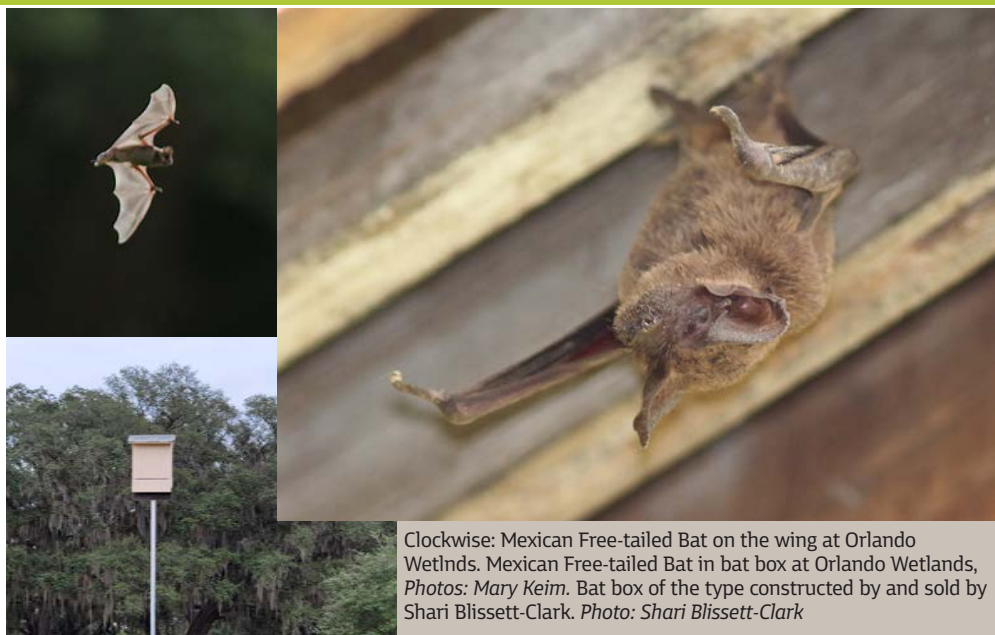




Clockwise: Mexican Free-tailed Bat on the wing at Orlando Wetlands. Mexican Free-tailed Bat in bat box at Orlando Wetlands, Photos: Mary Keim. Bat box of the type constructed by and sold by Shari Blissett-Clark. Photo: Shari Blissett-Clark

Bats: Masters of the Night Skies by Shari Blissett-Clark October 16, 2025

Once, before development, bats were one of the most significant players in habitat health. They darkened the evening sky with their nightly emergence to hunt insects; no habitat was left untouched by these fast-flying mammals that consumed their own weight in bugs each night. These masters of the night sky kept insect populations in balance and contributed to the overall health of Florida's landscapes.

But Florida is very different today; deforestation, agriculture, and the urbanization of Florida's land has led to compromised water quality, widespread flooding, and the accumulation of chemicals from nearly a century of pesticide use. These changes have contributed to the disappearance of countless plant and animal species. Bats can help! Orange Audubon is lucky to have Shari Blissett-Clark of the Florida Bat Conservancy present a myth-busting presentation about the critical environmental services bats provide to both habitats and people. Shari will expose bat superpowers and reveal conservation strategies that anyone can use to help bats thrive in their neighborhood.

Live Florida bats will accompany Shari's presentation! She'll also have a limited number of bat houses for sale to benefit the Florida Bat Conservancy. The 3-chamber house (16"×24", holds ~300 bats) is \$200, and the 4-chamber house (16"×32", holds ~450 bats) is \$300. Both are fully painted, shingled, and come with installation instructions (mounting pipe not included). If interested, preorder from Shari at batbelfrys@gmail.com.

Prepare your questions, and we'll see you in person on Thursday, October 16th in the Camellia Room at Leu Gardens to enjoy this talk! It's free and suitable for all ages. Come at 6:30 p.m., for socializing. Program starts at 7 p.m. Address below.

Alan Shapiro, Second Vice President

ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY programs are free. No reservations necessary.



Programs are the 3rd Thursday of each month (September–June) at 7:00 p.m. and all but December are at **Harry P. Leu Gardens in the Camellia Room** at 1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando, FL 32803

For map and directions, visit:
www.leugardens.org/plan/directions/

Fall Migration Bird Walks at Mead October 11, 28 and 25, 2025

To celebrate fall migration, Orange Audubon will again host bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden on Saturdays, October 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2025. Each walk is led by an experienced birding leader. See Haden Klinger's article on warbler migration (p. 6) and the fun of watching birds at Mead Botanical Garden.

