



# OASis

Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



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Issue No. 5

## January Field Trip

Join OAS January 22 for a field trip to Lake Jesup in Sanford. Field trips provide an opportunity to learn about and enjoy Florida's fauna and flora in natural conditions. For trip questions, please call Gallus Quigley at (407) 242-7833.

## Area Bird Surveys

The Orange Audubon Society invites you to participate in an upcoming bird survey.

- Emerald Marsh Conservation Area bird surveys – John Stenberg at 386/329-4822 or [jstenberg@sjrwmd.com](mailto:jstenberg@sjrwmd.com).
- Ferndale Preserve quarterly bird surveys – Gallus Quigley, Jr. at 352/516-8512 or [gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:gquigley@lakecountyfl.gov) or [gallusq@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gallusq@cfl.rr.com).
- Charles H. Bronson S. F. (Turkey Creek Tract) butterfly surveys – (tentative) – Jan. 22, Feb. 26, Mar. 13, Apr. 30, May 28 - Randy Snyder or Mary Keim at 407/851-5416 - home or [rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com).

## Birds of Prey Identification — Feb. 6th Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Lust Rd. Entrance

These field trips are designed to further the appreciation of raptors and to enhance a birder's ability to identify them using a holistic approach. Cost is free (contributions to OAS appreciated). Contact Gallus Quigley: (407) 242-7833, [gallusq@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gallusq@cfl.rr.com).

## This Month's Program

January 20 @ 7:00 pm

### High Arctic Nesting Birds in Breeding Plumage

by Jim Urbach

Barrow is the northernmost settlement in the United States, located at the edge of the Polar Ice Cap, more than 300 miles above the Arctic Circle. Many species of shorebirds breed there when the permafrost thaws in spring. These birds later migrate south and may spend part of the season here in our wetlands or may just pass through. Central Florida photographer Jim Urbach has made 13 trips to Alaska photographing eagles, other birds and other wildlife. For our January program, Jim will present images from Barrow and Nome, as well as from Iceland. He has also photographed in the Pribilof and Churchill, Canada, and in Newfoundland. These Arctic trips are generally arduous, but the photographic rewards immense. In particular, Jim has been able to take photos of birds in breeding plumages that we never see down here.

Orange Audubon Society members know Jim Urbach as winner several times of the Chertok Photo Contest. For those who will never make it to the Arctic and for those planning to go, this will be a fascinating program. Join us January 20 as we hear Jim's stories of the Arctic and enjoy his exquisite images of birds in breeding plumages. Anyone wishing for a preview can visit his web gallery at [www.jimurbach.smugmug.com](http://www.jimurbach.smugmug.com).

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held the  
3rd Thursday of every month (September - June)  
at 7 PM in the Camellia Room at:  
Harry P. Leu Garden,  
1920 North Forest Avenue  
Orlando, FL 32803-1537.  
For directions call: 407-246-2620

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Orlando Wetlands Festival—Fun, Education & Fundraising

On February 19, 2011, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will again co-sponsor the Orlando Wetlands Festival at Ft. Christmas Park and have the opportunity to benefit the community by leading nature and photography hikes, co-leading bus tours, and talking to attendees about our conservation and education programs. Additionally, the Festival is usually a great OAS fundraising event—profits from fundraising sales at the last festival paid much of OAS' costs of participation. This year OAS will again offer nature-oriented merchandise for sale: adult and youth t-shirts, nest boxes, tote bags, signs, books, etc. We would love to also offer our kids' art table activity, but we must have additional volunteers to conduct that activity.

Mark the date on your calendar now, but first please call to volunteer your time. Contact Randy Snyder, OAS' festival liaison who also organizes OAS' field trip leaders, to volunteer or ask questions about the educational tours (407-851-5416; rsnyder11@cfl.rr.com). Contact Loretta Satterthwaite (407-886-2925; LNS-OAS@att.net) or Teresa Williams (407-644-0796; mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) to volunteer or ask questions about the fundraising, conservation and education displays and/or the kids' art activities.

