



This Month's Program: April 18, 2019

Florida's Snakes: Corals & Coachwhips, Indigos & Scarlets, Pit Vipers & Pythons By John Serrao

Florida is famous for its diversity of reptiles and, since the 1980s, John Serrao has traveled from Panhandle ravines to the central scrub and highland ridge to the Everglades photographing and documenting them. Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) April 18th program is a second visit for John, who gave a popular program on spiders a few years ago.

In this presentation, John will tell us about 35 of Florida's snakes, including all 6 venomous species. He will share photos of the largest indigo snake documented in the U.S. in at least 40 years (that he found in Volusia County), as well as snakes ranging from 6- to 7-ft. coachwhips and eastern diamondback rattlesnakes to 8-inch crowned snakes (our smallest native snake).

In addition to showing us how to identify these interesting animals, John will share their important roles in Florida's ecosystems and how we can conserve them.



Above, John Serrao with a coachwhip. Below, John's photo, featured in *Natural History* magazine, of a yellow rat snake eating a Cuban tree frog. Photos courtesy John Serrao.

John, who lives in DeLand, has been a professional naturalist, writer, photographer, and tour leader since the 1970s and has written 7 books about wildlife and natural history. He has conducted wildlife surveys for state parks, nature centers, resorts, and private natural areas. His photos have appeared in hundreds of magazines, textbooks, field guides, and museums.

Join us April 18th at 7 p.m. for a fascinating program. See box below for location.

Rick Baird, Program Chairperson

Orange Audubon Society programs are free and no reservations are necessary.

Programs are the 3rd 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/



Spring Bird Walks in Mead Botanical Garden April 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2019

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) will be holding guided bird walks every Saturday in April for spring migration, as we have for the past seven years. Mead Botanical Garden in Winter Park is the most accessible place in Central Florida that birders have found to see warblers and other colorful songbirds that winter in the Caribbean or Central or South America and go north to breed. Over 160 species have been documented at Mead, including 23 species of warbler and 6 species of woodpecker.

The walks will be on Saturdays, April 6th through April 27th, starting at 8:00 a.m., and lasting 2 to 3 hours at a casual pace. All are open to the public and are FREE. Experienced birding leaders who have agreed to lead are Renee Thomas, Bob Sanders and Tom Rodriguez.

OAS has a limited number of loaner binoculars. 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. Hope you join us! Mead Botanical Garden is located at the intersection of south Denning Drive and Garden Drive, two blocks east of Orlando Ave (Hwy. 17-92).

Larry Martin OAS-Mead Liaison

Chertok Photo Contest Deadline Is This Month!

Deadline is April 18th. Young people up to 17 can enter the Youth Category. See page 8 for details.



Photographing wildflowers on Chertok Photo Contest-Nature Walk at Isle of Pine Preserve, an Orange County Green PLACE Property. Photo courtesy Orange County



Legislative Session

Bills of concern to those who care about the Central Florida environment are working their way through the Florida legislature with the current session ending May 3, 2019. We thank Senator Linda Stewart for her efforts to restore Florida Forever funding.

Audubon Florida (AF) is in Tallahassee following these issues and calls us to action [at the Audubon Florida Advocate](#) and on [AF's Facebook](#) page. Details on legislation is at [Online Sunshine](#).

Orange County Green PLACE Program

Orange County has successfully preserved 22,770 acres of environmentally sensitive lands through its *Green Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and Education (PLACE)* program. This program establishes passive recreational uses on approximately 4,500 acres of these preserved lands and manages natural resources on these and the remaining acreage. Orange County Environmental Protection Division is developing a Master Plan for Green PLACE properties with the goal to provide exceptional user experiences for both present and future generations and assist in increasing the economic, environmental and social benefits of these lands. Stakeholders have been invited to provide input into the master planning process through Focus Groups. The April 8th workshops have 10:00-11:30 a.m.; 1:30-3:00 p.m; and 6:00-7:30 p.m. time slots. Location is Orange County Environmental Protection Division, 3165 McCrory Place, Orlando. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) appreciates our public lands, and representatives will be there. If you would like to provide input also, please RSVP to Beth.Jackson@ocfl.net.

