



"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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Reminders...

... OAS Birdathon 2005, April 16, 2005. Pledge Sheet may be found on p4.
 ... Get out and celebrate Earth Day 2005! Actual date is Friday April 22, but many community events are happening on Saturday April 23rd. Check your local community calendar for more info.

Orange Audubon Society meetings are held 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

This Month's Program: April 21, 2005 - 7:00pm Care of Injured and Orphaned Animals by Kathy Paynter

Ever wonder whether to put a fallen baby bird back in its nest or not? Birds have an extremely poor sense of smell, so a mother bird WILL accept a baby back, contrary to conventional wisdom, according to our April speaker. Kathy Paynter, a Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator from DeLand, loves to talk about the art and science of wildlife rehabilitation and to show off her current charges. Bring all your questions and expect close-up views of baby possums, baby owls, blue jays, mourning doves, several species of songbirds, and other animals.

Kathy's practice can always use help, particularly now in the nesting season, and if you feel inspired to bring items, here is a wish list: Beneful Dry Puppy Chow, jarred baby cereals (mixed fruit yogurt or other mixed fruit flavors, creamed corn, mixed vegetables, and strained meat including chicken and turkey flavors), and cuttle bone (found in pet stores, a calcium supplement for birds). Paper towels and clean towels that are not frayed are also welcome.

Bring a child to share this up close look at these animals! Even if you have no child to bring, join us April 21 for a fascinating program!
Deborah Green, Vice President

April Field Trip - Mead Gardens & Center for Birds of Prey

Don't miss a great day April 23rd !! We will bird Mead Gardens in the morning, *****AND,***** this year we will be on an "insiders" tour of the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey at 1pm!! The gardens are always fun in April as the migrants are all about! Past years even included some hummingbird time! We will be hiking the gardens, but you can still join in if you just want to sit and watch since there are many areas that are great to just pick out a spot and wait on the birds.

The tour of the Center for Birds of Prey will surely be a delight. We will make the short drive to Maitland after a lunch at the picnic area at Mead Gardens (so bring a lunch for yourself, and maybe a snack for some-

one else?) We will leave Mead in time to be ready to start our tour in Maitland at 1pm. The tour is limited to 20 people, so please call and let me know if you are planning to attend. The tour is also limited to age 12 and older since we will be "behind the scenes" to some extent. We will also want to be prepared to make a \$5.00 donation for each of us on the tour. You can leave a message on my cell phone (407- 619-4484) with your name(s) and I will confirm with a return call to the number that you leave. If you have not had the joy of touring the center, don't miss this great opportunity.

We will meet at Mead Gardens in the parking lot and be ready to start our hike at 7:45 am. See you there!

President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

Spring has sprung!! The male American Goldfinches are really getting yellow. They may be gone by the time this newsletter reaches you. The male Indigo Buntings are also changing color; they'll be gone before long also.

Did you read about the Red-Tailed Hawk named Pale Male living near Central Park in New York City? It's great to see that he and his mate have returned and nested after having been evicted. Way to go!!

That may be all the good news for a while. On the environmental front, April 22nd is the anniversary of the first Earth Day. Once again, things haven't changed much and, arguably, what has changed is not for

the better. Locally, Freeing of the Ocklawaha is still stalled; nationally, protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is very much in doubt (all for less than a year's worth of oil); and globally, this morning on Morning Edition I heard that the big puzzle is whether to attempt to clean up the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (causing global warming) by disposing of it in the ocean, where they have evidence of damage to that ecosystem, or try to treat the symptom in some other way. (We wouldn't want to get at the root of the problem, would we?) By capturing the carbon dioxide gas from smokestacks and then pumping it two miles under the ocean's surface, it turns into a slushy solid, because of

the temperature, with a consistency like Karo Syrup that sinks to the ocean floor. Unfortunately, one of the 'laws' of ecology is that 'There Is No Away'. 'Solving' problems in this manner, simply creates more and different problems; unfortunately though: out of sight, out of mind.

