoise burrows, we found several Bobcat tracks, tent moth caterpillars, and a large yellow rat snake. We are looking forward to our late March survey to see migration in full swing. Also our April survey will coincide with the City Nature Challenge (p.7), so we will participate in that international bioblitz using iNaturalist. Email me at alexdebear@icloud.com to join us.

Alex DeBear



Tent caterpillars, Yellow Rat Snake, new bluebird box.
Photos: Alex DeBear

AUDUBON'S Birds of Florida

Through April 6, 2025

John James Audubon (1785-1851) created exquisite, life-size illustrations. His ground-breaking compendium, *The Birds of America*, is a monumental achievement of both art and ornithology. His collection of 435 prints and accompanying field notes changed the way people saw and understood bird life.

As part of his twelve-year venture to paint every bird species in North America, Audubon organized a special expedition to Florida from 1831 to 1832, to document Florida's unique birds and their habitats.

Audubon collected and painted 36 bird species and observed and wrote about 50 more during his time in Florida. Some of the most famous images of his collection such as the American Flamingo, Great White Heron, and Roseate Spoonbill resulted from the Florida trek, and many have strong local connections.



American Flamingo, Plate 431, from *Birds of America*.
John James Audubon

Hyatt and Cici Brown have collected over 75 original Havell prints from *Birds of America*, which have a Florida connection. This exhibit and accompanying catalog display these historic prints and tell the story of his Florida expedition, where he traveled, what he observed, and what he painted. Entitled "Audubon's Birds of Florida," the exhibit presents nearly eighty original prints, paintings and related artifacts focused on birds Audubon saw or wrote about from Florida in "Ornithological Biography," as well as many birds he painted while in Florida or shortly thereafter.

The exhibit and the book of the same name by Clay Henderson examines how Audubon's work inspired the modern conservation movement and remains relevant today.

The Museum of Arts and Sciences, founded in 1955, is located at 352 S Nova Rd, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. [Check the website](#) or call (386) 255-0285 to be sure that the exhibit is open to the public that day, as private events are frequently hosted. Called "stunning" by those who have seen it, this exhibit has been extended to April 6th. Don't miss it.

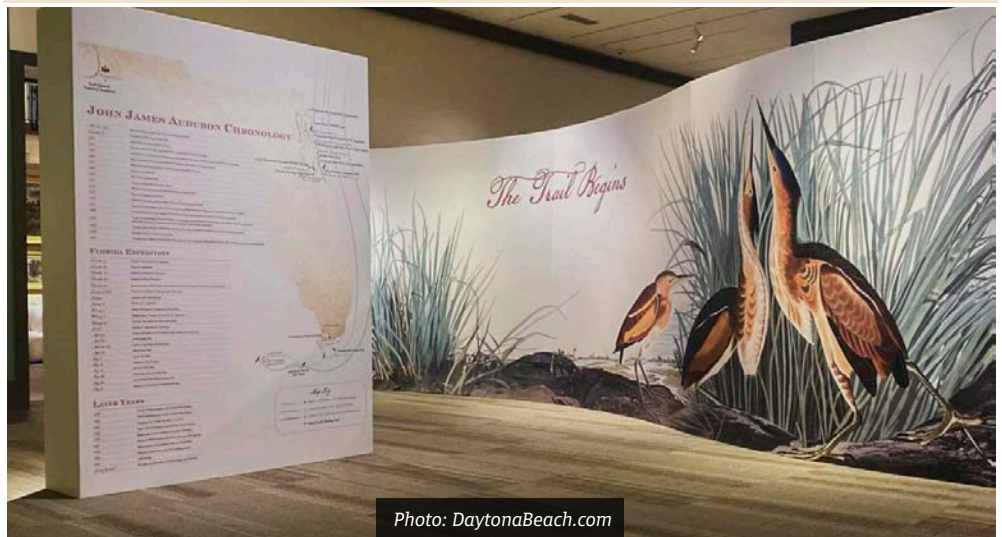


Photo: DaytonaBeach.com



Gilberto Sanchez leads Buscando Pajaros trip, 2022. Photo: Deborah Green. Roseate Spoonbill family seen from the boardwalk at Orlando Wetlands. Photo: Wei-Shen Chin.

Ocala National Forest Trip March 8, 2025

Maxfield Weakley and Bruce Matasick will lead Orange Audubon Society's Limited Edition Field Trip to Clearwater Lake, in the Ocala National Forest on Saturday, March 8.



Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Ocala National Forest. Photo: Max Weakley

Join us as we hike this beautiful longleaf pine forest searching for the rare Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Summer Tanager, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Bachman's Sparrow and other pineland specialties.

We have been granted special access to the location of the Red-cockaded Woodpeckers for this trip. Cost is \$15 per person for Audubon members and \$20 per person for non-members. Note: there is a \$10 admission charge per vehicle at Clearwater Lakes Recreation Area in addition to the Ltd. Edition Fee for members/non-members

Reservations are required as Limited Edition Field Trips are limited to 12 people. To reserve your space, please register on our website: <https://orangeaudubonfl.org/field-trip-signup/>. If you have any questions, contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com.

Intermediate Bird Identification March 22 and 29, 2025

Orange Audubon Society offers its 3-session Beginners Bird Watching Classes in fall and in January. Many people have told us they want an Intermediate Bird Identification Class, and we have the perfect person to teach it! Bob Sanders taught Beginners Bird Identification for years and is full of identification tips and natural history information.

The class is two-part. The sessions are on March 23rd and March 30th, both at Orlando Wetlands from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Cost for the two-part class is \$60 for Audubon members and \$75 for non-members, limited to 12 participants. Registration is on our website: <https://orangeaudubonfl.org/field-trip-signup/>. Email any questions to info@orangeaudubonfl.org.



Bob Sanders teaching, Photo: Deborah Green.

North Shore Bird Surveys

The St. Johns River Water Management District's (District) 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore was the site of systematic bird surveys from 2002 to 2015, coordinated by the District. Orange Audubon has requested that the District revive the surveys, to document changes in bird species as the North Shore Restoration has proceeded. Email info@orangeaudubonfl.org, if you are interested in joining.

Deborah Green

Get More Involved in Orange Audubon Society

Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) annual election of board members will be held before the April 17, 2025 program at Leu Gardens. I chair the nominating committee with committee members Mary Soule (msoule43@aol.com) and Bob Sena (robs32812@yahoo.com).

To serve on the board, you must be an OAS member, have an interest in wildlife and the environment that supports it, and be able to attend monthly one-hour board meetings either at Leu Gardens or on Zoom on the third Thursday of each month (except July and August). Board members are expected to attend an all-day summer planning meeting, usually in late July.

Prior to or concurrent with applying for the board, please join one of OAS' committees or volunteer efforts. Most help is needed with conservation, education, and outreach. Other committees are Chertok photo contest, equity, diversity and inclusiveness, field trips, finance, hospitality, membership, newsletter, plants for birds, publicity, auction, speakers' bureau, website and wildlife surveys.

The OAS board application collects information about your interests and skills to align them with OAS' needs. If you wish to give back to your community through the conservation and nature education initiatives of OAS, please contact me at rbaird4@att.net.

Rick Baird, Nominating Committee Chair

Young Birders Scholarship

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's annual [Young Birders Event](#) is four days, June 26 – 29, 2025 in Ithaca, New York. Young Birders entering grades 10 – 12 who are interested in pursuing a career with birds should apply by March 16, 2025. Once being accepted, we encourage you to apply for a scholarship from Orange Audubon to help defray the costs. Scholarships are limited, donated by generous members. Email info@orangeaudubonfl.org to apply, by April 1st.



Family Photo Trip to Pine Lily Preserve, March 16, 2025

Youth, families, and others will learn about the easy-to-photograph plant and animal inhabitants of a favorite Orange County Green PLACE property, Pine Lily Preserve in east Orlando (1401 S County Road 13, Orlando).

Co-leaders are Hannah Calabria, Orange County Senior Environmental Specialist, and Alex DeBear, Orange Audubon board member and wildlife photographer. Date and time is Sunday, March 16th, 9:00–11:30 AM.

In this gentle walk, we will look for plants and animals and do photography (photo contest deadline next column). The trip is free but limited to 20 participants, so reservations are necessary. To reserve your spot, call Alicia Baxter at (407) 836-1456 or email GreenPLACE@ocfl.net.

New Green PLACE Opens

Green PLACE (Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and Environmental Protection) is Orange County's environmentally sensitive land acquisition program. In 2021, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners approved \$100 million towards preserving an additional 23,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands by 2030.

