



"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...

... Chertok Nature Photography Contest submission deadline is May 19, 2005. See p3 for details.



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: May 19, 2005 - 7:00pm Along the Florida Trail by Sandra Friend

The Florida Trail Association has embraced the task of building and maintaining hiking trails across the state since 1964, focusing on the 1,400-mile Florida National Scenic Trail. Our May speaker Sandra Friend is an avid hiker and talented writer who has guided hikers on the Florida National Scenic Trail through a series of books and articles. There is plenty of wildlife to see out on the trail, and Sandra will share with us slides of her favorite hiking spots and some of what can be seen there.

Join us May 19 for a fascinating program!
Deborah Green, Vice President

May Field Trip - South Brevard WTF, Viera FL

On Saturday, May 21, 2005, we will have our final field trip of the 2004-2005 year. We will travel to the South Brevard Water Treatment facility in Viera. This is a driving trip, as we are allowed to take vehicles up onto the berms. Last year we had really good luck and saw a total of 43 species for the day.

We'll meet on Saturday morning in the rear parking lot of the Burger King at the corner of Hwy 50 and Alafaya Trail. Be there in time to sign in, get assigned to a carpool

and LEAVE by 7:30AM SHARP. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, field guides, sun-screen, insect repellent, water and a picnic lunch. We will bird until approximately 11:30-12:00 then enjoy our lunch at one of the observation towers.

If you have any questions, please contact either Dick Smith (407-257-7361 Cell; dick.smith@zepamfg.com) or Bob Ferguson (rfergusonhsd@earthlink.net; 407-644-7850).

READ ABOUT THE REDISCOVERY OF THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER!

What wonderful news, that the bird called the "Lord God Bird" by native Americans, has been found in eastern Arkansas and a hopefully sustainable population is being monitored and protected by The Big Woods Conservation Partnership. The Partnership was formed by several conservation organizations including The Nature Conservancy and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are

managing the eastern Arkansas habitat where the great birds live. Check out the following websites for more information and the full story: www.ivorybill.org; www.audubon.org, www.tnc.org, and www.birds.cornell.edu.

There is always hope - we hope this is a new beginning for this magnificent bird.
Peggy Cox

President's Message LORETTA SATTERTHWAITE, PRESIDENT

Ivory-Billed Woodpecker in Arkansas!! Life-listers must be filling the airplanes to get to Arkansas after this latest report. On April 28, 2005, National Public Radio (www.npr.org) did a story about scientists who have been secretly studying this possible sighting for over a year. Only fleeting glimpses have been made, but some of them were caught on film, so it is believed that the Ivory-Bills are really not extinct. What an exciting find! Perhaps even more rare than this sighting is the fact that scientists and conservationists were able to keep this quiet to give conservation groups and government agencies time to protect the bird's habitat. The Nature Conservancy, along with the state and the federal Fish and Wildlife Service, had already been buying and protecting land along the White and Cache Rivers. Since the discovery, they've bought more land to protect the bird and its habitat. Kudos to TNC and the agencies involved in these purchases; typically when something of value is found in an area, the news leaks out and land prices skyrocket simply because

of the urgency of acquisition (i.e. greed at taxpayers expense).

About a month ago, I had an email from a former inhabitant of central Florida asking for information about Kraft Azalea Park in Maitland that had a plaque at the base of a tree that he believed commemorated an Ivory-Billed Woodpecker that lived in that tree. The writer questioned whether there might still be Ivory-Bills there. I did not find any information about the plaque (perhaps some of our long-time residents of Maitland can help with info?), and I responded to the gentleman and told him that the Ivory-Billed was indeed extinct — that searches in Louisiana in the previous year or two, in response to other 'sightings', had been unable to verify its existence. Perhaps I, and others, have been too quick to think the worst. Once again, the wonders of Nature are overwhelming.

How to continue after that introduction? Let me simply state that it is for that very reason that one of the missions of the OAS Chertok Nature Photography Contest (see related article) is to promote interest and

concern for preserving the native fauna and flora of Florida. If we all learn more about native Florida, perhaps we'll come to love it more and fight to protect it. The implication would be that we are protecting habitat that is the home of all kinds of creatures — no more "what good is it?"; its worth is that it exists — for whatever may come next. With that in mind, get your cameras in hand and venture out and take that photo that might spark an interest in helping to preserve natural Florida for the ages. The deadline is nearly upon us, so don't hesitate.

