



"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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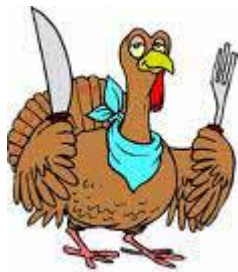
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This Month's Program: November 20, 2008 - 7:00pm Scrub Jays in Central Florida by Ralph Risch

The Florida Scrub Jay is Florida's only bird species unique to Florida. This beautiful and intelligent jay is losing habitat day by day. Some of our publicly owned lands in Central Florida provide a good home for the species, through specific efforts to do prescribed burns and maintain optimal habitat. Ralph Risch, a wildlife biologist at the Seminole State Forest (north of SR 46), has taken on the task of building populations of Florida Scrub Jays in the state forest. At our next program, we will learn all about these efforts and the state of scrub jays in Central Florida. Join us November 20 for a fascinating program.

Deborah Green, Vice President



Have a Safe and Happy Thanksgiving!!!

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

November Field Trip - Econ River Wilderness Area

On Saturday, November 22nd, OAS will visit Econ River Wilderness Area in Oviedo. We'll hike about 3 miles through sandhill, pine flatwoods and riverine swamp. For more information about this Seminole County Natural Lands 240 acre site, visit their website: www.seminolecountyfl.gov/leisure/natland/econ.asp

If you attend, you'll see a big difference between the Econlockhatchee River water

levels shown in the photographs at that web site and the current water levels.

Meet at 7:30 am in the parking lot of the Winn-Dixie at 1021 Lockwood Blvd. (at the east end of Mitchell Hammock Rd.). Bring drink, birding gear and lunch (for after the hike). Please join us. If you have questions about the trip, contact us at 407-851-5416.

October Field Trip Report MARY KEIM, FIELD TRIP CHAIR

On Saturday, October 18th, 18 birders, including 4 first-timers and 4 second-timers, attended the OAS trip to Bill Frederick Park at Turkey Lake in SW Orlando. At least 33 bird species were observed including Pied-billed Grebe, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, and American Redstart. The Children's Farm had friendly horses and goats that provided some close looks. Other

vertebrates included Raccoon, Eastern Gray Squirrel and Southeastern Five-lined Skink.

Eleven butterfly species were seen including Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, White Peacock, Gulf Fritillary, Zebra Heliconian and Long-tailed Skipper. Clouds of midges that stirred out of the grass near Turkey Lake spooked a few in the group. Wildflowers in bloom included Caesar's Weed, Rattlebox, Palafoxia, and Goldenrod. Fruits included Winged Sumac, Hog Plum or Tallowwood, Beautyberry, and Persimmon.

Paper...reduce, reuse, recycle

BOB STAMPS, PRESIDENT

As we each try to reduce our footprint on the environment, we can do little things that, if we all do them, can make a significant difference. Let's start this month with paper.

Reduce:

- Sign up to receive your newsletter, magazines, account statements, etc. electronically.
- Don't print out e-mails and attachments unnecessarily.
- When you produce documents, pay attention to formatting and use techniques to prevent run-ons of small amount of text onto an extra page—automated wordprocessing functions like “make it fit” and “shrink to fit” can help.
- Preview documents (“print preview”) to make sure they will print out properly before you actually print them out.
- Print documents 2-sided with duplexing or printing odd pages and then reprinting the even pages on the other side of the pages.

Reuse:

- Use the back sides of old 1-sided pages.

Recycle:

- Make sure that discarded paper products are recycled, not buried in landfills like trash.
- Buy paper with recycled content (especially post-consumer) to encourage companies to produce and market recycled paper (especially unbleached).

In case you missed the programs...

Our September program on the Wildlife and Preservation of the St. Johns River was attended by a record audience for Orange Audubon. Following an exquisite “warm up” of photography illustrating wildlife of the floodplain swamp by OAS Board member Milton Heiberg, the St. Johns Riverkeeper Neil Armingeon told us the state of our region's most important river. The St. Johns River has been named one of the 10 most endangered rivers in the country by American Rivers, a Washington D.C.-based nonprofit group dedicated to waterway conservation. It landed this list because of plans to allow the removal of millions of gallons of water to irrigate existing homes and new

homes being built throughout Central Florida.