The walks start at 8:00 a.m. and last 2 to 3 hours, with a slow pace and lots of stopping to look at birds. The walks are free and open to the public. As they have grown in popularity, we now ask for registration in advance. The easy online link is <https://orangeaudubonfl.org/activities/field-trips/>. Loaner binoculars will be available. If you need to borrow a pair, please arrive early to sign them out and to be shown how to use them for the most enjoyable experience.

We will meet in the parking lot at Mead Botanical Garden, 1500 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park. If you have any questions, contact me at (941) 704-1189.

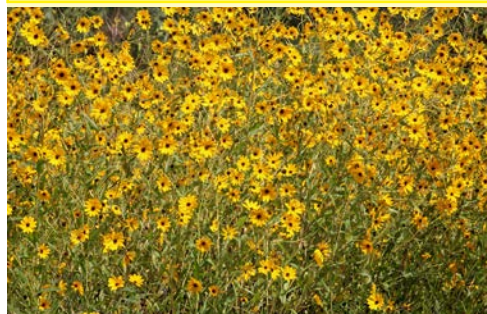
Linda Gaunt

October is Florida Native Plant Month

The Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS) celebrates October as Native Plant Month.

Native plants are not only beautiful and if planted in the correct setting, do not need additional irrigation, but they also support wildlife and birds.

- To see great examples of how eight homeowners have made their yards attractive to birds, join our 2025 Bird Friendly Yards Tour. See p. 3
- Backyard Biodiversity Day is the signature event put on by our FNPS partner the Tarflower Chapter. See p. 3



Southeastern Sunflower at Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area, end Sept 2023. Photo: Mary Keim

Audubon Florida Celebrates 125 Years

Orange Audubon is proud to be a part of Audubon Florida, which celebrates 125 years in 2025. Formed to bring wading birds back from the brink of extinction, Audubon works to protect birds because we know that the things birds rely on—healthy habitats, clean air, abundant fresh water, resilient coastlines—are the same things that people and other wildlife need to thrive. What's good for birds is good for the Earth.

To see an exhibit on Audubon Florida's history, visit West Volusia Audubon's exhibit at the Lyonia Environmental Center, 20150 Eustace Ave., Deltona, FL 32725. That exhibit will be displayed through October 10, 2025.

In case you wondered, Orange Audubon Society incorporated in January 1966, and our 60th anniversary approaches!

Audubon Assembly at the Mission Inn

A group of Orange Audubon board members will be at Audubon Florida's statewide gathering of its 44 chapters and staff on October 17th and 18th in Howey in the Hills. Representing the "local host chapter," Kathy Rigling and I assisted with organization of field trips, including recruiting leaders. Each of four Friday morning field trips is co-hosted by an Audubon Florida field biologist and Orange Audubon member.

I have the opportunity to share our wonderful Lake Apopka North Shore, from the McDonald Canal area where we host many trips for the NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL (p.7).

My co-leader will be my Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) mentee Brian Cammarano, who for the past several years has worked for Audubon Florida managing the Shorebird Stewardship program in the Pensacola area.

Brian is a poster-child for the CLI program which aims to assist college environmental studies and biology majors find their way into the conservation field. Kudos to Linda Gaunt, who mentored a CLI student every year since 2017, and Kathy Rigling, who recently mentors more than one student a year. Late registration for Assembly is [still possible at this link](#).

Orange Audubon's Local Efforts

Your local chapter is: 1. working on restoration of an upland habitat site, our Apopka Birding Park (p. 4), 2. encouraging people to plant native plants, particularly those utilized by birds through our Bird-friendly Yards Tour (p. 3), 3. supporting our parks through bird surveys and publicizing our county natural

lands by collaborating on walks (p. 5), and 4. speaking out and asking our members to speak out to county and state officials on conservation issues (see below).

Deborah Green, Orange Audubon President

Preemption?

Kudos to Orange County for joining a lawsuit contending that SB 180 violates home-rule authority and, using "ambiguous and vague" preemption language, strips the ability of cities and counties to manage their growth. SB 180 effectively freezes all local land-development regulations and comprehensive plans through Oct. 1, 2027. With the lawsuit filed in late September, Orange and Manatee counties are joined by the municipalities of Destin, Lake Alfred, Windermere, Delray Beach, Deltona, Weston, Alachua, Stuart, Mulberry, Naples, Miami Shores Village, Lake Park, Fort Lauderdale, Jupiter, Edgewater, Pompano Beach, Dundee, Cutler Bay, North Palm Beach, Pinecrest, Margate, Palm Beach and Homestead.

Many of these municipalities, like Edgewater and Deltona, had initiated a building moratorium, while water and other infrastructure resources for development are secured and flooding issues addressed. SB180 precludes these local protections.

