



“The Voice of Conservation in Central Florida”

# OASis

Orange Audubon Society  
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies



Vol. 51

April 2015

Issue No. 8

## This Month's Program: April 16, 2015

### Puc Puggy's Travels in Florida:

### A Theatrical Encounter With One Of Early America's Most Remarkable Men



J.D. Sutton's acclaimed performance as botanist, artist and explorer William Bartram will be Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) April 16th program.

This actor and playwright brings to life William's four-year journey of exploration and discovery through America's southern colonies

during the start of the Revolutionary War.

William published *Bartram's Travels* in 1791, fourteen years after he returned to his family's commercial gardens outside Philadelphia. The year is now 1797, and John Adams is President.

William's book *Bartram's Travels* has been both acclaimed and ridiculed. Dignitaries visiting the gardens all want to hear from him about the Seminoles, newly discovered plants and unfamiliar animals, his battles with alligators, and his awe at the beauty of Florida.

For all natural history and history buffs, this is a must see program! Join us April 16th from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This program is free, but donations at the door to help defray its high cost to OAS will be greatly appreciated. See box at right for directions. If you have questions, call (407) 637-2525. *Deborah Green, Programs Co-Chair*

## Oakland Nature Preserve Field Trip Saturday – April 18, 2015

Oakland Nature Preserve, a 128-acre preserve extending from the West Orange Trail to Lake Apopka, will be site of the April Orange Audubon Society (OAS) field trip. This interesting preserve, established by the Friends of Lake Apopka in 1999, contains uplands and forested wetlands with many native plants and bird species.

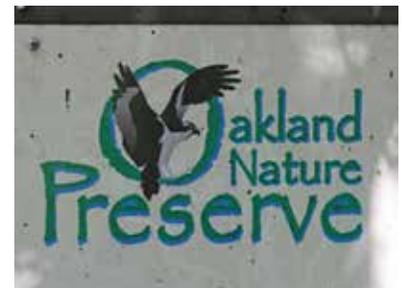
The trip will be on Saturday, April 18th from 8:00 a.m. to noon. We will walk about 3 miles at a pace to observe plants and animals along the way. For more information about the property see: [www.oaktownusa.com/Pages/Preserve/index](http://www.oaktownusa.com/Pages/Preserve/index).

This is Birdathon day (p.6), and we will be contributing our observations to OAS totals.

Meet in the parking lot of the preserve located at 747 Machete Trail, Oakland FL 34787 at 8:00 a.m. Bring birding gear, water and lunch for after the hike.

The trip is free, and no registration is required. If questions, contact us at [rssmhk@gmail.com](mailto:rssmhk@gmail.com).

*Mary Keim and Randy Snyder,  
Field Trip Committee*



Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary. Programs are the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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/)

## Amendment 1 Effort Not Over



Amendment 1 funds, the one-third of documentary stamp revenue that was to be placed into the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, primarily to restore the Florida Forever program, is still being eyed as a slush fund by many members of the Florida legislature. It is critical that everyone who voted for Amendment 1 work to make sure that this law is implemented correctly. Legislators still need to be reminded about the Florida Forever program, about the beloved properties it has purchased, and to hear from us how important it is to us. Note that although the newspapers and blogs are reporting that the legislators are ignoring voter intent, the budget process is not over until about mid April. There is still a little time to influence decisions but no time to waste.

I encourage you to go to the website of the Florida's Water and Land Legacy Campaign, the group in Tallahassee that ran the Amendment 1 campaign, <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/>, and sign up for action updates. The campaign will request that you contact specific legislators and give talking points.

We need conservation lands to balance the 800-plus people arriving to Florida each day. By educating yourself and communicating with your representatives, you'll help assure the process ends as voters intended. Thank you very much!

