

Mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and biodiversity.

ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2024 – HIGHLIGHTS

Nature Center and Apopka Birding Park

We secured a 30-year renewable lease on 69.5 acres adjacent to the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, a premier birding destination with over 160,000 annual visitors. Plans are underway to transform a former “Truck Shop” into the Orange Audubon Nature Center, featuring solar energy, water reuse, and native landscaping. The design has recently received an AIA award.

Capital Campaign Progress:

- \$781K raised for construction and habitat restoration
- \$1.1 M raised for a board-designated fund, to use interest for long-term operations
- Total goal: \$4.5M (42% raised)

Environmental Education Impact

Led by Education Coordinator **Kathy Rigling**:

- 87 school visits across 31 schools (predominantly Title I), engaging over 5,100 students
- Programs include after-school birding clubs, citizen science surveys, and native plant installations
- Recognition: OCPS Volunteer of the Year nominee

Young Birders Club

Ages 8–17, now with over 25 members, focusing on mentoring, bird surveys and competition successes. Allied with the Florida Ornithological Society

Programs & Outreach

- Free monthly field trips and Saturday bird walks
- Birding and nature classes for all skill levels
- Weekly YouTube Bird Chats—200+ videos, 1.2K+ subscribers
- Monthly OASis Newsletter—60% open rate

Conservation Efforts

- Advocacy for local ordinances and land conservation
- Native plant campaigns
- Ongoing bird surveys at local parks
- Habitat restoration funded by grants from FWC, National Audubon, and Viva Florida

NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL

Annual five-day event supporting the nature center fund:

- 70 field trips, with over 350 participants from 18 states
- Expert guides, youth leadership and spreads awareness of the North Shore area

Photography Contest

The Kit and Sidney Chertok Florida Native Nature Photography Contest raises awareness of Florida’s biodiversity. Awards and exhibitions inspire conservation across generations.

Financial Summary (FY 2023–24)

- Revenue: \$266,421
- Expenses: \$56,166
- Operates debt-free, primarily supported by volunteers.

Ways to Support

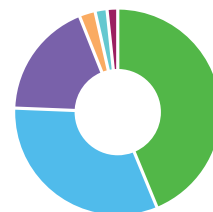
- One-time or monthly donations
- Naming opportunities
- Legacy giving, QCDs or donor-advised funds
- Donate online at <https://orangeaudubonfl.org/donate/>

Thank you for your dedication to building a legacy of conservation and education in Central Florida.

Deborah Green

Deborah Green, President

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Revenue FY 23-24

- Contributions
- Interest
- Festival Trips

Fulvous Whistling-Duck.
Photo: Jack Horton

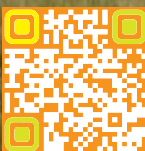
Rendering of
Orange Audubon Nature Center
at Apopka Birding Park



Birding Park Survey
Photo: Deborah Green

“The key message of successful ongoing restoration of Lake Apopka’s North Shore left us with hope that bird habitat can be restored.” 2019 NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL participant

Black Rail Trip at 2024 NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL. Photo: Chris Newton



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