How about you try to make a difference? On Earth Day, do at least one more thing that will help make a difference for our environment — write a letter to a legislator, send a contribution to an environmental organization, or make that additional effort to reduce, reuse, recycle in your own household. It can have a positive effect. Your efforts will be appreciated. Happy Birding!!

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CHAIR

The Orange County Comprehensive Plan amendment for the proposed ICP Development of Regional Impact (DRI) in southeast Orange County was denied by the County Planning & Zoning commission on March 17th. The proposal will go before the Board of County Commissioners on April 19th in a public hearing. Although the County staff recommended approval of the proposal, the P&Z Commission heard many speakers asking for this proposal to be delayed until the Environmental Resource Management Study initiated by District 4 Commissioner Linda Stewart can be finished this fall. The ICP mixed use development will have industrial, commercial, office buildings, and over 3,400 residential units in the project. The environmental impacts and transportation problems that are expected with this development, and others already approved in the area, will be better addressed after this study is done. The Study would hopefully help

the county address the environmental impacts to nearby conservation lands and the transportation infrastructure shortfalls that will be exacerbated by the ICP proposal. Orange Audubon is asking the County Commission to deny this request at this time and allow the Environmental Resource Management study to be completed before more development is approved in this area. Please call your Commissioner and ask for them vote against approving the ICP DRI Comp Plan Amendment on April 19th.

In the Florida Legislature, there is Good news and Bad news. The Good News includes words from Gov. Bush that sound like he is taking a strong stand on strengthening Growth Management laws. A draft bill now being written, that may be in final form by the time you are reading this, would focus on school, transportation and water concurrency for local governments in their approval or denial of development proposals. The Wekiva Parkway & Protection Act "glitch" bill, to clarify certain requirements in last year's legislation is moving along, and has passed out of the Senate. Senate Bill 440 and 444, by Sen. Paula Dockery, and House PCB WNR 05-02 (a committee bill) address Regional Water Supply Planning and Water Resources. The PCB WNR bill is similar to the Senate bill, but it contains added developer friendly language that could hamper the reservation of water for fish, wildlife and the environment that is now allowable under current Statutes.

The Bad News includes Agricultural Economic Development bills, SB 716 by Sen. Argenziano and HB 561 by Rep. Pickins that are moving along too well. These bills would allow "agricultural enclaves", of up to 5,120

acres to automatically be allowed to rezone for development if 75% of the perimeter is surrounded by commercial, industrial, or higher density residential development and public services will be available within 5 years. Local governments would have no control over these requests if these requirements are met. A bad amendment has been added that would require local governments to act on Comp Plan amendments of "enclaves" within 180 days or they are automatically approved, with or without public input. This is a bad idea that could make our runaway sprawl problem even worse. Call your State Senator and State Representative and ask them to vote No for this in committees and if and when it gets to the floor of their respective chamber.

Congress has included the amendment to drill in ANWR into this year's budget resolution, but the fight's not over yet. The budget process is long and complex and this drilling provision makes a controversial budget even more contentious. Please continue to remind your Congressmen and US Senators that we oppose any and all further drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The wildlife habitat of ANWR supports millions of migratory birds, large herds of caribou and other diverse wildlife. The ANWR wilderness deserves to be left in its natural state and we are the keepers of those places. The battle is far from over – continue to advocate keeping Arctic drilling out of the final US budget.

Legislative Updates can be read at these websites: www.audubonofflorida.org, www.1000fof.org, and national issues can be followed through the National Audubon website: www.audubon.org.

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

<http://www.orangeaudubonfl.org>

Saturday the 19th was "Scrub Jay Day" for twelve very lucky "field-trippers"!! Would you believe about 100 Scrub Jays that delighted the group with visits to heads, arms, and shoulders posing for pictures and just "checking out" the humans. The group was treated to wonderful teaching by the staff biologist for the Lyonia Preserve. We even learned the reasons why it is not a good idea to feed the Jays peanuts! Not healthy for

them! The hike was enjoyed by all as another 30 species were logged as the group explored the scrub. Another highlight was the beautiful Golden-crowned kinglet that posed low enough for all to see the display of his crown! The preserve is a great place to visit! Go and enjoy the Jays sometime, but leave the peanuts at home. Thanks again to Dick Smith and Bob Wheeler for their brave leadership and expert birding.