*Deborah Green, President*

## March Field Trip Report



White-eyed Vireo Photo: Mary Keim

Orange Audubon Society's March 21, 2015 field trip to Chuluota Wilderness Area was attended by 10 people, who observed at least 27 bird species including American Kestrel, White-eyed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Northern Parula and Eastern Towhee. Invertebrates observed included Filmy Dome Spider, Painted Skimmer, Blue Dasher, Festive Tiger Beetle, and Palamedes Swallowtail. Flowers in bloom included Pawpaw, Florida Scrub

Frostweed, Rusty Lyonia, Apalachicola Toadflax, Florida Greeneyes and Wild Pennyroyal. The group had fun identifying signs of animals in the sand including Gopher Tortoise, Nine-banded Armadillo, Ant Lions and Fungus-gardening Ants. We talked about how current scrub habitats were once islands surrounded by ocean, hence the scrub sand's resemblance to beach sand.

*Mary Keim and Randy Snyder,  
Field Trip Committee*

## Ethos Vegan Kitchen 5% Profit Day

Thanks so much to Ethos Vegan Kitchen in Winter Park for donating 5% of its profits from March 28th to Orange Audubon Society.



Ethos, which has been in business in Winter Park for seven years, is a favorite of many of us. The restaurant is located at 601-B South New York Avenue, Winter Park. See

<http://www.ethosvegankitchen.com>.

The purpose and dedication of Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is to promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it. OAS' education programs foster the recognition of the tangible and intangible values in the remaining natural areas of Florida and the world, and our responsibility for the conservation of the Earth's natural ecosystems and the services that they provide for the health of the planet.

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The OAS's Newsletter is published monthly from September through June and is emailed to all OAS members.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN FLORIDA 1-800-435-7352. VISIT [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com) FOR HELP. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. REGISTRATION NO. CH2330.

## In Case You Missed the Meeting....Improving Your Nature Photography

At the March Orange Audubon Society Program, photographer Vince Lamb presented classic techniques for capturing flora and fauna. Lamb suggested:

- Study the great nature photographers, including Ansel Adams, Clyde Butcher, and John Moran.
- Always use light, “the defining element,” to best advantage. Light from behind the camera will illuminate your subject; light behind the subject can add drama.
- Compose well by using the rule-of-thirds, curves, diagonal lines, and a blurred background.

Lamb noted that photographs can influence others to value nature, to support environmental advocacy and influence conservation-land purchases. Favorite spots he mentioned are Fakahatchee Strand Preserve, Apalachicola National Forest, Perdido Key, Chipola River, and Florida Caverns State Park. He emphasized that the more you get out in nature the more likely you are to get the good shots.

*Linda Carpenter*

## Calling All Nature-Loving Shutterbugs!

There is ample time for nature-loving photographers to enter Orange Audubon Society’s (OAS) 2015 (27th Annual) Kit & Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest. The broad theme, Florida Native Nature, encourages you to explore and discover the amazing wildlife and natural habitats of Florida. Three skill-level entry categories include Youth, Novice and Advanced Amateur/Professional.

Final deadline is May 21st (postmarked by date). Optionally, you may enter early (by April 16th, postmarked by date) to have your images pre-screened to assure compliance with contest rules. Such “Early Birds” may replace any disqualified image free of charge, subject to final deadline and other contest rules.

Subject matter must be native to Florida and images may not contain discernable non-native (to Florida) plants or animals, humans or human artifacts. Images must also comply with truth-in-nature standards and may not be excessively manipulated and must also have been taken while complying with the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA) code of conduct ([www.nanpa.org/docs/NANPA-Ethical-Practices.pdf](http://www.nanpa.org/docs/NANPA-Ethical-Practices.pdf)).

Awards from OAS and contest co-sponsor, Colonial Photo & Hobby, include \$1,200 in cash and other prizes. Winners also receive ribbons and recognition in OAS and other publications. Complete contest rules are on the official contest entry forms available online: [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org); by request to [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or (407) 644-0796; or at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. Your participation in OAS’ contest and interest in nature photography are sincerely appreciated. We wish you all good luck!