This event is well-attended and loads of fun, so plan now to come out and learn about Orlando Wetlands Park and while you're there, volunteer for a couple of hours to help your Audubon chapter.

Visit: [http://www.cityoforlando.net/public\\_works/wetlands/festival/index.htm](http://www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/wetlands/festival/index.htm) for a Festival flyer and more information.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Teresa Williams and Randy Snyder, OWP liaison

The Orange Audubon Society (OAS) promotes the understanding of and an interest in wildlife and the environment, recognition of the intangible values in the remaining natural beauty of Florida and the World and the responsibility for the conservation of these remaining resources.

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<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

The **OASis** is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

### Audubon Action

At our December meeting, attended almost exclusively by our wonderful members, I took a show of hands as to who participates in *Audubon Action*. A lot of dedicated Orange Audubon Society members have not yet taken this step to become active at the national level. The national action site is <http://www.audubonaction.org/>.

Once signing up to Audubon Action online, you will be requested to email letters in support or opposition to various issues considered of critical importance by the National Audubon Society. The Audubon policy folks make everything easy for you—they identify the target audience for the letter and, if you choose, let you just fill in a form that becomes an electronic letter. Of course, putting your own personal touch to the letter is preferable, but your level of participation is up to you. You can respond just to requests for which you have a particular interest. Consider becoming active in this way.

Deborah Green, 1st Vice President

## OAS' 2011 Nature Photo Contest

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) announces its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photography Contest. There are three categories: Amateur—for new and less experienced photographers; Advanced—for experienced nature photographers who want to compete with their seasoned peers; and Youth—for participants age 17 and younger.

The theme for both adult categories, *Nature's Patterns*, lets participants explore the amazing geometry and textures present in the native animals, plants, landscapes and habitats of Florida. The theme for the Youth category, *Natural Florida*, lets participants explore Florida, from their own backyard habitats to Florida's many parks, preserves and reserves in search of *nature*.

In this Florida native nature contest, images cannot show humans, human-made structures or artifacts, or discernable non-native (to Florida) fauna and/or flora, which is consistent with contest objectives of promoting interest and concern for preserving Florida's native wildlife and wild places and encouraging nature photography.

This is a digital competition. Images must conform to 'truth in Nature' standards and may not be excessively manipulated. Images in other formats such as slides or photographs may be converted to digital format before submission. Details regarding image specifications and submission criteria will be delineated on the application form.

Entries must be *received by* May 19, 2011, the final deadline. Or enter by April 21, 2011 (*received date*) for an *optional* pre-screening and the opportunity to replace ineligible images free, subject to the contest's final deadline and all other rules.

Enter a maximum of 5 images. Entry fees per image for Audubon members (any chapter) are \$5 for adults and \$2 for youth. For non-members the fees per image are \$8 for adults and \$4 for youth. Contestants who join Audubon simultaneously when they enter the contest should use and submit OAS' new member application form along with their contest entry form to be entitled to the member fees of \$5 (adults) or \$2 (youth).

All winners receive ribbons and recognition in OAS and other published articles and on the OAS website. A total of \$1,200 in cash and gift cards from OAS and Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), the contest co-sponsor, will be awarded. All entries vie for placement on the cover of OAS' next annual brochure and the opportunity to be featured in store displays at CPH.

Official application forms containing complete contest rules and regulations will be available soon at future OAS meetings and/or Colonial Photo and Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL, or by downloading and printing the 2011 form (\*.pdf file) from OAS' website: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org) using free Adobe Acrobat Reader. For additional info, contact: 407-644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com). Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

## 14th Annual Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival

Join fellow birders and outdoor enthusiasts at the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. Festival activities feature unique birding, wildlife, nature, technology, cultural/historical and photography field trips, optics workshops, paddling adventures, Pelagic birding boat trip, classroom presentations, an Art Show and Competition and Nature-based Exhibits.

