



"The voice of Conservation in Central Florida"

OASis



*Orange Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society and Audubon of Florida*

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In this Issue...

<i>This Month's Program</i>	p1
<i>Field Trip - Lake Woodruff NWR</i>	p1
<i>January Field Trip Report</i>	p1
<i>Photo Contest Update</i>	p2
<i>OAS Sponsors 9th OWP Festival</i>	p2
<i>Genius Reserve Restoration Schedule</i>	p2
<i>SAS Presentation</i>	p2
<i>Gardening Festival at Mead Garden</i>	p2
<i>Bird of Prey ID Class #3 Report</i>	p3
<i>Bird of Prey ID Class #4</i>	p3
<i>Limited Edition Field Trip</i>	p3
<i>Ft. DeSoto Field Trip Update</i>	p3
<i>LARA Field Trip Report</i>	p3
<i>2008 Great Backyard Bird Count</i>	p4
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	p4



Daniel S. Kilby

This Month's Program: February 21, 2008 - 7:00pm Fabulous Fish Hawks: The Ospreys of Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge by Bob Montanaro

The Osprey is a familiar bird of prey to those of living in our lake- rich region of Central Florida. This raptor lives almost exclusively on live fish and makes dramatic dives from heights of 30 - 120 feet to plunge feet first into the water after their prey. Osprey nests of sticks and other material rest on power poles, bridges, buoys, and elevated platforms, as well as in trees.

For our February program Bob Montanaro, volunteer in the Osprey Watch program at Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, will provide an intimate look through still and video photography into the day-to-day activities of two pairs of nesting Ospreys. Check out a preview at www.ospreywatch.org and join us February 21st for a fascinating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President

February Field Trip - Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge

On Saturday, March 1st, OAS will visit Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge near DeLeon Springs. We will hike three to four miles on dike roads through freshwater marsh that attracts wintering waterfowl as well as long-legged waders. For more information about the refuge see: www.fws.gov/lakewoodruff/

Meet at 7:30am in the parking lot of the

McDonald's just north of SR 46 on Hickman Drive (just east of I-4). Bring drink, birding gear and lunch (for after the hike). Be prepared for possible cold fronts and the wind chill on the marsh. Please join us. If you have questions about our trip, contact us at 407-851-5416.

Mary Keim and Randy Snyder
Field Trip Committee

January Field Trip Report MARY KEIM, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

Twenty birders attended the January 19th field trip to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge including five first-timers. The group saw at least 78 bird species including American White Pelican, American Bittern, Wood Stork, Glossy Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Bald Eagle, Sora, Black-bellied Plover, Great Black-backed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern,

Caspian Tern, Black Skimmer, Tree Swallow, American Robin, and Common Yellowthroat.

While the cool, foggy morning gave us a slow start on butterflies, we saw Great Southern White, Cloudless Sulphur, Zebra Heliconian and Gulf Fritillary. Other animals seen included American Alligator, Florida Softshell, Florida Red-bellied Turtle, Green Anole, and Wild Hog.

Orange Audubon Society meetings are free to the public and held on the 3rd Thursday of every month (Sept - June) at 7:00pm in the Camellia Room at

*Harry P. Leu Gardens
1920 North Forest Avenue
Orlando, FL 32803-1537*

For directions, call 407-246-2620

Photo Contest Update

Forget presidential primary dates; forget IRS tax deadlines; with only 100± days left, the important date to remember is May 15th, 2008 — the final deadline (postmark date) for Orange Audubon Society's 2008 Kit & Sidney Chertok Nature Photo Contest!

As a courtesy to participants who submit their images earlier (by April 17th, 2008, receipt date), OAS will again offer free pre-screening to assure the entries meet contest eligibility requirements. Participants will be notified as soon as possible after pre-screening of ineligible entries and given the opportunity to replace them at no additional charge. All replacements must be submitted by May 15th, 2008 (postmark date) in compliance with contest rules.

In next month's newsletter, OAS will announce the names of photographers whose winning 2007 images have been selected for featured displays at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, which has co-sponsored the contest since 2004.

To obtain entry forms containing complete contest rules, visit OAS' website: www.orangeaudubonfl.org (download and print using free Adobe® software), pick them up in person at Colonial Photo & Hobby, or contact Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Teresa Williams, OASCNPC Chair

OAS Co-Sponsors 9th Orlando Wetlands Park Festival

Again this year, Orange Audubon will co-sponsor the Orlando Wetlands Park Festival to be held on Saturday, February 23rd from 9:00am to 3:00pm. OAS has been a co-sponsor since the event's inception. OAS members lead nature, birding, butterfly and photography hikes; ride the tour buses to offer information on the natural components of the environment; offer displays regarding our conservation and education concerns and opportunities in the community; sell nature oriented merchandise — t-shirts, tote bags, nest boxes, signs, mugs and books — and Audubon memberships; and, if we have enough volunteers, we'll offer a children's nature collage/art table.