The Greeneyes Wildlife Preserve, outside of Apopka, is one of a series of recent land acquisitions. As stated by Orange County Commissioner Christine Moore, it is very



Opening of Greeneyes Wildlife Preserve, February 28, 2025. Sign with map. Photos: Deborah Green



Snack Time—Yellow-throated Warbler, 2023 Chertok Photo Contest, Honorable Mention Winner, Novice Category. Photo: Heather Earl

2025 Chertok Contest Deadline is April 30, 2025

Orange Audubon Society's Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest promotes interest and concern for preserving the native fauna and flora of Florida. Our 37th annual contest has a deadline of April 30th (postmarked by or submitted electronically by midnight).

Subject matter must be native to Florida, images must not contain human components and must have been taken following North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) ethical field practices.

The three divisions are Youth (open to photographers 17 years of age or younger, as of the entry deadline), Novice and Advanced. You can enter up to five images. Entry fees for non-Audubon members are: Novice and Advanced Categories - \$10 per image (\$5 for Audubon members). For the Youth category, entry fees are \$4 per image (\$2 for Audubon members). Details, including the 2025 official entry form, prizes, will soon be posted on [our website Chertok page](#). If any questions, email Teresa Williams at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

important to save land west of Kelly Park as it is the recharge area for the springs and water supply. The area is so vulnerable that the state legislature, in the Wekiva River Protection Act, required all future development projects to follow strict state laws and guidelines. The county owns the 83-

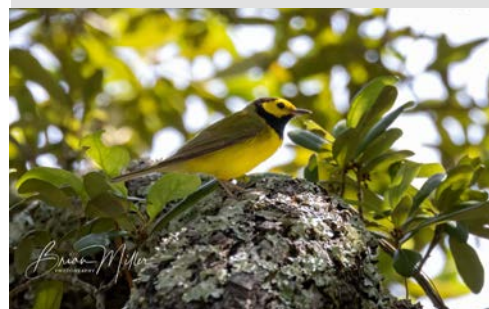


The namesake Greeneyes wildflower, common on the new preserve. Photo: Mary Keim

Northwest FL Panhandle Birding, April 23–27, 2025

Orange Audubon Society's five-day four-night trip to see migratory and breeding songbirds and shorebirds in the Florida Panhandle will be April 23–27, 2025.

Following a great itinerary developed over the past several years, plans are to stay in Apalachicola 2 nights and at the Tall Timbers Field Station 2 nights. Destinations include St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, St. George Island State Park, Wakulla Springs and other locations. On past trips, the group has seen over 130 bird species.



From Spring 2023 OAS Panhandle Trip: Hooded Warbler, at St. George Island State Park, Photo: Brian Miller

The cost is \$300 for members; \$350 for non-members, and includes local expert guides, a Wakulla Springs boat tour and some picnic meals. Transportation to and from all locations, lodging, other meals and incidentals are on-your-own.

Cost for lodging April 23rd & 24th in Apalachicola is \$129/night + tax double occupancy (discount expires March 6th), and April 25th & 26th at Tall Timbers Research Station, Tallahassee, is \$45/night per person plus tax. Space is limited.

Additional photos of this trip are in the [June 2023 OASis](#), p. 8. Sign up is [at this link](#). Contact Teresa Williams at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com for other details.

acre Sandhill Preserve and the 166-acre Lake Lucie Conservation Area nearby. The new 40-acre preserve was formerly called Pine Plantation, since the original sandhill and scrub habitats had been replaced by slash pines. It was renamed for the native Florida Greeneyes plant (*Berlandiera subacaulis*), of which yellow blooms have a green center disk. Following several prescribed burns, the original habitat is coming back.

Two short loop trails make this preserve easy to explore. Address is 951 W. Kelly Park Road. Check it out!

Family Photography

Orange Audubon Society thanks award-winning photographers Wei-Shen Chin, Lauren Chin and Matthew Chin for leading a wonderful Family Photography Workshop at Orlando Wetlands on February 23, 2025. We hope to offer this next year too.



Wei-Shen, Matthew and Lauren Chin at Orlando Wetlands on the boardwalk with trip participants, the Rosario family. Photo courtesy Wei-Shen Chin

Orlando Wetlands Festival

A great time was had at the Orlando Wetlands Festival in Christmas, FL. Orange Audubon Society thanks the following volunteers: Rick Baird, Madeline Barber, Glenn Blaser, Reinhard and Jutta Geisler, Deborah Green, Tara Haubrich, Mary Keim, Haden Klinger, Christianah Oyenuga, Kathy Rigling, David Slongwhite, Randy Snyder, Hannah Summersill, Teresa Williams, Emily Loescher Wright and Si Zhang.