On April 3, 2019 a new Orange County Green PLACE property, the Lake Lucie Conservation Area near Apopka, will be opened to the public in a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings and District 2 Commissioner Christine Moore. This 166-acre property was purchased by Orange County in 2005, in part for its aquifer recharge value and as a potential Gopher Tortoise relocation site. OAS enjoyed the property on our November 10th field trip with naturalist Beth Jackson and photographer Susan Kirby. The property has mesic hammocks and ephemeral wetlands and is located at 43 Rainey Road, Sorrento, FL 32776. Time of the ribbon-cutting is 10 a.m. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Beth.Jackson@ocfl.net.

OAS Membership—Always a Challenge!

Orange Audubon Society (OAS) is the third largest chapter in the Southeast and membership can be a challenging affair. If you are one of the many nature-loving people who open our email blasts, we may be contacting you about your membership. Joining OAS at even the base level of \$20 also provides membership with National Audubon Society and Audubon Florida and adds truth to the saying that there is strength in numbers. Here is [the link](#) to join or rejoin if you are a long-elapased member. OAS volunteers Bob and Flo Sena are also providing membership information at our monthly meetings. For expiration date questions, contact me at membership@orangeaudubonfl.org or (407) 637-2525. Thanks for being part of OAS!

Deborah Green, Membership

Birdathon is April 13, 2019!

Birdathon is one of the major fundraising events for Orange Audubon Society (OAS). Birdathon is like a Walkathon, except you collect donation pledges for species of birds seen instead of miles walked. Birding teams have been recruited. If you wish to bird that day and turn in your sightings, that will help.

Are there any people—your doctor, neighbor, etc. that like birds, that you might be able to ask to donate? The person donating will contribute for the collective bird species seen by all OAS' birding teams (typically over 100). A flat amount is also gratefully received. The pledge form is available [at this link](#). OAS will recognize those reeling in the most pledges and those recording the most bird species. Please turn contributions in at the April 18th meeting or May 16th meeting, at latest, and turn in bird sightings by April 20th. Email me at riglink@aol.com if you can help.

Kathy Rigling, Birdathon Chair



Orange Audubon Society (OAS) mission: To promote public understanding of, and an interest in, wildlife and the environment that supports it; 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.

Orange Audubon Society

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The OASis (*Orange Audubon Society information source*) newsletter is published monthly, September–June, and posted on the OAS website. A link to each issue is e-mailed to subscribers.

Never miss out on OAS happenings. Add or update your email address by contacting newsletter@orangeaudubonfl.org.

For other membership information, contact: Mike Daley
miked129e@gmail.com
(407) 417-7818

JOIN OAS' [MEETUP](#) GROUP

LIKE OAS ON [FACEBOOK](#)

Orange Audubon Society, Inc. is a Florida not-for-profit organization, tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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**Earth Day In the Park
April 13, 2019**

If you live in or near Winter Park and are available April 13th, please join Orange Audubon Society at Winter Park's Earth Day in the Park. Location this year will be Shady Park at Hannibal Square, corner of Pennsylvania & New England Avenues. [Festivities](#) will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and are free. Contact volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org if you can help.

**Central Florida Earth Day
at Lake Eola
April 20, 2019**

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, is in its 14th year and will be on April 20th at Lake Eola Park in downtown Orlando. Orange Audubon Society (OAS) has a prime spot, right on the lake. For the 8th year, 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 a healthy and environmentally-friendly vegan diet, Central Florida Earth Day is a great place to find out more. You'll also have a chance to visit the booths of a wide variety of environmental groups. Central Florida Earth Day is on the east side of Lake Eola Park, 195 N. Rosalind Ave., on April 20th from 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Other Earth Month Events

Orange Audubon Society volunteers will again be at Earth Day at Valencia College East Campus on April 5th. We will also be at Siemens Green Fair on April 24th. And we will be at Arbor Day in Belle Isle and at the Apopka Art & Foliage Festival on April 27th. It's a busy month! If you want to help with any of these events, email volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org.