Local and nationally recognized naturalists, scientists, biologists, photographers and ornithologists lead the Festival events and are available to participants for one-on-one discussions and instructions. Keynote presentation by Lillian and Donald Stokes. Also featured at the festival are two of OAS's Board Members, photographers Robert Amoruso and Milton Heiberg holding both in-the-field photo workshops and classroom sessions. More details at <http://www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org/> or call (321) 268-5224.

## **Urge the President to Designate the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a National Monument**

December 6th was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Now encompassing an area the size of South Carolina, ANWR was first established as the Arctic National Wildlife Range on December 6, 1960 by President Eisenhower for its “unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values.” More than any other of the nation’s 553 wildlife refuges, ANWR is under siege. It is eyed for oil exploration, despite being our nation’s last true wilderness refuge.

National Audubon is urging President Barack Obama to take executive action to give the Arctic Refuge the strongest protections available. While National Wildlife Refuges are geographic territories within which wildlife is protected, National monuments are historic sites or geographical areas, owned and maintained in the public interest by the federal government. A National Monument is a protected similarly to a National Park except that the President of the United States can quickly declare an area to be a National Monument without the approval of Congress. National Monuments receive less funding and afford fewer protections to wildlife than National Parks. However, areas within and extending beyond national parks, monuments, and National Forests can be part of wilderness areas, which have an even greater degree of protection than a National Park would alone. The ultimate goal is working toward formal Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge.

As we will learn from our January speaker Jim Urbach, numerous species of birds breed each summer on the vast expanse of tundra included in ANWR. These birds then migrate across six continents. The Coastal Plain portion of ANWR is the biological center of the Arctic Refuge and the birthplace of countless iconic species including wolves, grizzly bears, and caribou. The Coastal Plain is the most important land denning habitat for the threatened polar bear, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service recently proposed most of the Refuge’s Coastal Plain as critical habitat.

More information is available at <http://www.audubonaction.org/> or <http://ak.audubon.org/> or <http://alaska.fws.gov/>.

If you support this designation of ANWR as a National monument, urge the President to designate it. Go to the Audubon Action site and fill in the email letter or write your own. Thank you!

Deborah Green, OAS 1st Vice President

### **Newsletter Moving Toward Electronic Format**

We have been trying to collect email addresses for a few years, with our newsletter going electronic as the primary motivation.

We will still print newsletters, but those members who will accept the newsletter electronically can save our chapter money and resources.

We are working on compiling emails of those of our 2000+ members who wish to receive the newsletter electronically and otherwise be contacted by the chapter. The simplest way to add your email address to the list is to email our membership list chair Mike Daley at [miked531@bellsouth.net](mailto:miked531@bellsouth.net).

### **Website updates, Facebook and Twitter**

Chapter President Mike Godwin developed Orange Audubon’s revised website and now has a web committee helping him keep it up to date. The site is [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org).

Mary Keim and Cynthia Gray will be working on OAS’s Facebook page. Members and friends using Facebook are invited to “Like” Orange Audubon Society at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Orange-Audubon-Society/170295309668448>. Jason Gingras will be working on having an OAS presence on Twitter also. More information next month.

## Florida Master Naturalist Program

The Florida Master Naturalist Program was developed by the University of Florida to promote awareness, understanding and respect of Florida's natural world. It's an adult education UF/IFAS Extension program provided by many Extension offices and other participating organizations throughout the state of Florida. It consists of 3 Core Modules—Freshwater Wetlands, Coastal Systems, and Upland Habitats. Each module lasts approximately 6 weeks, with at least 40 contact hours of classroom learning, field trips and practical experience. Upon completion of all 3 modules you become a Florida Master Naturalist. The reasons for taking the courses are many. The courses can be used as continuing education credit for teachers, expanding knowledge for those in fields of environmental education and ecotourism or for personal knowledge.