*Teresa Williams, Photo Contest Chair*

## Items Needed for Silent Auction

On June 18th Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will present its final program of the season, showing the 2015 Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest entries, announcing the winners and awarding prizes. Please save the date! We expect about 200 to attend this year, and why not? Tasty finger foods, beverages and a silent auction make the contest show even livelier.

OAS can use your help with the Silent Auction, an important OAS fund-raiser. Will you ask a frequented restaurant, clothier or other business for a silent auction donation? Or show off your artistic, culinary or crafty talent(s) by donating a personal creation? To make a donation, please contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) and provide details: your name and phone number, description of item(s), retail or appraised value, starting bid amount (if desired). Proceeds from this program will benefit a future OAS nature center and/or related project. Your support will be sincerely appreciated and acknowledgements for tax purposes are available upon request.

*Teresa Williams and Loretta Satterthwaite*



Little Raccoon in Oak Tree  
2009 Honorable Mention Winner  
Photo: Karen Peron r

## Spring Birds Walks at Mead Botanical Garden Saturdays – April 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2015



Hooded Warbler. Photo: Larry Taylor

Orange Audubon will offer guided bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden throughout April for spring migration, as we have for the past three years. Warblers and other colorful songbirds that winter in the Caribbean or Central or South America are moving north to breed. Most will just pass through our area en route to forests of the Appalachians, the Eastern Seaboard or Canada, although Northern Parulas and a few others will stay with us to breed. Mead Botanical Garden (Mead) in Winter Park is one of Central Florida's best public places to see beautiful migrants like this cooperative Hooded Warbler seen by many visitors last fall.

Mead has food (insects and berries), water and shelter for bird stop-overs, with a variety of habitats: wetlands, open water, and an upland area with oaks and tall pines. Twenty-three warbler species have been seen in recent years.

The walks will be on Saturdays, April 4th through April 25th. They begin at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours at a casual pace. All are free and open to the public. Experienced birders leading this year's walks include Brook Rohman, Bob Sanders, Renee Thomas and John Thomton. A limited number of loaner binoculars are available. If you need a pair, please come a little early to sign them out and, if necessary, get a quick course on their proper use. No need to preregister; just show up and have fun. The "oasis of nature" that is Mead Botanical Garden is located at the intersection of south Denning and Garden drives in Winter Park, two blocks east of Orlando Ave (Hwy. 17-92). Hope we see you!

*Larry Martin OAS-Mead Liaison*

## Florida Native Plant and Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour – Saturday, April 11, 2015

A Florida Native Plant and Wildlife-Friendly Yard Tour, the first for Orange Audubon Society (OAS), will be held April 11, 2015 from 9 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The purpose of this tour, which is a collaboration between OAS and the Tarflower and Cuplet Fern Chapters of the Florida Native Plant Society, is to teach the importance of native plants in providing vital food and habitat for birds and other wildlife. This self-paced tour, extending from Winter Park to Southeast Orlando, showcases yards that are wildlife-friendly and that use native plants.

Seeing how these homeowners have put together their landscapes to be not only wildlife-friendly but also attractive will help others make landscape choices. Each landscape is different and has lessons to share.

Tour information, the map and information on the individual landscapes will be available to ticket buyers a week before the event. Tickets are \$5.00 per person and are available for purchase online using PayPal at the OAS website, [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org). Tickets will also be sold at the Tarflower Chapter meeting April 7, at Wild Birds Unlimited, and at the following nurseries: Blodgett's, Palmer Feed, and South Seminole Farm & Nursery. If you are trying to learn more about making your yard wildlife friendly and beautifully native, mark this on your calendars. If you have questions, contact Deborah at [sabalpress@mac.com](mailto:sabalpress@mac.com) or (407) 637-2525.