Limited Edition field trip to Fort DeSoto Park, January 2019. Photo: Joyce Stefancic

**Limited Edition Field Trip:
April 21, 2019
Fort DeSoto Park, Pinellas County**

Fort DeSoto is legendary! It is what we call a "migrant trap." During spring migration many songbirds make the arduous and dangerous Gulf crossing from Central America and Mexico to Florida. With favorable weather conditions and birders' luck, the numbers and variety of migrants at Fort DeSoto on any given day in April can be nothing less than awesome.

Bob Sanders will lead this trip that 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. This is one of the first of Bob's trips to fill up so be sure to call early. For trip questions or reservations call Bob at (407) 459-5617. Be aware that it takes 1 1/2 - 2 hours to drive to Fort DeSoto from Orlando, but it will be worth it!

Sign Up for Jay Watch

Audubon Florida Jay Watch volunteers contribute to research (citizen science) and preservation of the threatened Florida Scrub-Jay.

Jay Watch will conduct a statewide survey from June 15 to July 15, 2019.

To become a Jay Watch volunteer, you must take a free half-day training session in which you will learn standardized survey methods.

The closest Jay Watch training session is at the Lyonia Preserve in Deltona and is scheduled for May 11th. There are other dates if you can't make this one.

For information, [visit this link](#) and contact Audubon Florida's Jacqui Sulek at jsulek@audubon.org. We hope you get involved with Jay Watch!

**Ethos
5%
Day**

Thanks so much to Ethos Vegan Kitchen for its seventh year of donating 5% of sales from a specific date to Orange Audubon Society. Thanks to those of you who came out on March 2nd to enjoy Ethos' delicious dishes. Ethos' generous donation goes toward our nature and environmental education fund.

Ethos Vegan Kitchen, which has been in business for nearly nine years, is located at 601-B South New York Avenue, Winter Park. See Etho's hours and menu at [this link](#).



In case you missed it ...

Native Planting for Wildlife by Catherine Bowman

Orange Audubon Society's March speaker was Catherine Bowman, one of Central Florida's most knowledgeable native plant experts. Because so much Florida habitat has been lost to agriculture and development, Catherine suggested that individual homeowners help restore habitat by landscaping their own yards with native trees and plants. She presented information about creating a landscape that is attractive and useful for wildlife.



Sand-loving wasp on Spotted Bee balm. Photo: Mary Keim

Catherine shared the steps it took to plan and design her own home landscape. Her first consideration was the soil of the new project. To find her yard's soil type and other soil information, she used the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service website <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>. Because she has well-drained Candler sand, she would choose trees and plants that would be appropriate for dry conditions.

Because she lives in a neighborhood, Catherine chose to install her landscape in an organized, more pleasing design. To create aesthetic appeal, she recommended arranging native plants in orderly groupings, with borders or delineations. Height, texture, colors, and continuity of seasonal blooming are design features to consider.

Catherine described 75+ native trees, shrubs, flowering plants, and grasses that offer wildlife food, forage, shelter, and nesting locations. She recommended choosing large native trees like Southern Red Cedars,

Cabbage Palms, Myrtle and Turkey Oaks, Pignut Hickories and Longleaf Pines, and colorful understory accent trees like Chickasaw Plum and Redbuds, matching your choices to conditions of your property.

Native shrubs offer flowers for butterflies and pollinators, fruits for birds and other wildlife, and seeds for ground-foraging creatures. Ones Catherine recommends are Florida Privets, Summer Haws, Simpson Stoppers, and Wax Myrtles. Others are Yaupon Hollies, Coral Bean, Firebush, and Beautyberry. Coral Bean has red tubular blooms that provide nectar for migrating hummingbirds as they move through our area.