One of my goals for 2010 was to take a Core Module Master Naturalist Class, and Robert and I completed our first module in October. What was the course like? It was never boring, and was often a lively exchange of information and ideas. We would often start out with a field trip for the first 4 hours then reconvene in the classroom after lunch for the next four hours. We studied the Uplands Habitats Module. It was a fascinating mix of topics. We learned about Pine Uplands habitats, Hardwood habitats, Mixed Hardwood habitats, and our favorite, Scrub habitat. Along with a very thorough education about the plants and trees common in these different Florida habitats, we learned about the insects, butterflies, reptiles, mammals, amphibians and birds that are found in each of the habitats. Experts in fields such as plant identification, prescribed fires, and scrub habitat led field trips. Another valuable and fun part of the Master Naturalist Program is the requirement of a group project. I was lucky to be able to team up with Robert and we concentrated on the Florida Scrub Jay and the threats it faces due to habitat loss and fragmentation.

Now, our goal is to complete the 2 remaining Modules in 2011, and be Florida Master Naturalists by May. If you're interested in this wonderful and rewarding program, ask Robert or me about our experiences, or visit the Florida Master Naturalist Program website at <http://www.masternaturalist.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

Cynthia Amoruso

### **The 2011 GBBC will take place Friday, February 18, through Monday, February 21. Please join in!**

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

**Why Count Birds?** Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time.

Make sure the birds from your community are well represented in the count. It doesn't matter whether you report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge. Full details can be found at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html>.

### **Get involved! Join a committee!**

The **Publicity committee** is looking for help. If you have or know contacts in the media (printed or otherwise) please help get the word out. Contact: Danielle at [dponsolle@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dponsolle@cfl.rr.com).

### **Nature Wise Recognizes Local Environmental Heroes**

Join Nature Wise as they recognize local environmental heroes and hear a presentation from nationally recognized journalist & Florida environmentalist **Juanita Greene** who was recently featured in the PBS series *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*.

Register by visiting the Nature Wise website at [www.naturewisetv.org](http://www.naturewisetv.org) and clicking on the Defenders Awards Dinner tab or call Tracy McCommon, 407-579-7989 for more details.

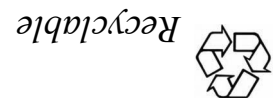
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The **Hospitality Committee** is seeking energetic and friendly individuals to help setup and greet members before meetings. Contact Samantha Eckhaus at eckhaus@yahoo.com or 407/435-7747.

**Calendar of Events**

<p><b>Jan. 8, 2011 - Tuesday</b> Special Field Trip to STA-5, Everglades, \$10 (members) \$15 (non-members), 12 &amp; under FREE with registered adult. Contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com</p> <p><b>Jan. 22, 2011 - Saturday</b> Field Trip to Lake Jesup, Sanford, Contact Gallus: gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407-242-7833</p> <p><b>Jan. 23, 2011 - Sunday</b> Limited Edition Field Trip to Seminole State Forest, Lake Co., Contact Gallus: gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407-242-7833</p> <p><b>January 26-31, 2011,</b> Space Coast Birding Festival – (800) 460-2664 www.spacecoastbirdingandwildlifefestival.org, festival@brevardnaturealliance.org</p>	<p><b>Feb. 6, 2011 - Sunday</b> Birds of Prey ID, Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Lust Rd. 8:00–1:00, Contact Gallus: gallusq@cfl.rr.com or 407-242-7833</p> <p><b>Feb. 18-21, 2011</b> Great Backyard Bird Count. Full details can be found at <a href="http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html">http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/whycount.html</a>.</p> <p><b>Feb. 19, 2011, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM-</b> Orlando Wetlands Festival, contact Orlando Wetlands Park for details or visit <a href="http://www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/wetlands/festival/index.htm">http://www.cityoforlando.net/public_works/wetlands/festival/index.htm</a></p>
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