Yellow-throated Warbler, Cassius Blue on Tickseed and Green Anole in Mary Keim and Randy Snyder's home landscape. Photos: Mary Keim

## Limited Edition Field Trip Fort DeSoto Park, Pinellas County – Sunday, April 12, 2015



Bob Sanders (center) leading Fort DeSoto Trip  
Photo: Joyce Stefancic

Fort DeSoto is legendary! It is what's called a "migrant trap." During spring migration many songbirds make the arduous and dangerous Gulf crossing from Central America and Mexico to Florida. If weather conditions and birders' luck are correct, the numbers and variety of migrants reaching Ft. DeSoto on a day in April can be nothing less than awesome. Because of travel time and the popularity of Ft. DeSoto with both birders and beach-goers, an extra-early departure time from Orlando will be necessary.

This trip is limited to 15 people and costs \$10 per person 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. For trip questions or reservations call Bob Sanders at (407) 454-0542.

### Sightings on eBird Reveal Where the Warblers Are

In last month's *OASis* (p.4), Orange Audubon Society (OAS) board member Linda Carpenter reviewed clues provided by OAS' March speakers, Angel and Mariel Abreu, on how to find birds using weather data (see <https://badbirdz2.wordpress.com/>). Mary Keim also explained the hows and whys of eBirding (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>).

Jeff Miller, who is one of the country's top birders and was portrayed by Jack Black in the movie *The Big Year*, has shared on his blog a way to use eBird data to follow migration of specific species by using posted sightings of fellow birders. See <http://www.gregmillerbirding.com/birders-notebook-2/2013-where-are-the-eastern-wood-warblers-now/>.

### Board Member Elections This Month

April is the official annual meeting of the Orange Audubon Society (OAS), where this year's election for members of the OAS Board of Directors will be held just prior to the April 16 evening program at Leu Gardens. Five directors' terms expire at the end of June: Linda Carpenter, Melissa Gonzalez, Brent Mobley, Paul Lockett, and Bob Stamps. Each has agreed to be nominated again for terms expiring in 2018, except Paul and Bob. Becki Smith has accepted the committee's nomination for one of the two vacant positions. This slate is tentative, and nominations for all open positions will be accepted up to and including from the floor prior to election. Nominees must be current members of OAS and will be expected to be present at monthly board meetings (held at 6 p.m. prior to the program meetings) and to complete the term for which they are nominated. All board members must have a commitment to helping OAS succeed and meet its goals.

If you have any questions or would like to serve on the board, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Brook Rohman at [brookrohman@gmail.com](mailto:brookrohman@gmail.com) or (407) 921-8008, or committee members Terri Chin at [tschin@mindspring.com](mailto:tschin@mindspring.com) or Brad Rohman at [g8trzfam@gmail.com](mailto:g8trzfam@gmail.com). Brook can provide you with the current OAS board application form.

If there is not a vacant slot at any given time, we encourage you to still apply, as additional vacancies may appear. Meanwhile we hope you will join one of OAS' committees: Conservation, Education, Field Trip, Finance, Hospitality, Membership, *OASis* (newsletter), Program, Publicity, Sanctuary, Website, Wildlife Survey, Birdathon, Chertok Nature Photography Contest, Silent Auction, Nature Education Centers, Nominating, Brochure, Climate, and Speakers Bureau. Thanks for getting more involved with your chapter!

## **Birdathon Is April 18, 2015!!**

Birdathon is like a Walkathon, except you collect donation pledges for species of birds seen instead of miles walked. The person pledging to give money pledges not just for the birds one birder sees but for the collective bird species seen by all Orange Audubon Society (OAS) Birdathon birding participants during a 24-hour period on April 18, 2015.

For example, if all our OAS Birdathon participants collectively record 180 species, and the person pledges 10 cents a species, they owe \$18. Ask for more if they are willing. You can also ask them to donate a flat amount.

In addition to collecting pledges, you can bird and participate in Birdathon as an individual or as a team. If adventurous, get some birding buddies, grab your binoculars, pick a spot and have fun! Or just bird in your backyard. The Florida Ornithological Society provides the official list of birds in Florida at <http://www.fosbirds.org/official-florida-state-bird-list>. ALL BIRD SPECIES ARE COUNTABLE....exotic or not.