Annual Elections This Month

April is the month for the annual meeting of Orange Audubon Society (OAS). OAS members present at the April 17th meeting will be asked to vote (unless we have more than 5 nominees, it will be voice acclamation) for 5 persons to serve on the Board of Directors for a three-year term starting after the June 2005 Chertok Photography Contest awards and potluck dinner meeting. Current slate for these seats include: Susan Clary, Danielle Ponsolle, Bob Stamps, and Pete Vogt with one member yet to be determined. Are you interested in serving your society? Please contact me if you think you might be (407-886-2925 or LNS-OAS@att.net), even if you have reservations about doing so. Thanks. Loretta Satterthwaite

Rehabilitator Needs

It's that time of year when all the critters are doing 'what comes naturally'. This generally leads to a lot more of them being taken to our local rehabilitators with injuries or as orphans. Please remember that each of these rehabbers has a long list of needed items (paper towels, dry puppy chow, laundry soap, baby cereal, unsalted nuts, soft cloths and towels, to name a few). Cash donations also help and can be used for buying specific dietary products. So, be generous — as you always are — and make whatever contribution you can when you or someone you know makes use of these emergency facilities. Thank you.

Old Field Guides Needed

Recently I returned from a birding trip to the Yucatan. When I was leaving, our bird guide Alberto asked if I could send him any old field guides I might have. He lives in an area near a lagoon that is a feeding area for thousands of flamingos. People of the area take tourists out in boats to see the flamingos and Alberto wants to improve their birding skills and teach them the names of the birds in English. He believes this will create more opportunities for them in the field of ecotourism.

If you have any old editions that you're willing to donate to this group, you can bring them to me at a meeting or send them directly to Alberto at the address below. North American guides are fine since many of the species are the same and any guide book is better than none.

Alberto Rodriguez Piste
8 No, 108A
13 y 15
Celestun, Yuc. Mex

Please call me if you have any questions.
Ellen Rocco 407-282-8547

Thank You, 'Santa'

On Friday March 4th, Orange Audubon Society (OAS) was presented with a gift of a new all-weather tent for use at our fundraising and outreach events. For the last two years, the OAS Board of Directors has budgeted funds for acquisition of an exhibitor's tent, but had been unable to locate one that fit our needs. As luck would have it, at the Orlando Wetlands Park (OWP) event, OAS volunteer Bob Stamps suggested that I go look at the tent being used by Oakland Nature Preserve/Friends of Lake Apopka. They had just purchased a tent at one of the big warehouse stores (which seem to carry them only 'in season') and it looked like it would suit our needs perfectly. It was suggested to me by another of our OWP volunteers, Dave Wilson, that OAS put this item on its wish list. I explained to him that it was even on our 'budgeted' wish list and that it was merely a matter of finding the time to get to the warehouse and pick it up. He said, "say no more". At the Leu Gardens event the following week, we were setting up a brand new tent, complete with sides! This is just one of the things that 'Santa Dave' has done for OAS. We appreciate friends like this very, very much.

Loretta Satterthwaite, President

Thank You, Volunteers

For Orange Audubon Society's fundraising and outreach event at the Leu Garden's Annual Plant Sale, we — once again — have many volunteers to thank. Mary Keim and Randy Snyder again allowed us the use of their tables, and Randy and Dave Wilson helped me set up the tent, tables and display on Friday afternoon. Volunteers who helped with merchandise and membership promotion and sales and/or 'tear down' on Saturday and Sunday included some familiar faces, as well as some new faces. Thank yous are extended to: Mary, Randy, Dave, Bob Stamps, Mimi Shao, Marie Bostrom, Ellen Rocco, Ayme Smith, Chris Gandy, Regina Russell, Suzanne Gallagher, Claire Hilliker, Leesa Sward, and Teresa Williams. We hope to see them again at these types of events for OAS.