Orange County had worked hard to enact new Wetlands, Tree and Stormwater laws for new development, all which will be negated by SB 180. [Central Florida Public Media Coverage](#)

Orange Audubon Conservation Committee

Looking For Volunteers

Do you have time and a passion for volunteering with Orange Audubon? Here are opportunities:

- Meal, Hospitality, and Logistics support for the NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL (December 11-15).
- Helping our Education Coordinator with school events
- Hospitality at our monthly in-person programs at Leu Gardens, 3rd Thursdays, 6pm
- Joining the elite group of Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive Ambassadors to welcome visitors to the Drive
- Assisting with clean-up, planting, etc. for our future Orange Audubon Nature Center at the Apopka Birding Park

Email volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org.

Thank you!

Mary Van Egmond



Orange Audubon Society (OAS) mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

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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 announcing new issues 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: membership@orangeaudubonfl.org

JOIN OAS' [MEETUP](#) GROUP

LIKE OAS' [FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

OAS welcomes those who wish to volunteer and become more involved in our efforts. Email volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org.

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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Bird-Friendly Yards Tour Returns! October 12, 2025

A key strategy to promote use of native plants is to showcase homes that have bird-friendly native landscaping, so people can see the plants in place. For the first time since 2016, Orange Audubon is hosting a Native Plants Yards Tour on Sunday, October 12th, 9 am–2 pm.

Co-sponsored by the Florida Native Plant Society Tarflower Chapter and Wild Birds Unlimited, Winter Springs, the tour will showcase 8 homes, some featuring new, others mature native landscapes, and others featuring bird feeders attracting Painted Buntings, goldfinches, and more.

Tickets are \$15 (Youth accompanied by a paying adult are free). Proceeds benefit

Orange Audubon's future Nature Center at Apopka Birding Park.

Following maps and descriptions provided, attendees tour at their own pace all or parts of two loops—in the Wekiva area and eastern Orlando. Tickets are on sale at Wild Birds Unlimited, Winter Springs and at the October 7th 7:00 p.m. meeting of the Tarflower Chapter (at Mead Botanical Garden). You can also buy tickets online at this link <https://orangeaudubonfl.org/yards-tour/>.

The tour is timed to be a week before Backyard Biodiversity Day, where native plants will be for sale. Get inspired! Make your lists!



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail on Florida paintbrush, Photo: Mary Keim

Backyard Biodiversity Day Celebrates Florida's Unique Flora and Fauna

Saturday, October 18, 2025 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Location: Mead Botanical Garden 1300 S. Denning Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789

Join the Tarflower Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society for a full day of discovery, nature and community at the 14th Annual Backyard Biodiversity Day, hosted at beautiful Mead Botanical Garden! This beloved event celebrates Florida's incredible native plants and wildlife, while supporting vital habitat restoration efforts on-site in the Sandhill, Xeric Hammock and Scrubby Flatwood ecosystems.

FREE, family-friendly event features:

- Expert-led presentations on native gardening and biodiversity
- Interpretive hikes exploring pollinators, edible native plants, reptiles, gopher tortoises and ongoing sandhill restoration
- Native plant & wildflower seed sale
- Eco-conscious vendors and environmental exhibitors
- Engaging kids activities and crafts
- Local Food trucks
- Live Music

Whether you are a longtime native plant enthusiast or just curious about creating a more sustainable and wildlife-friendly yard, Backyard Biodiversity Day offers something for everyone.

Parking at Mead Botanical Garden is free but limited. If parking is full, please park legally on nearby streets. Even better, walk, bike or carpool!

Orange Audubon Society is proud to have co-sponsored this event since its inception. Take our Yards Tour the previous Sunday (October 12th), make lists of plants you need and buy them from our Tarflower friends. Don't miss it!

Back By Popular Demand
Native Yards Tour
Sunday, Oct 12 • 9 am–2 pm

Explore bird-friendly native landscapes & feeder yards on this self-guided tour.

Painted Buntings. Photo: Delsy Rodriguez

Nashville Warbler. Photo: Mary Keim

2016 Yards Tour. Photo: Sue Foreman

Swainson's Thrush. Photo: Mary Keim

Tickets \$15. at Wild Birds Unlimited (Winter Springs), Sept/Oct chapter meetings, or online orangeaudubonfl.org

**Proceeds support
Orange Audubon's
future Nature Center at
at Apopka Birding Park.**



What's New at the Apopka Birding Park

Orange Audubon Society is working to raise enough money to start construction on the Orange Audubon Nature Center at Apopka Birding Park.