Catherine mentioned shade-loving plants including Wild Coffee, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Corkystem Passionflower, Lyreleaf Sage, Swamp Azalea, and Violets. Others that can tolerate partial shade include Coral Honeysuckle, Coreopsis, Conradina, Black-eyed Susans, Penstemon, Monarda, Greeneyes, Liatris, and Twinflower.

For texture, color, seed production and groundcover are native grasses. Choose from Basketgrass, Chalky Bluestem, Lopsided Indiangrass, Lovegrasses, and Needlegrasses.



Elliott's Lovegrass at Orlando Wetlands Park. Photo: Mary Keim

The native groundcover Frogfruit, *Phyla nodiflora*, tolerates sun, shade, dry and moist conditions, spreads rapidly, handles foot traffic, offers nectar for pollinators, and is the larval plant for three native butterflies!

Terry Piper, OAS board member



Tawny Emperor butterfly on Hackberry. Photo: Mary Keim

April LAWD Garden Update

Friends of Lake Apopka (FOLA) started a pollinator garden on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive (LAWD) near the first sign and kiosk, with help of St. Johns River Water Management District staff.

After the FOLA member who spearheaded the garden moved out of the area, Orange Audubon Society took over maintenance, with publicity help from the [Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive Facebook Group](#).

If you want to get involved with this garden, including watering when you visit the Drive and, on specific organized dates, helping with weeding, pruning and adding plants, following a list approved by the District, please contact me at info@orangeaudubonfl.org.

With large sugarberry/hackberry trees behind the garden as butterfly host plants, there were some fantastic butterflies visiting the garden this past year, including Tawny Emperor and Hackberry butterflies.

Many wasps and bees visit the native flowers, especially the spotted bee balm, and photographers interested in learning more about insects find it a great place to visit. *Deborah Green*



Bug-hunting photographers by the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive Garden. Photo: Deborah Green

Featured species:

Rare among birds, the fascinating Brown-headed Nuthatch ...

It weighs less than a quarter-of-an-ounce but has a big head. One of Florida's smallest birds, the Brown-headed Nuthatch is the only species that can use tools to forage.



Brown-headed Nuthatch near nest in short dead tree (snag) at Wekiwa Springs State Park found during monthly survey. Photo: Mark Meifert

It uses twigs to pry underneath wood to get food, according to Jim Cox of the Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy.

Nuthatches forage like woodpeckers as they focus on getting seeds from pine trees, and then pound the seeds into trees to break them. Arboreal gymnasts, they are like trapeze artists, says Cox. Nesting in dead trees in the last stages of decay or in snags over water, nuthatches seek soft, rotten or moist wood they can manipulate with their small beaks.

Most fascinating about this nuthatch is its cooperative breeding habits. The young birds stay around to help the adults raise other youngsters. Surprisingly, most of these helpers are male!

Females produce up to six eggs, which takes a lot of energy, according to Cox. If the fledglings make it, they can “really fly” as soon as they leave the nest (unlike many other birds)—another surprising fact about the fascinating Brown-headed Nuthatch.

Linda Carpenter

Editor's note: An increasing abundance of Brown-headed Nuthatches at Wekiwa Springs State Park, compared to 20 years ago, is thought to be due to the active prescribed burning program, which improves habitat. Documenting this increase is one of the purposes of the monthly surveys.

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey April 6, 2019

Monthly bird surveys at Wekiwa Springs State Park are usually the second Saturday of the month, but the April survey will be held April 6th. If interested in joining, contact Kathy at riglingk@aol.com or (407) 488-9559.

Wekiwa Springs State Park Field Trip

Continuing Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) efforts to profile the Wekiwa River Basin state lands, our March 23rd field trip was to Wekiwa Springs State Park. We started by the spring and continued through a transect of habitats. This park is considered to have the greatest diversity of habitats in the Florida state park system.

Tom Rodriguez, who recently co-led a Birding by Ear trip for the North Shore Birding Festival, helped us hear and pick out some of the smaller birds in the newly leafed-out trees, including Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Parula, and Black-and-White Warbler.