Report your information by Thursday, April 30th 4:00 p.m. to [brookrohman@gmail.com](mailto:brookrohman@gmail.com) or call (407) 921-8008. Leave your name, or team name, number of species seen and total pledged amount. The pledge sheet is included on the following page and is on the OAS website, [www.orangeaudubonfl.org](http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org). The person or team recording the most bird species and the person securing the most pledges will be announced at OAS' meeting in May. Birdathon donations will be used to fund OAS conservation, advocacy and education efforts. Go out and bird!

*Brook Rohman, Birdathon Chair*

## **Beyond Pesticides Forum in Orlando – April 17–18, 2015**

Calling all people interested in pollinator and public health issues! The 33rd national Beyond Pesticides forum will be held for the first time in Florida and will be in downtown Orlando. The forum is an annual event from the Washington, D.C. non-profit organization Beyond Pesticides, formed in 1981.

The Beyond Pesticides Forum kicks off on Friday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m. with a Pesticides 101 session, followed by a reception and interesting keynote panel.

On Saturday, April 18, following breakfast, the morning keynote speaker is Dr. Louis Guillette, who as a zoologist at the University of Florida (UF) was the one who discovered problems in Lake Apopka's alligator population, including diminished reproductive rates and physical and hormonal abnormalities. The forum continues with panels and breakout sessions, listed at <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/forum/speakers/> After dinner, Dr. Tyrone Hayes, Integrative Biology Professor, University of California Berkeley, will give the final keynote address. Dr. Hayes, who at age 35 was the youngest professor at UC Berkeley to receive full tenure, has focused his research on the herbicide Atrazine, which has been sprayed on corn in the U.S. in

the millions of pounds per year for more than a half-century. Hays has researched and documented Atrazine's endocrine-disrupting effects on frogs, which warn of possible health effects on humans as well.

If these topics are of interest to you and you wish to volunteer at the forum, contact Deborah at [sabalpress@mac.com](mailto:sabalpress@mac.com) or (407) 637-2525. If you can't attend, check out resources on moving beyond pesticides on the group's website, [www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org).

*Deborah Green, President*



## **'Workday' at Genius Drive Nature Preserve – Sunday, April 19, 2015**

A 2-hour Workday is planned on Sunday, April 19, 9-11 a.m. at the Genius Drive Nature Preserve in Winter Park. This preserve, originally the home of Charles Hosmer Morse, is in the heart of Winter Park between lakes Virginia, Mizell and Berry. Volunteers from Orange Audubon Society work with the Rollins College Department of Environmental Studies in quarterly workdays to remove and replace invasive plants and native species. Please contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796 or [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) if you can help.



## Central Florida Earth Day – Saturday, April 25, 2015

Earth Day was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson on April 22, 1970 as an environmental teach-in. Central Florida Earth Day, presented by the Vegetarians of Central Florida, will be on April 25, 2015 at Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando. The 10th annual Central Florida Earth Day is the largest and longest-running Earth Day festival in Central Florida.

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has a prime spot, right on the lake close to the music venue. We will be offering bird walks along Lake Eola on the hour from 11 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Central Florida Earth Day is free, family-friendly, dog-friendly, alcohol-free, and smoke-free. Along with speakers and environmental education, there will be music and food—all vegan. If you enjoyed Ethos Vegetarian Kitchen on OAS' 5% Profit Day and want to learn more about how to eat this healthy and environmentally friendly diet, Central Florida Earth Day is a great place to find out more. The event is held on the east side of Lake Eola Park, 195 N. Rosalind Ave., on April 25 from 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

### Introducing Children to Nature

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is stepping up efforts to introduce young people to nature. On January 24th, I presented a program on birds to 150 Daisy Girl Scouts from the Windermere area. At the 2015 Lake Apopka Wildlife Festival & Birdapalooza on February 7th, new OAS Board member Melissa Gonzalez and I led two walks targeting kids and families. In association with Birdapalooza, Brook Rohman, Loretta Satterthwaite and I gave nature walks to 150 students from Phyllis Wheatley Elementary on February 6th and another 150 students from Apopka Elementary, whose teachers had requested a repeat of last year's OAS-led field trip, on March 10th.