Again, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have responded to OAS' fundraising appeals — the annual letter, the birdathon, volunteering to help at our fundraising/outreach events, etc. It has, so far, been a successful year for us and we are on target to make our budget. We couldn't do it without your continuing support. Remember it's not too late to sign up for our butterfly field course, another fun fundraising technique. The first of the three classes is May 7th; hope to see you there.

Conservation News PEGGY COX, CONSERVATION CHAIR

Good sense prevailed at the Orange County Board of County Commissioners early in April when the developers of the ICP Development of Regional Impact agreed to postpone the Comp Plan amendment hearing that had been scheduled for April 19th until this fall. District 4 Commissioner Stewart had asked for this action to allow the completion of the Environmental Resource Management Study that is underway in that south-

east part of Orange County. The Study will help the county address environmental impacts to nearby conservation lands and identify and address public infrastructure inadequacies before the ICP DRI is approved. OAS members will continue to be involved in helping identify concerns that need to be addressed by the Study. If you have an interest in helping in this area of southeast Orange County and keeping informed on the progress of the study, please call or email me (352-429-1042 / pegcox@att.net) or Marge Holt (407-679-6759 / marjorieholt@earthlink.net).

Gov. Bush and the Department of Community Affairs, with the backing of some Legislators, had proposed Growth Management Legislation that would have required concurrency in transportation and school capacity as a pre-requisite for development. This legislation wasn't to stop growth or even slow it down - but to require that public infrastructure would be in place to handle the impacts of this growth. It wasn't perfect - but it was a bolder attempt than we have seen in some time to make the investment in public infrastructure that is necessary to accommodate all the new development.

Unfortunately, as I write this, both the Senate and House bills dealing in these concurrency issues and other growth management problems have been weakened and amended to basically do little to change the current developer/builder driven process. Most of the State funds proposed for helping implement this legislation are for building more roads - under transportation concurrency - no plans for public transit and other modes of transportation that could effectively deal with Florida's growing population. The Legislative session ends on May 6th so by the time you read this - whatever is being sent to the Governor may or may not have the support of the environmental community. Visit several of these websites for analysis, comment and any requests for the Governor: www.audubonofflorida.org, www.1000fof.org, or www.sierra.org.

Bird surveys continue through the summer - check out Lake Apopka North Shore Restoration Area Survey on the first Saturdays - contact Pam Bowen at 386-329-4870, and Lake Louisa State Park Survey on the second Saturdays - contact Peggy Cox at 352-429-1042 or Rosi Mulholland at rosi.mulholland@dep.state.fl.us.

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>

April Field Trip Report DICK SMITH

Fourteen OAS members and their guests enjoyed very nice walk in the park on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at Mead Gardens in Winter Park. The weather was great and the birding was just as good. We had thirteen (13) species of warblers; Orange-crowned, Northern Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Prairie, Palm, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Worn-eating, Northern Waterthrush and Common Yellowthroat. This is why we go to Mead Gardens and we certainly got our "money's worth". Altogether, we had 41 species for the morning. All in all, it was a good day for a walk in the park with good birding friends.

Ft. DeSoto Park Field Trip Report

On Saturday, April 9, 2005, thirty-three OAS members and their guests enjoyed an absolutely glorious day at one of the premier birding hot spots in North America, Ft. DeSoto Park in Pinellas County. After spending the night at nearby Eckerd College, we arrived at the park at 8:00 AM and split into two groups to better cover the park.

Although we did not see as many warblers as we would like to have, we had a really productive day, recording 73 species for the day. We had thirteen (13) species of Shorebirds between East Beach and North Beach. Some of the notable birds for the day were Red-throated Loon, Magnificent Frigatebird, Reddish Egret, Redhead and Lesser Scaup, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plover, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Pectoral Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Bonaparte's Gull, Least Tern, Black-hooded Parakeet, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Blackpoll and Black-and-white Warbler, Summer and Scarlet Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Orchard Oriole.

Many birders were able to list some "life" birds, which is always a treat. All in all, it was a good day to spend in a beautiful place with good birding friends.

Dick Smith, Field Trip Leader

Summer Meeting Date Set

Saturday July 23rd has been selected by the Board of Directors for the summer planning meeting. The meeting will begin no later than 10:00 AM and typically ends around 3:00 PM. Location for the meeting will be announced in next month's OASis. All OAS members are welcome to attend this meeting to become more involved in the behind-the-scenes activities of the chapter. Mark your calendars now so you can keep that day free for attendance.