Sweetgum with holes pecked by Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. The sap that wells out traps insects which are later fed upon by the sapsuckers. Photo: Mary Keim

We all enjoyed seeing some early returning Swallow-tailed Kites and other raptors. We had the opportunity to study coloration differences between Yellow-bellied Sapsucker males and females and see how this species pecks rows of holes in soft-barked trees, so the sap traps insects. Two trees the sapsuckers utilized were Sweet Gum and Basswood, a tree species rare in Central Florida at the southernmost part of its range. We enjoyed seeing a Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeding in the tubular red flowers of Cross-vine.

Deborah Green helped with plant identification. Nineteen trip participants enjoyed a lovely morning in a fabulous state park that is a local treasure. There was a long line of cars waiting to get in the gate as we left.

Larry Martin



Female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Photo: Mary Keim

About Woodpeckers

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is the only truly migratory woodpecker in our area, visiting us in winter, as pointed out by trip leader Tom Rodriguez.

We have 7 resident woodpecker species. Our most common in a variety of habitats in Central Florida, including around homes, is the Red-bellied Woodpecker that makes a shrill, rolling “churr” sound. The showy Red-headed Woodpecker is abundant at Wekiwa Springs State Park and in other well-burned habitats where snags are left standing.

Our smallest woodpecker, the Downy Woodpecker, communicates by making rapid pecking sounds with its beak and makes a whinny sound. It travels in flocks of songbirds in the winter and will visit feeders. The closely related Hairy Woodpecker is as big as a sapsucker with a very strong bill. Rare in our area, Hairy Woodpeckers can be found in very well burned pinelands.

The Pileated Woodpecker is the largest woodpecker still surviving in the U.S. and was the model for the Woody Woodpecker cartoon. The Northern Flicker spends a lot of time on the ground, as it eats ants. It nests here but some flickers from farther north winter here also.

The endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker is the only species that nests in living trees, specifically older pines with heart rot making them soft enough for it to peck through. In our area, these can be seen in the southern part of the Ocala National Forest and at Hal Scott Preserve.

Deborah Green

Orange Audubon Society Election Month

April is Orange Audubon Society's (OAS) official annual meeting in which Board of Directors are elected. The 2019 election will be held prior to the April 18th program.

Three board members' terms expire at the end of June: Milton Heiberg, Melissa Gonzalez and Gabbie Buendia. Milton and Melissa have agreed to be nominated for a 3-year term and Gabbie for a 1-year term.

Additionally, there are 3 open board positions open for 3-year terms—2019-2022. If interested in increasing your involvement with OAS, contact me at lgaunt246@gmail.com or (941) 704-1189 or committee members Mo Cortese at mocor1129@gmail.com or Bob Sena at robs32812@yahoo.com. I can provide you with the OAS board application that outlines expectations and allows OAS to learn about your skills and interests.

Nominee requirements are: Applicant must be a current OAS member and is expected to attend monthly one-hour board meetings held at 6 p.m. prior to monthly programs, as well as an all-day summer planning meeting and have a commitment to helping OAS meet conservation, education, financial and other goals. OAS has great need for assistance with conservation and education and will soon need help from people skilled in fund-raising as we move closer to a capital campaign for an OAS nature and environmental education center.

Volunteers do not need to serve on the board to serve on OAS committee(s), which are a great place to learn about ways you can help Audubon connect people with nature to benefit wildlife, wild places and humans—and feel richly rewarded for doing so!

OAS committees include Birding Festival, Cats Indoors, Climate, Conservation, Education, Field Trips, Finance, Hospitality, Membership, Nature Center, Newsletter, Nominating, Photography Contest, Programs, Publicity, Sanctuaries, Silent Auction, Speakers Bureau, Website and Wildlife Surveys. Thank you for considering increasing your involvement with OAS!

Linda Gaunt, Nominating Chair

News Flash: Apopka Swallow-tailed Kite Home!

Next to last of the Swallow-tailed Kites with transmitters to return to the United States, the kite named "Apopka" is safely across the Gulf of Mexico and in Mississippi!