Brook also led a Youth Field Trip to Central Winds Park on March 14 and is setting up another field trip for May 16. As Rachel Carson said, "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in". If you have an interest in youth nature education activities, please join our efforts. Contact me at [sabalpress@mac.com](mailto:sabalpress@mac.com) or (407) 637-2525.

*Deborah Green, President*

### Youth Field Trip – Saturday, May 16, 2015

Orange Audubon Society Board member Brook Rohman will be leading a Youth Field Trip on May 16, 2015. Brook led Youth Field Trips in in October and March, and attendance is building. Everyone has a lot of fun! The May field trip will be an easy walk starting at 8:30 a.m. and lasting about two hours. The location will be announced in the May *OASis*. Children need to have an adult with them, wear comfortable shoes and bring water and bug spray. If there are children in your life who would like to go, contact Brook at (407) 921-8008 or email [brookrohman@gmail.com](mailto:brookrohman@gmail.com).



### Audubon Volunteers Needed for Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival

Audubon Florida is seeking volunteers to showcase the Audubon Purple Martin exhibit at the Epcot International Flower and Garden Festival from now until May 17, 2015. Needed are enthusiastic individuals to help spread the good work of Audubon. Working a four-hour shift, you will receive training, free backstage parking, and entrance to the Festival (before or after your four-hour shift you can explore EPCOT). For more information, contact Sasha George, Volunteer Coordinator for Audubon Florida, at [audubon.at.epcot.festival@gmail.com](mailto:audubon.at.epcot.festival@gmail.com) or (407) 925-8807. Susan Kirby, who is coordinating the Orange Audubon Society volunteers, can be reached at (407) 440-3448 or by email [skirby1964@gmail.com](mailto:skirby1964@gmail.com). Enjoy a day at Epcot and the opportunity to meet folks from around the world to share your passion about birds and conservation!

## Upcoming May Events – Save the Dates!

### Panhandle Trip – Possible Spaces Left



Andy Wraithmell

Orange Audubon Society's 2015 Panhandle adventure May 1–3, 2015, takes you to Birdsong Nature Center, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (with blimey Andy Wraithmell leading us to prime birding hot spots) and a private, hands-on tour of Seacrest Wolf Preserve. You may still register for the weekend or Seacrest Wolf Preserve tour on Sunday. To check availability, contact Teresa at [mwilliams@cfl.rr.com](mailto:mwilliams@cfl.rr.com) or (407) 644-0796.

### International, World-Class Bird Watchers Coming to Orlando

Two Israeli birdwatchers who came in first place in Cape May Audubon Society's World Series of Birding last year will be visiting Orlando on their way to this year's Cape May event. Central Florida is indeed an attraction to birders from the international community. On May 4th at 5:30 p.m., these two world-class birders will do a birding walk at Maitland Community Park, 1400 Mayo Ave, Maitland. Following the walk, at 7 p.m., they will present a more formal program about birding and habitat restoration along Israel's Rift Valley, a major flyway of the world. This presentation will be at the Jewish Community Center, 851 N. Maitland Ave. Both the bird walk and formal program are FREE and open to the public. Come out and meet some international bird watching friends. If you have questions, contact Orange Audubon Society member Shari Sujka at [sharisujka@gmail.com](mailto:sharisujka@gmail.com) or (321) 297-7099.

### Baby Owl Shower at Center for Birds of Prey – Saturday, May 9, 2015

Each spring Audubon Florida's Center for Birds of Prey holds its annual Baby Owl Shower the Saturday before Mother's Day to raise funds to offset the increased costs during baby season. Non-releasable baby raptors should be available to view. Admission is "free" that day with an item from the wishlist of supplies for caring for these young raptors. See the wishlist at <http://fl.audubon.org/baby-owl-shower>. Contact the Center at (407) 644-0190 if you have questions.