It takes a lot of volunteers to make this event successful. We have volunteers to lead the tours and handle the 'technical' aspects, but we can always use help to 'spell' other workers so they may enjoy some of the field trips/tours also. If you can help for a couple of hours — especially at the kids' art table or selling merchandise, for which no training is necessary — please call to volunteer. Also, plan to spend extra time so that you, too, can enjoy some of the events that are scheduled and learn more about OWP.

To volunteer, contact Loretta [407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net] or Teresa [407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com]. Please be prepared to leave your phone number and the hours that you would be available to help. Thank you; many hands make light work. Enjoy!

Loretta Satterthwaite and Teresa Williams

Genius Reserve Ecological Restoration Workday Schedule

OAS' next workday at the Genius Reserve, Winter Park, will take place on Sunday, February 17th, 2008 from 10am ~ Noon, and involve weeding and mulching in the newly restored cedar grove. Although OAS' involvement may seem small, it is an important element in the overall restoration project, anticipated to last ten or more years; weeding, however, is a perpetual project.

Volunteers should bring appropriate tools such as shovels, spades and gloves; those who are sensitive to the elements should dress appropriately with hats and sun protection; and all should bring water.

To participate in the workday, contact Teresa: mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or 407-644-0796. New volunteers please provide name, address, phone number(s) and email address. To learn more about the ecological restoration project, visit the Genius Reserve website: <http://www.rollins.edu/olin/archives/Genius/>. Thank you.

Teresa Williams



Seminole Audubon Presentation

"Birds and Beasts of Africa" presented by Seminole Audubon, Sunday, February 10th, 2pm, Sanford Library, 150 Palmetto, Sanford. Charlene Edwards, published author, professional photographer, and world explorer will share her breath-taking images and her insight on the plight of wildlife in Africa. FREE. Details at (407) 977-4389.

A Gardening Festival Celebrating Nature's Bounty

Will be held Saturday, February 23rd, 2008, at Winter Park Mead Gardens from 8:30am to 1:30pm. Featured speakers will be:

- 9:00 Rufinio Osorio "Beyond Cabbage Palms and Coco Plums."
- 10:00 Doug McGuinness from Tropical Blossom Honey speaking on honey bees
- 11:00 Shoji Karaoke "Japans Landscape Gardening"
- 12:00 Bernie Moro "Save our Vital Earth"

There will be various vendors, displays, door prizes. There is no cost to attend.

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.

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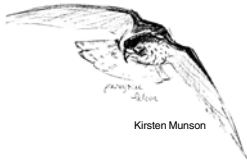
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The OAS is published monthly from September through June and is sent free to all members of Orange Audubon Society.

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Bird of Prey ID Class Report

On January 12th, twenty-five birders, some from as far away as Spring Hill, Ocala, and The Villages, participated in the third Bird of Prey ID Class at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area. Nine species of raptors were seen and studied including: Sharp-shinned Hawk, lots of Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrel, and an active Bald Eagle's nest. Other highlights: Black-crowned Night Heron, Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Kingbird, some rather large alligators, and a family of Bobcats. The next and final Bird of Prey ID Class is scheduled for February 9th (see below, right.) Contact Bob Sanders for more information: 407-766-5490, procrow@bellsouth.net.



Limited Edition Field Trip

The next Limited Edition Field Trip is scheduled for March 15th. We will visit the Shilo Marsh area of Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. This field trip is limited to ten people and there is a \$10.00 charge. Reservations can be made beginning March 9th. Contact Bob Sanders, 407-766-5490, procrow@bellsouth.net.

Ft. DeSoto Field Trip Update

The date is set for our annual field trip to Ft. DeSoto Park in St. Petersburg. We have reserved 15 rooms in the Continuing Education Center at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg for Friday night, April 25th, 2008. Birding at Ft. DeSoto will be on Saturday, April 26th, 2008.

Plan to join us for a premier birding experience during spring migration. The initial response in January was very good with requests for 9 rooms.

The cost is \$80.00 per room plus \$10.00 per person. A room with 1 person is \$90.00, a room with 2 people is \$100.00 and a room with 3 people is \$110.00. The cost is \$10.00 per person to attend Saturday only and not stay at the college.