Eleven kites are now being tracked by the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) in Gainesville, founded by Dr. Ken Meyer. Biologist Gina Kent has worked for ARCI over the past 18 years, and we are pleased to host her as our May 16th speaker.

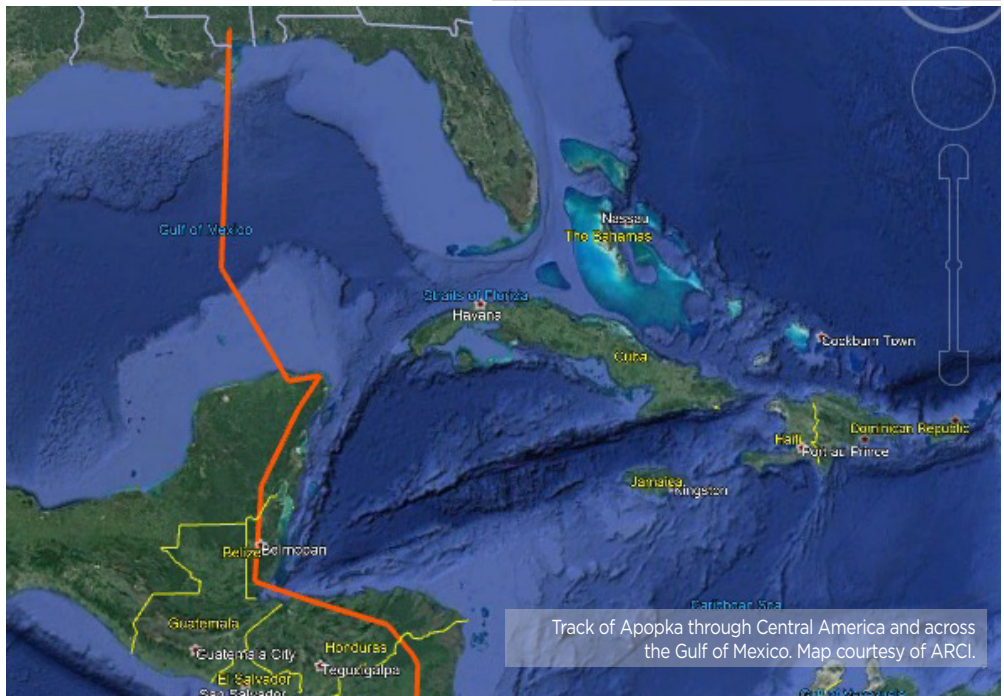
See the [May 2018 OASis \(p.6\)](#) for the unusual story of how Apopka was injured, rehabilitated, and tagged. In winter 2017 and 2018, Apopka was tracked to Rondonia, Brazil.

Apopka started north on February 2nd and transmitted through February 13th, when he reached the Peruvian border and lost contact with cell towers. Contact

was reestablished in mid March, when he reached northern Colombia, having made it safely through the Andes. According to Gina Kent, Apopka must have gotten into a transmission cycle that didn't allow his locations to upload for over a week. As he settles in, ARCI will receive the upload of all his data. For now, ARCI has a coarse map and relief that he's made it safely across the Gulf of Mexico! Apopka will continue to the Orlando area, and ARCI will monitor his movements to see if he is nesting.

Only the kite named "Pritchard," tagged last year in South Carolina, has still not restarted transmitting. You can follow Apopka and the other kites through ARCI's facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ARCIInst/>.

Deborah Green with Gina Kent



Lauding LAWD: 4th Anniversary of the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, May 4, 2019

On Saturday, May 4th, to commemorate the 4th anniversary of the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive (LAWD), Orange Audubon Society volunteers will be along the drive with binoculars, bird books, and spotting scopes to help beginners enjoy some of the area's most interesting birds.

We will be on LAWD, 2850 Lust Road, Apopka, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at four stations, including the entrance, pumphouse and near the sod fields or wherever any rarity has been spotted. If you also love LAWD and would like to help us share our enthusiasm that day, contact me at info@orangeaudubonfl.org or (407) 637-2525. See you out there!