Loretta Satterthwaite

Get Ready for Birdathon on April 16th!

Calling all Birders and Birding Teams!!! Remember to mark your calendars for this upcoming Saturday, April 16th!!! Whether you decide to take off at the crack of dawn for a day of marathon birding or simply stroll your local birding sites before heading for a cappuccino, please get out and help us with our annual Birdathon fundraiser. A pledge sheet has once again been included for your convenience.

Birdathon Green Swamp Team – Meet at Peggy Cox's home in the Green Swamp near Clermont, 8am, on Saturday, April 16th. We will birdwatch on my property, in the area near my home, and visit the Scrub Jay Restoration Project at a nearby Native Plant nursery, BB Browns Gardens. Contact Peggy for directions to her property (352-429-1042 or pegcox@att.net).

Amateur Behavioral Observations are Important

On February 26, seven budding bird behaviorists attended Dr. Jim Davis's Interpretive Birding Workshop in Maitland. Davis, who formerly taught Behavioral Ecology at University of Minnesota and lives part of the year in Australia, now lives part of the year in Sarasota and is eager to give workshops in Florida. His Interpretive Birding magazine summarizes bird behavioral research as presented at conferences and features illustrated articles by many esteemed scientists.

Davis is now developing one-page "Notable Behaviors" sheets for different bird species, based on studies. Similarly to how most birders list species seen, the behavior-oriented birder can check off the behaviors seen. Davis exhorts us to watch birds to see how they behave and interact and points out how amateur observations are important.

Davis explained that carotenoids in a bird's diet can be transformed by metabolic pathways to red and yellow pigments. Only healthy birds are able to do these costly metabolic conversions. Throughout March I watched my winter goldfinches turn from gray-brown to gorgeous yellow. I also saw the goldfinches eating the yellow catkins of oaks, which were the main yellow food item in my yard. Did the goldfinches take up the carotenoids from the oak flowers and then convert them to the yellow pigment? This amateur naturalist is speculating.

If you missed the Ibirding workshop because you didn't know about it or participated in the OAS-sponsored Wetlands Park Festival, regrettably scheduled the same day, let me know. If there is interest, we will hold the Interpretive Birding workshop again next year. Email sabal@cfl.rr.com, call 407 553-0028 or catch me at a meeting. We want your input as we develop next year's programs!

Deborah Green, Vice-President for Programs

Central Florida Butterflies Field Course



Orange Audubon Society is sponsoring a field course on Central Florida Butterflies. The 9-hour course (3 sessions of 3 hours each) is being offered on Saturdays, May 7, 14, and 21, 2005 from 2 pm to 5 pm. This course will involve observation and identification of butterflies at Orlando Wetlands Park and adjacent Seminole Ranch Conservation Area near Christmas, FL. Instructors will be Orange Audubon members Randy Snyder and Mary Keim.

Early registration fee is \$25 (postmarked on or before April 30, 2005). Make check payable to ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY. Note on check "Butterfly Field Course" and mail to: Randy Snyder, 1584 Outlook Street, Orlando, FL 32806-7806.

The regular registration fee of \$35 is due at the beginning of class on May 7th.

Recommended field guide is Butterflies through Binoculars: Florida by Glassberg, Minno, and Calhoun, 2000, Oxford Univ. Also recommended are close-focusing (6 ft. or less) binoculars. Eagle Optics 8x32 Ranger (www.eagleoptics.com), for example, has a minimum focus of 3 feet. (See www.naba.org/binocs.html or www.birds.cornell.edu/publications/livingbird/spring99/binos.html for other binocular suggestions).

For more information call 407-851-5416.

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OAS Field Trips Provide Photo Opportunities for Chertok Contest Entries

This year's Orange Audubon Society (OAS) field trip schedule and other activities provide an abundance of super locales and great opportunities for photo buffs interested in competing in the 2005 (17th Annual) OAS Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest – deadline May 19, 2005.