Conservation Leadership Initiative students Si Zhang, Alex DeBear, Kai Sterk and Tara Haubrich assisting at Orange Audubon Society's booth. Madeline Barber explaining to visitor about the nature center plans. Photos: Deborah Green.

Three Common Egrets

Great Egret, Snowy Egret, or Cattle Egret? Distinguishing these elegant white birds—common year-round throughout Florida and the Southeast coast—can be confusing. I often see Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets foraging in lakes, ponds, and marshes, and Cattle Egrets in open pastures.

Adult Great Egrets are slightly smaller—at 39 inches—than Great Blue Herons. They have blackish legs and feet, yellow bills, long graceful necks and impressive wing spans. When foraging in shallow water, they stand still or stroll as they capture fish or frogs with a deadly jab of their dagger-like bills. They fly slowly and powerfully so you can't miss their graceful fly-overs. When breeding the Great Egret develops a neon green patch on its face and showy, delicate plumes on its back. In the 19th century Great Egrets were hunted nearly to extinction for these beautiful plumes, sparking conservation movements such as the National Audubon Society (NAS). This majestic bird is the symbol of the NAS which was founded to protect birds from being killed for their feathers.

About 24 inches tall, Snowy Egrets are smaller and have more slender bills than Great Egrets. They forage for small fish in shallow water, actively crouching and running, rather than slowly wading as Great Egrets do. Adult Snowy Egrets have primarily black bills, black legs and yellow feet. Great Egrets have yellow bills and black feet. Snowy Egrets have lacy plumes on their back, neck, and head whereas Great Egrets have long plumes on their tails. To add to the confusion, Snowy Egrets appear similar to the immature Little Blue Heron which is also white and about the same size!

Our Cattle Egret, called the Western Cattle Egret since 2023, is small, stocky and about 20 inches tall. It forages near grazing cattle to capture insects, especially ticks and other insects that are stirred up by the animals' movements. They have a broad, flexible diet however, and have been seen hunting migrating warblers in the Dry Tortugas. Elsewhere in the world these birds forage alongside camels, ostriches, rhinos, and tortoises as well as farmers' tractors. The Eastern Cattle Egret inhabits Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. When breeding, Cattle Egrets develop golden plumes on their heads, chests, and backs.

There you have our three common Egrets, easily found throughout Florida, and great fun to see flying over, perching on grazing cattle, or foraging at local wetlands like the Orlando Wetlands or Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. They may activate a lively discussion with friends: Great Egret, Snowy Egret or Cattle Egret?? Whatever you conclude, you will fall in love with birding and with Florida's marvelous natural diversity.

Linda Carpenter



Rising Up Great Egret, 3rd Place Novice Category, 2024 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest. Photo: Tracy Dreyfus. Egret on Final Approach, Snowy Egret, Newton Park, Honorable Mention Youth Category, 2024 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest. Photo: Matthew Chin. Bad Hair Day, Cattle Egret. 2020 Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest. Photo: Levi Davis

Education Coordinator Update

I started February with a bird migration lesson at Innovation Montessori School. The 4th graders role-played birds and the obstacles that they face during migration.

At Northlake Park Community School in Lake Nona, I conducted the bird beak adaptations activity for six different 5th grade classes. At Avalon Elementary, they had just installed a Bird Buddy Smart Bird Feeder and were so excited that a Painted Bunting showed up! At Avalon Elementary, I presented a program on the characteristics of birds to all the kindergarten and first grade classes. Their favorite parts were playing "Birdy Says" where they had to act out different types of bird behavior and also when I played different bird songs which I had them imitate. They laughed so hard at the Ovenbird doing its "teacher, teacher, teacher" call!

At the Green Schools Expo at Lake Eola, Terrie Leiber, Susan Thome-Barrett, Si Zhang and I made many connections with school groups and passersbys.

I did bird counts at Ocoee Elementary for all of the 3rd grade classes over three different visits. Some highlights were lots of Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers, nesting Ospreys, Eastern Bluebirds, Forster's Terns and a close flyby of a Brown Pelican! A big thank you to Randy McCall for assisting.

At Edgewater High School, I conducted the Great Backyard Bird Count with all of the Agriscience classes, 157 students in all. They were so surprised to see nesting Ospreys right by their football stadium, a male and female American Kestrel hunting the football field, two Loggerheaded Shrikes hunting the baseball field and six Wood Ducks in a pond at the back of the school. We observed 38 species. The help of Kai Sterk and Terrie Leibler to conduct such a large count is most appreciated.