Deborah Green

It Takes a Village By Michelle Nardone

“It takes a village to raise a child” is a common saying. For one lucky Great Horned Owlet, it took a village to get it safely back to its parents. On February 22nd fellow birders Steve Shaluta, Shelby Bortone, and their neighbor found an owlet at the base of a tree. The parent owls were nearby but no one could find the nest.

Knowing I had done rescues in the past and that I volunteer with Audubon Florida’s Eagle Watch program, my friends transported the owlet to me. It was very young with eyes still closed. The egg tooth on its beak was still visible. I immediately called Shawnlei Breeding, Eagle Watch Coordinator at Audubon Center for Birds of Prey (CBOP) in Maitland. Overnight I kept it covered and warm to limit exposure. In the morning I met Vet Tech Beth Lott at CBOP.

She estimated the owlet to be only about 7 days old. CBOP volunteers cared for it and several days later drove out to the original nest location to return it. They installed a nesting platform made by a Boy Scout troop and put the owlet in the nest.

The parents soon returned and started caring for it. Over the weeks, the owlet has continued to grow and thrive. It is now “branching,” which is when it starts to move out from the nest and stand on adjacent branches. It was a thrill to see it way out on the branch about 20 feet from the nest.

According to *Nature Conservancy* sources, six weeks after hatching, owlets leave the nest and walk around. In another three weeks, the young owls will already have learned to fly. The parents continue to feed and care for their offspring for several months, often as late as October.

Survival of this owlet was made possible by a village of people willing to take the time to save it and return it to the nest. Small actions and becoming involved are vital to saving, rehabilitating and releasing wildlife back to the wild. Please become involved and find local contacts in your area. You never know what you can help save and the wonderful villagers you will meet along the way.

Michelle Nardone, Orange Audubon Society volunteer



Top left, Great Horned Owlet, returned to Boy Scout-constructed platform, Photo: Michelle Nardone. Bottom left, owlet and parent Great Horned Owl. Right, growing owlet, Photos: Steve Shaluta.

Baby Owl Shower, May 11, 2019

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 increased costs during baby season. Admission is “free” that day with an item from the wish list of supplies for caring for these young raptors. See the wish list at [this link](#). Non-releasable baby raptors will be on view.

Orange Audubon Society participates by selling nature-inspired merchandise and offering a kids’ art activity. We need help with both. Baby owls attract lots of baby people (grown people, too!). The event starts at 10 a.m. but set up help is needed at 9 a.m. Tear-down begins at 2 p.m. To help, please contact Teresa at mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 644-0796.

Dragonfly Identification Field Trip May 11, 2019



Orange Audubon Society is offering a Dragonfly Identification Field Trip at Orlando Wetlands Park on Wheeler Road in Christmas, FL. Instructors are Orange Audubon members and dragonfly enthusiasts Mary Keim and Randy Snyder.

The trip will be from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 11th. Cost is \$10 for Audubon members; \$15 for non-members.

The trip is limited to 15 participants, so don’t delay in registering. Contact Teresa Williams at (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. If any questions about the trip, contact Mary and Randy at rssmhk@gmail.com.