The sign up sheet and more details will be available at our February meeting. For more information please contact Ted or Gaye Smith at (407) 249-3969 or smith_ted_gaye@bellsouth.net.

Fourth and Final Bird of Prey ID Class

The final Bird of Prey ID Class for the season will be held on Feb. 9th. Meet at 7:30 am at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area, Lust Road gate. For more information contact Bob Sanders, 407-766-5490.

Lake Apopka Restoration Area Field Trip

On January 26th, fifteen birders, some from as far away as North Carolina and Panama City, enthusiastically endured a damp, chilly morning and a few rain showers to participate in OAS's annual Lake Apopka Restoration Area field trip. More than 80 species of birds were seen or heard within the property.

Additional birds seen afterwards by some of us along 448A and Ranch Rd. brought the grand total for the day to 90! Highlights included: an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird; Black-crowned Night Heron; 9 species of duck with Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Am. Wigeon; 10 species of raptor with Sharp-shinned Hawk and numbers of eagles; Black-necked Stilt; Barn Owl; nesting Great-Horned Owl on 448A and Ranch Rd; Sedge and Marsh Wren; and Scrub Jay and the persistent Say's Phoebe on Ranch Road. A mother Black Bear and her cub, perhaps a first for the site, were the non-avian "wow!" of the day.

Thanks go to Dick Smith, Gallus Quigley (Lk. County Park Ranger, Ferndale Preserve), and Don Nickerson (St. Johns River Water Management District) for their assistance. Bob Sanders.

Manatee Benefit Dinner at the Central Florida Zoo

Friday, February 29, 2008
Dinner served between 6-9pm

Come have dinner at the Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens | 3755 NW Hwy 17-92 | Sanford



\$10.00 per person
ADVANCED PURCHASE REQUIRED

Dinner provide by **The Olive Garden** with pasta, salad and breadsticks.

Wine cash bar provided by **The Wine Depository**

Mail checks to: Seminole Audubon Society
804#1 Rugby St.
Orlando, fl. 32804



Tickets available at The Wine Depository in Mt Dora, FL
Email shirleyschue@yahoo.com or call 407-481-4398 for details.

All proceeds benefit the Seminole Audubon Society legal fund to help defray legal fees incurred in opposing the proposed Marina Development in the Wekiva Aquatic Preserve in DeBary

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Calendar of Events

February 2, 2008 - Saturday

LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870/pbowen@sjrwm.com

February 9, 2008 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Class #4 - LARA
Bob Sanders 407-766-5490/procrow@bellsouth.net

February 9, 2008 - Saturday

Little Big Econ S.F. - Joshua Creek Track Bird Survey
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

February 16, 2008 - Saturday

Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193
dex@dexwine.com

February 16, 2007 - Saturday

Seminole Ranch (North) Butterfly Survey.
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

February 21, 2008 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

February 23, 2008 - Saturday

Orlando Wetland Park Festival
9:00am-3:00pm. Christmas, FL
Information: 407-568-1706 or 407-246-2213

March 1, 2008 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Lake Woodruff NWR
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

March 1, 2008 - Saturday

LARA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870/pbowen@sjrwm.com

March 15, 2008 - Saturday

Limited Edition Field Trip - Shilo Marsh
Bob Sanders 407-766-5490/procrow@bellsouth.net

March 20, 2008 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Dick Smith 407-257-7361

Count For Fun, Count For the Future!

This February 15-18th bird watchers all across North America will be participating in the 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count- what about you? This popular hobby can be done from your yard, a city park, nature center, even your fire escape. Best of all, your actions truly make a difference as your count is included with thousands of others, helping science and conservation spotlight changes in bird populations and distribution from year to year.

Last year's count was a record-breaker. Citizen scientists across the United States and Canada counted more than 11 million birds and tallied 616 species, submitting 80,000 checklists, exceeding the previous record of 61,000 checklists in 2000 by 33 percent! The Northern Cardinal was once again the most frequently spotted bird, while American Robins were the most numerous species counted. Rare birds found during the 2007 GBBC included five Lesser Prairie-Chickens in Oklahoma and two Pink-footed Geese in Rhode Island – first records for the GBBC!

Visit www.birdcount.org to learn more about last year's results, view the GBBC online photo gallery, and to enter the 2008 photo contest as well. Up and coming film directors, please upload your video to YouTube and tag it "Great Backyard Bird Count." Some of the best clips will also be posted on the Bird Count site.

www.audubon.org/gbbc/index.shtml

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