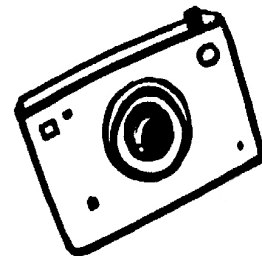
April and May field trips, surveys and butterfly ID classes will take you to such nature-rich locales as: Lake Apopka (4/06), Ft. DeSoto (4/8-9), Mead Gardens and Center for Birds of Prey (4/23) and Orlando Wetlands Park (butterfly ID classes beginning 5/07), where an abundance of Florida native plants and animals, glorious sunrises, sunsets and waterways may be found.

The 2005 contest theme, Florida's Natives – Birds and Beyond, allows photographers an array of choices as to subject matter. OAS' mission, like the contest objectives, seeks to foster interest in all of Florida's wildlife and natural areas. Hence, OAS encourages entries depicting any of Florida's native animals, native plants, natural landscapes, seascapes and the like.

Prizes and recognition for winners include: cash of \$125/\$75/\$50 and gift certificates to Colonial Photo & Hobby, Orlando (CPH), face values \$100/\$50/\$25 to the first/second/third place winners, respectively; ribbons for all winners, including honorable mentions. Winning photos also vie for the opportunity to grace the cover of OAS' annual brochure and be featured by CPH on enlarged in-store displays.

For complete contest rules and application forms, visit the OAS website: (www.orangeaudubonfl.org). Official application forms may also be obtained at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N. Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL and all future OAS meetings or by contacting Teresa: 407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair



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FIELD TRIPS Bob Ferguson
FINANCE Milton Heiberg
HOSPITALITY Tom Williams
MEMBERSHIP Mike Daley
NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

April 2, 2005 - Saturday
LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

April 8-9, 2005 - Fri-Sat
Ft. DeSoto Field Trip; St. Petersburg FL
Dick Smith 407-257-7361
dick.smith@zepamfg.com

April 9, 2005 - Saturday
Lake Jessup Conservation Area Bird Survey.
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536(h)/407-659-
4853(w)

April 9, 2005 - Saturday
Welcome Back Songbirds Festival
Titusville, FL
www.nbbd.com/festivals/

April 16, 2005 - Saturday
OAS Birdathon 2005
Claire Hilliker 407-677-5374
hilliker@iag.net

April 16, 2005 - Saturday
Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193
dex@dexwine.com

April 21, 2005 - Thursday
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

April 23, 2005 - Saturday
OAS Field Trip - Orlando Wetlands Park
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850

April 30, 2005 - Saturday
Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long
Branch Park Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

May 7, 2005 - Saturday
LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

May 7, 2005 - Saturday
OAS Field Trip - Bull Creek WMA
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850

May 12-15, 2005 - Thur-Sun
First Coast Birding & Nature Festival
St. Augustine FL
www.visitoldcity.com/interests/nature/festival

May 19, 2005 - Thursday
General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

May 21, 2005 - Saturday
OAS Field Trip - Viera Waste Water Treatment
Plant, Viera FL
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850

Celebrate Earth Day on Friday April 22, 2005

Join millions of people all over the world and participate in the 35th annual Earth Day celebration. Weather it be attending one of many community festivals happening that weekend or participating in a river cleanup project or recycling drive, there are several ways that you and your family can enjoy yourselves. A few of the many events are listed below. Check your local community calendar for more info.

8th Annual Earth Day Symposium
“The Environment and Our Community”
ORMC (321-841-5111), Free to the public
Multi-Purpose Rooms - First Floor
Free Parking - Parking Deck C
April 23, 2005 — 8:30am-1:30pm

Friends of the Enchanted Forest Present
Earth Day 2005 in the Enchanted Forest
Sanctuary
April 23, 2005 — 9:00am - 3:00pm

Earth Day under the Oaks
Riverside Park, Vero Beach FL
April 23, 2005 — 10:00am - 4:00pm

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