The Riverkeeper told us about the suit his organization has filed against parties involved with tapping the river. Those who believe this effort is worthwhile can join the Riverkeeper's nonprofit organization. Cost for individual is only \$30. Send to St. Johns Riverkeeper, Inc., Jacksonville University, 2800 University Blvd. N, Jacksonville, FL 32211. The Riverkeeper's website is www.stjohnsriverkeeper.org.

Armingeon also told us about the Florida Water Congress that was held on September 25-26 in Orlando. The highest priority item generated by public comment and by the delegates to the Congress was increased emphasis on water conservation. Audubon of Florida's own Charles Lee spoke eloquently of how the technology to use water more efficiently is available. It is time for adequate funds to be put in this direc-

tion. The Florida Water Congress collected opinions toward recommendations on water policy to the Century Commission who will then make recommendations to the Governor and legislature. It is still not too late to comment. Go to <https://www.communicationsmgr.com/PCS/PublicGUI/> or search for Florida Water Congress comment.

In our October program, South Florida birding guide Larry Manfredi gave us tips for finding the most migrants, such as going out after rains associated with a northern front. Islands, like that of Ft. DeSoto Park or St. George Island in the Panhandle, that concentrate the birds are the easiest places. Larry leads tours to the Dry Tortugas, another migrant trap. His website, where you can find out more about his many tours, is southfloridabirding.com. Join him in the field at the Space Coast Birding Festival coming up on January 21-26, 2009.

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>

Finished Shopping for the Holidays?

Me either! This is just a quick reminder that Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be selling its nature-oriented merchandise (adult and children t-shirts, tote bags, nest boxes, caps, signs, mugs, books, etc.) at the November meeting. We will be set-up and selling no later than 6:30pm, so come early and browse and buy! OAS can not accept plastic (debit or credit), so bring cash or your checkbook.

Also available at the meeting will be Czech Republic glass bead jewelry, courtesy of member Carol Wilson, with 20% of the proceeds donated to Orange Audubon. Just another good reason to shop at our meeting on the 20th of November. BTW, if you could help with our merchandise sales activity, please contact me (407-886-2925 or email LNS-oas@att.net). Thanks.
Loretta Satterthwaite

Orange Audubon Society's Needs Equal Opportunities For You!

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has several needs. The one thing needed to fulfill these needs is our greatest single need — **living, breathing, active people**. OAS is fortunate in that it has many members — close to 2,000. Of those, a few hundred participate regularly in programs, field trips, photography contests, etc. Of those, a mere handful participate as officers, directors, volunteers, instructors, and committee members. Some of them have been “on the job” for many years. And, frankly, they could use a little help!

But instead of standing before you, hat in hand, saying “please”, I say, rather, “consider the possibilities, consider the opportunities for you”. There are many opportunities for you, valued members, to strengthen our organization and help shape its future, its activities, its policies, and its effectiveness.

Do you enjoy the programs? Do you value all that information and all those beautiful pictures presented month after month by leading experts in the fields of ornithology, wildlife biology, conservation, and activism? Do you enjoy the field trips with knowledgeable leaders to exciting and interesting destinations? Have you gained from the knowledge presented by instructors in bird ID, butterfly ID, ecology, and photographic techniques? Do you appreciate the tireless efforts by our officers and activists to address public policy in order to help guarantee that those beautiful places, those marvelous creatures, and our quality of life are not smothered under tons of concrete, steel, and insidious sprawl?

For several years I was invited to join the board of directors but I always declined, content to be just a member. But then I thought about all that I had learned, the places I had visited with OAS, the wonderful things that I had seen and experienced, and, most importantly, the people I had met and the friendships that I had formed, many that will doubtless be life-long; and I thought that the time had come for me to give-back. The time had come for me to give a little more of my time to the organization and to the people that had given me so much.

Our needs are your opportunities:

1. **Officers and Directors** – there will be several vacancies this coming year.
2. **Committee members** – Conservation, education, finance, programs, publicity, membership, bird surveys, etc.
3. **Hospitality** – Someone to set up and then pack up all those goodies every month. (Sometimes there are left-overs – yum!)
4. **An editor** for the monthly **OASis** newsletter – not a hard task for the computer literate but vital.
5. **Volunteers** to assist at various public events in membership outreach, tee-shirt sales, etc.
6. **A computer “geek”** to help redesign and maintain our website.
7. **And other opportunities** that may only exist in your fruitful, creative imagination.

You've joined Orange Audubon Society, now join with us. There's much to do.