Election Results

Susan Clary, Danielle Ponsolle, Dick Smith, Bob Stamps, and Pete Vogt were elected at the annual Orange Audubon Society (OAS) meeting in April to fill the five directors' positions that were up for election this year. Thanks to each of them for volunteering. Their willingness to work with the other board of director members to help OAS set and meet goals for the upcoming year is appreciated. Congratulations to OAS for having a full board for the next activity year!! Thanks again to the nominating committee (Mike Daley, Mary Keim, and Dick Smith) for bringing a full slate to the members for the election. Loretta

Chertok Photo Contest Deadline – May 19th

Don't forget the deadline for postmark or hand delivery of entries in Orange Audubon Society's 2005 (17th Annual) Chertok Open Nature Photography Contest is May 19, 2005. Winners will be announced at OAS' annual covered dish dinner and program presentation of contest entries and awarding of prizes on June 16, 2005. Entry forms with complete contest rules can be obtained by giving your name and street (or e-mail) address to Teresa (407-644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com), by visiting the OAS website www.orangeaudubonfl.org or in person at Colonial Photo & Hobby, 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL or the May 19th OAS program at Leu Gardens. We appreciate your support of native nature photography. Good luck, all participants.

Teresa Williams, CNPC Chair

Birdathon 2005 a Success!

Although the information is still coming in, it would seem that our annual Birdathon fundraiser was a success once again this year.

Several teams scoured the Central Florida area in search of as many bird species as possible, starting at the crack of dawn and going until darkness and weariness forced them to end their day.

We'd like to thank all the teams that participated this year and who helped make this fundraiser another success. We look forward to receiving final counts and funds from those who have not already sent them in. Look for totals in the next edition of the OASis, and Thanks Again!!!

Claire Hilliker, Birdathon Chair

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MEMBERSHIP Mike Daley
NEWSLETTER Claire Hilliker

Calendar of Events

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 14, 2005 - Saturday
Lake Jessup Conservation Area Bird Survey.
Lorne Malo 407-349-2536/407-659-4853(w)

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 - South Brevard Waste Water
Treatment Plant, Viera FL
Bob Ferguson 407-644-7850

May 21, 2005 - Saturday
Mead Gardens Bird Survey; 8:00am-10:00am.
Dexter Richardson 407-760-8193
dex@dexwine.com

May 28, 2005 - Saturday
Hal Scott Regional Preserve & Park and Long
Branch Park Butterfly Survey.
Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

June 4, 2005 - Saturday
LANSRA Bird Survey; 7:30am-Noon.
Pam Bowen 386-329-4870
pbowen@sjrwmd.com

June 16, 2005 - Thursday
Annual Pot Luck and Chertok Nature Photogra-
phy Contest, **6:00pm**, Leu Gardens.
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

July 23, 2005 - Saturday
Summer OAS Board of Directors Meeting
9:00am-3:00pm, Location TBD
Loretta Satterthwaite 407-886-2925

June 16th Silent Auction Will Double Your Pleasure

Donations are welcome for the silent auc-
tion that takes place on June 16th, the night
of OAS' scrumptious covered dish dinner
and finale program of the season — the
showing of the 2005 Chertok Open Nature
Photography Contest (CNPC) entries, an-
nouncement of winners and awarding of
prizes.

Items donated to the silent auction will
be categorized into three types: merchandise
and gift certificates, etc. donated by area busi-
nesses/other friends; small 'rummage' items
(treasures from your closet or attic); and the
traditional Make It! Bake It! Grow It! items

created by you. Whatever your talent – the
arts, crafts, photography, a green thumb, a
way with the written or vocalized word, etc.
– show us your stuff and show OAS your
support by making a donation.

How, you ask? Just contact Teresa by
May 31st (mwilliams@cfl.rr.com 407-644-
0796) with these details: your name and
phone number, description of item(s), retail
or appraised value, starting bid amount (if
desired) and the OAS fund you wish to ben-
efit from the proceeds – i.e., the CNPC En-
dowment or general operating fund. This
information will enable organizers to prepare

bid sheets and order and arrange an appro-
priate number of tables in advance. Bring
your donations to the CNPC program on
June 16th and tell volunteers at the auction
tables that a bid sheet has been prepared for
your items.

In addition to the auction, you will have
one last opportunity to purchase OAS t-
shirts and other 'must have' items, so don't
forget to bring cash and checkbook, because
OAS does not do plastic! Your support will
be sincerely appreciated. Acknowledgments
for tax purposes are available upon request.

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