South Carolina Magical Birding, May 17-19, 2019

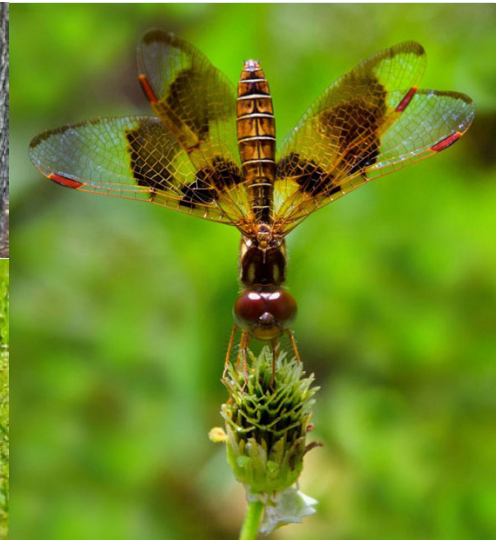
Orange Audubon Society’s fun fund-raising trip from May 17-19, 2019 is to South Carolina, a fantastic birding area. We will visit Congaree National Park, the closest national park besides the Everglades, with its unique synchronous fireflies, as well as Beidler Swamp Audubon Sanctuary and the ACE Basin. Cost of the trip is \$60 members/\$75 non-members, which includes honoraria for local expert guides, field trip fees, and picnic supper Friday at Congaree. Lodging, other meals, transportation and incidentals are not included. Our group rates at hotels for Friday and Saturday night must be booked by April 16th. For more information, contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525 or info@orangeaudubonfl.org. To reserve a spot, contact Teresa: (407) 644-0796 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

LAST CALL for Photo Contest Entries!

There is still time to enter Orange Audubon Society's 2019 (31st Annual) Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest, so hit us with your best shots! Here are entry forms for the [Youth category \(age 17 or younger by the deadline\)](#) and [adult categories \(Novice and Advanced\)](#). By April 18th, mail (postmarked by date), submit electronically with your preferred photo sharing application, or e-mail your entries to mwilliams@cfl.rr.com. Or hand deliver on April 18th during Orange Audubon's regular program at Leu Gardens.

Subject matter must be native to Florida and images may not contain discernable non-native plants or animals, humans or human artifacts. Images must also comply with truth-in-nature standards and be taken following NANPA ethical field practices. Complete contest rules are on the official entry forms, available at www.orangeaudubonfl.org or the links above, by request to mwilliams@cfl.rr.com or (407) 718-1977, or at Colonial Photo & Hobby (CPH), 634 N Mills Avenue, Orlando, FL. Good luck!

Teresa Williams, OAS' Chertok Photography Contest Chair



Top left, Young photographers are encouraged to enter, *Photo: Jack Rogers*. Bottom left, Limpkin Chicks, Youth Honorable Mention Winner, 2010 Chertok Photo Contest, *Photo: Shaw Frederick*. Top right, Eastern Amberwing Dragonfly, Honorable Mention Winner, Novice category, 2015 Chertok Photo Contest, *Photo: Jennifer Krisgner*. Bottom right, White Pelican, Youth Honorable Mention Winner, 2011 Chertok Photo Contest. *Photo: Shaw Frederick*.

APRIL/MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April Wekiwa Bird Survey

April 6, 2019

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Spring Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park

April 6, 13, 20, and 27, 2019

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Orange Audubon Society Birdathon

April 13, 2019

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Earth Day in the Park, Winter Park

April 13, 2019

Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

Chertok Nature Photography Contest

Deadline to submit all entries:

April 18, 2019

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

April Program: Florida's Fascinating Snakes—John Serrao

April 18, 2019

Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

April Field Trip: Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park

April 20, 2019

Contact Larry at (407) 647-5834

Central Florida Earth Day, Lake Eola

April 20, 2019

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Limited Edition Field Trip,

Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County

April 21, 2019

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Apopka Art & Foliage Festival

April 27–28, 2019

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive 4th Anniversary

May 4, 2019

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

May Wekiwa Bird Survey

May 11, 2019

Contact Kathy at (407) 488-9559

Baby Owl Shower, Center for Birds of Prey, Maitland

May 11, 2019

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

Dragonfly Identification Field Trip

May 11, 2019

Contact Teresa at (407) 644-0796

May Program: Swallow-tailed Kite Tracking and Conservation—Gina Kent

May 16, 2019

Contact Rick at (407) 277-3357

South Carolina Magical Birding Trip

May 17–19, 2019

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Limited Edition Field Trip to Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area, Kenansville

May 25, 2019

Contact Bob at (407) 459-5617

Jay Watch Training

May 2019, dates TBA

Contact Shawnlei at (407) 644-0190