Thanks. Bob Sanders, Director, Bird of Prey ID Class Instructor

Setting Audubon Conservation Priorities

At the Audubon Assembly held on Oct. 24th and 25th, Audubon leaders from across the state came together to have fun and to confirm priorities for state and regional conservation action in 2009. State, regional and local goals all align with the overarching themes of National Audubon Society (NAS) — conserve birds, other wildlife, and their habitats; engage people in conservation action; and build capacity as a decentralized organization and grassroots network. NAS has further delineated eight goals under these three major themes. Audubon of Florida (AoF), in its conservation planning for 2009, has modified six of the eight NAS goals to form three statewide policy resolutions — climate change, conserve at-risk and declining birds, and habitat — and two campaign resolutions — coastal bird habitat and seagrass conservation.

The Central Florida Regional Conservation Committee (CFRCC), of which Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is a member, encompasses the Central Florida ecosystems of the Upper Kissimmee River; the Green Swamp/Withlacoochee; the St. Johns/

Econlockhatchee River; the Indian River; the Lake Wales Ridge; and the Wekiva Corridor and has also set specific conservation goals. Copies of the CFRCC resolutions will be available at future OAS meetings or you may contact me (LNS-OAS@att.net) for an electronic copy.

At our July planning meeting, Orange Audubon further delineated specific local areas upon which our conservation efforts will be focused. First, we will continue to work towards preservation of wild lands in Orange County. Furthermore, we will continue our efforts on behalf of four local habitats: the Econlockhatchee River Basin, the Green Swamp Area of Critical State Concern, the Lake Apopka Restoration Area (LARA), and the Wekiva River Basin State Parks.

At all levels, Audubon will use information derived from sound science to meet the specified goals. As a member of Audubon, please commit your time and efforts to working with NAS, AoF and OAS toward meeting these goals.

Loretta Satterthwaite and Bob Stamps

Bird of Prey ID Class

The next Bird of Prey ID Class at the Lake Apopka Restoration Area is scheduled for Saturday November 15th. Interested birders should contact me for details.

The first Bird of Prey ID Class was held on October 11th. Twenty birders participated with 11 species of raptors observed including: Bald Eagles, Northern Harriers, all three falcons, many Red-tailed Hawks, and Ospreys. In all 58 species of birds were seen. Non-raptor highlights included: Roseate Spoonbill, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Wilson's Snipe, Blue Grosbeak, and Indigo Bunting.

I can be reached at 407-766-5490 or by email: procrow@bellsouth.net.

Thanks to all. Bob Sanders



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Calendar of Events

November 15, 2008 - Saturday

Bird of Prey ID Class #2 - LARA
Bob Sanders 407-766-5490

November 15, 2008 - Saturday

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

November 16, 2008 - Sunday

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

November 20, 2008 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Bob Stamps 407-886-2925

November 22, 2008 - Saturday

OAS Field Trip - Econ River Wilderness Area
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

November 29, 2008 - Saturday

Lower Wekiva State Reserve Butterfly Survey.
Mary Keim & Randy Snyder 407-851-5416

December 13, 2008 - Saturday

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

December 15, 2008 - Monday

Emeralda Marsh Christmas Bird Count
Peg Lindsay pegcondor@embarqmail.com

December 18, 2008 - Thursday

General Meeting, 7:00pm, Leu Gardens.
OAS Board Meeting takes place prior to the
General Meeting at 5:30pm. All welcome.
Bob Stamps 407-886-2925

January 3, 2009 - Saturday

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

The Internet Age

Are you, like many others, tuned in to your computer for just about everything? Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is contemplating more use of electronic communication — the OASis is already on our website (www.orangeaudubonfl.org), though we still mail it to our entire membership. We are not committed, yet, to switching entirely to an e-newsletter, but it makes environmental sense to save the trees and ink, so we're leaning toward that goal. So, when you send in your renewal to National Audubon Society, please include your email address. We will build our database from theirs. If you wish to send your email address directly to OAS, please send it to our membership database chair (miked531@bellsouth.net).

Besides moving toward an e-OASis, if you would like to be part of an e-tree for conservation and activity alerts, please send an email notifying us of your inclination and it will be distributed to the appropriate board member for making contact with you when needed. Send your email to LNS-OAS@att.net; please use 'OAS e-tree' as your subject and tell us what type of alerts — conservation, education, etc. — you wish to receive from OAS.

In keeping with the aforementioned goals, as you sign in at our monthly meetings, please include your email address, as well as your phone number. Thanks.

Loretta Satterthwaite, Membership Chair

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