Edgewater High School students doing Great Backyard Bird Count. Photo: Kathy Rigling

I also tabled at two different school STEM nights, one at Camelot Elementary and the other at Avalon Elementary. Students and parents enjoyed playing the bird beak game



**APRIL
25TH - 28TH
2025**

**Participate anywhere in
Orange and Volusia Counties!**

Observe in parks and green
spaces - join 600+ global cities




and looking at our birds of Central Florida display board.

The Zellwood Elementary afterschool birding club did their monthly bird count and presented their "focus bird projects" and learned about bird anatomy.



Zellwood Elementary After-School Birding Club member giving report on her focus bird. Photo: Kathy Rigling

Our monthly free educational webinars will continue March 5th from 7:00-7:20 pm with

City Nature Challenge

Find Wildlife
It can be any plant, animal, or any other evidence of life found in your city

Take a Picture
Take a picture of what you find. Be sure to note the location of the critter or plant.

Share!
Share your observations through iNaturalist

Visit Our Project Pages
Download the iNaturalist app to participate.

VOLUSIA



ORANGE



Local coordinators

The Nature Conservancy

ORANGE AUDUBON

Global coordinators

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Collaborating organizations

CITY OF ORLANDO
COMMISSIONER SHAN ROSE
DISTRICT 5

THE INSTITUTE FOR
WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL
RESILIENCE
SUSTAINABILITY

Florida Trail Association

Lyonia
Environmental
Center

ALIANZA

a program about improving school habitat for nature study. The link to sign up: <http://eepurl.com/imGskM>

OAS still has availability to conduct on campus bird counts and other standards-based educational programs. Interested teachers should email me at education@orangeaudubonfl.org.

Orange Audubon is also offering a limited number of free class subscriptions for OCPS 3rd- 5th grade classrooms of the engaging Audubon Adventures print publication. Audubon Adventures is a high interest magazine that not only supports standards-correlated science content but also aids literacy education with both print and digital resources.

Please email education@orangeaudubonfl.org to sign up for classroom or after school visits. *Kathy Rigling, Education Coordinator*

MARCH/APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bird Chats with OAS via Zoom

Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

- Speaker TBA

March 6, 2025

- Conservation of the Unique Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System by Ashley Konon

March 13, 2025

- Journeys through Art, Sound and Birding by Natasza Fontaine

March 27, 2025

- Speaker TBA

April 3, 10, 24, 2025

Young Birders Trip, Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

March 1, 2025

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Limited Edition Field Trip to Ocala Natl Forest

March 8, 2025

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Buscando Pajaros

March 8, 2025

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Monthly Field trip to Mead and Leu Gardens

March 15, 2025

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

March 16, 2025

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Program: Plants for Birds: The Caterpillar Connection by Deborah Green

March 20, 2025

Contact Alan at alangrandiflora@gmail.com

Intermediate Bird Watching Class

March 22 and 29, 2025

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Apopka Birding Park Survey, Apopka

March 29, 2025

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Spring Migration Walks, Mead Botanical Garden

April 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2025

Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Oakland Nature Preserve Survey, Oakland

April 6, 2025

Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Young Birders Trip to Mead Botanical Garden

April 12, 2025

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

April 13, 2025

Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Monthly Program: Rehabilitating Raptors by the Avian Reconditioning Center

April 17, 2025

Contact Alan at alangrandiflora@gmail.com

Central Florida Earth Day, Lake Eola

April 19, 2025

Contact Rick at rbaird4@att.net

Rock Springs Run State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

April 23, 2025

Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Apopka Birding Park Survey and City Nature Challenge, Apopka

April 26, 2025

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

City Nature Challenge

April 26-27, 2025

Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

Apopka Art & Foliage Festival, Apopka

April 26-27, 2025

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Chertok Photo Contest Deadline

April 30, 2025

Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com



Flight Through Cypress—Barred Owls. 2023. Chertok Photo Contest Honorable Mention Winner, Youth Category. Photo: Mark Hainen

Get Out and Take Some Photos

Orange Audubon Society's Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest has a deadline of April 30th. It is never too early to get out to take some great shots. Choose your appropriate entry category: NOVICE: For new and less experienced amateur photo hobbyists; ADVANCED: For experienced photographers who have practiced and honed their skills over time; YOUTH: For participants 17 years of age or younger at time of entry.

Orange Audubon's November program by Wayne Bennett had some great tips for improving your photography. You can watch that program on Orange Audubon's YouTube Channel [at this link](#).

The Chertok photo contest information page is [at this link](#).