Orange Audubon Society will be at this event selling nature-oriented merchandise and offering a kids' art activity. We especially need help with the kids' art activity. Baby owls attract lots of baby people (and grown people, too!). The event starts at 10 a.m but set up help is needed at 9:00 a.m. The event ends and tear-down begins at 2:00 p.m. To help with the Baby Owl Shower, please contact Loretta at (407) 886-2925 or [LNS-OAS@att.net](mailto:LNS-OAS@att.net).

### Jay Watch Citizen Science: Volunteers Needed

If you are interested in training to be a Jay Watch volunteer where your observations will be a contribution to Citizen Science and the preservation of this rare bird, you must attend a field Training Session. The closest session is on Saturday May 16, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Lyonia Preserve, on Providence Blvd. and Eustace Ave., Deltona (Volusia County).

This workshop gives an overview of Florida Scrub-jay behavior and review of the survey protocol that will be followed. Participants will learn about the cooperative family group structure of Florida Scrub-jays, how to distinguish adult from juvenile jays, how to delineate family groups, and Standardized Jay Watch survey methods that will be employed statewide for the Jay survey to be held June 15–July 15. At this free session, you will be provided a training manual. To register or for more information, including other training dates and locations besides May 16th, contact Jacqui Sulek at [jsulek@audubon.org](mailto:jsulek@audubon.org).



Florida-Scrub Jay and photographer  
Photo: Milton Heiberg

## Wildlife Survey Committee Sends a Thank You

The Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) Wildlife Survey Committee sends a big thank you to Cyndi Kay for volunteering to help bring OAS bird survey data into the electronic age. OAS volunteers have conducted many surveys for local public land managers. For example, the Wildlife Survey team found 138 bird species at Tosohatchee in 1979. Cyndi has been working to enter data from as far back as the 1970s onto eBird. Thank you for working to make this data accessible to the public!

*Mary Keim, OAS Wildlife Survey Committee member*

[JOIN OAS' MEETUP GROUP](#)

[LIKE OAS ON FACEBOOK](#)

### Calendar of Events

#### **Spring Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks**

April 4, 11, 18, 25, 2015. Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

#### **Florida Native Plant and Wildlife-friendly Yard Tour**

April 11, 2015. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

#### **Limited Edition Field Trip, Ft. De Soto Park, Pinellas County**

Apr 12, 2015. Contact Bob at (407) 454-0542

#### **Orange Audubon Society Monthly Program: Puc Puggy's Travels in Florida, William Bartram performance by J.D. Sutton**

April 16, 2015. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

#### **Chertok Nature Photography Contest, Optional Pre-screening\* Deadline:**

Apr 16, 2015 (\*Replace disqualified entries FREE by May 21 deadline)

#### **Beyond Pesticides Conference, Florida A&M School of Law, Downtown Orlando**

April 17–18, 2015. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

#### **Orange Audubon Society Birdathon**

April 18, 2015. Contact Brook at (407) 921-8008

#### **April Field Trip, Oakland Nature Preserve, Oakland**

April 18, 2015. Contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com

#### **Genius Drive Work Day**

April 19, 2015. Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796

#### **Central Florida Earth Day, Lake Eola, Orlando**

April 26, 2015. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

#### **Florida Panhandle Road Trip**

May 1–3, 2015. Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796

#### **Baby Owl Shower, Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland**

May 9, 2015. Contact (407) 539-5700

#### **Chertok Nature Photography Contest, Final Submission Deadline:**

May 21, 2015. Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796

#### **Orange Audubon Society Monthly Program: Fins and Feathers: Why little fish are a big deal to Florida's coastal waterbirds by Debbie Salamone**

May 21, 2015. Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

#### **May Field Trip, Seminole Ranch Conservation Area, Christmas**

May 23, 2015. Contact Mary at rssmhk@gmail.com

#### **Limited Edition Field Trip, Three Lakes WMA, Osceola County**

May 30, 2015. Contact Bob at (407) 454-0542

#### **Chertok Nature Photography Contest Award Program and Silent Auction**

June 18, 2015. Contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796