If you are not familiar with our project to create a Birding Park out of a greenhouse nursery, adjacent to the popular Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, and to renovate an old Truck Shop into a LEED certified nature center, here is the [link to my Bird Chat presentation on it](#).

Our first Annual Report also profiles the project, [link here](#). We will be starting our second financial audit in October.

So what have we been able to do?

With small grants, plenty of ingenuity and advice from people in our community familiar with habitat restoration, Orange Audubon has begun the long road to convert a greenhouse nursery back to native habitat, a “rewilding” process.

An obstacle is lack of water, but our landlord, the City of Apopka, will be installing water and sewer hopefully before the new year.

A second obstacle is widespread presence of cogongrass, a highly invasive weed pest, but we are working with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the City to schedule twice yearly herbicide treatments.

Our final obstacle to rewilding is the presence of the concrete pads that were the bases of the old greenhouses that burned down circa 1999.

The St. Johns River Water Management District will be removing the concrete pads to use the concrete for rip-rap along the lake and other construction projects.

That will occur this winter and will cause considerable disturbance but finally allow us to do major restoration activities.

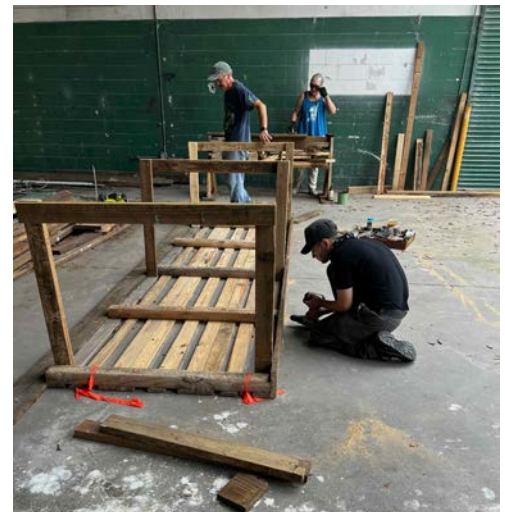


Top left, first visit to site by our architectural firm, May 2024, Stages of the demolition and materials reuse. Photos: Deborah Green

Demolition of the inside of the building and reusing the wood

Monthly workdays on the last Saturday of the month and muscle from other volunteers have allowed board member Alan Shapiro to demolish wooden structures inside our concrete block Truck Shop. With the wood then available for projects, other volunteers have removed the nails, and Alan and new volunteer Steve Turner have cut pieces for bird boxes. Bird boxes of various sizes have been assembled and installed near the building.

Alan has also constructed Leopold Benches, special benches that allow one to sit looking backwards from the normal direction, perfect for observing with binoculars or camera. Named after famed ecologist Aldo Leopold, this design is perfect for our site, and five of these have been positioned around the property already.



Plantings

We have secured a Viva Florida grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation for the native landscape adjacent to the building. Since that cannot be planted until the building is complete, we secured a smaller grant for an additional native landscape near our entrance gate.

We will be preparing to do a planting tentatively November 1st. Our many photographers will enjoy the pollinators in this native landscape.

On the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive two years ago, Alan planted a native landscape behind the Ambassador Welcome Shelter. That garden was recently awarded an Award of Honor by the Florida Native Plant Society.

To be continued next month



Tea-colored Econlockhatchee River. Map of Econlockhatchee River. Photos: Orange County Water Atlas

Education Program Update

Things are gearing back up for the fall Orange Audubon educational programs.

In August, Susan Thome-Barrett and I taught an Intro to Birding program at REI in Winter Park. We have other REI classes planned for November and December.

School visits started August 22nd with the Great Southern Pollinator Count in which I created a video to prepare students. At Dommerich Elementary all First and Second grade classes were able to participate in counting pollinators in their native plant garden. The children really loved this activity. Several asked if they could do a count at home!

At Wolf Lake Middle School Agriculture classes, I also led a pollinator count at the habitat that Orange Audubon helped to improve with IDEAL grant money and Alan Shapiro's expertise. The students were surprised at the variety of pollinators on the native plantings.

I started back at the Zellwood Elementary afterschool birding club. The two boys who received free binoculars last year had returned and were excited to share their knowledge with the younger students.

I delivered some feeders, feeder stands and bluebird houses, donations from some Orange Audubon members, to Wolf Lake Middle and Zellwood Elementary. I did a program for the Sandhill Homeschool Collective on ants at Tucker Recreational Park. This past month, I did the popular bird adaptations activity with the fifth-grade classes at Eustis Elementary.

Our first bird count of the year was with a first-grade class at Zellwood Elementary. Using our new younger child binoculars purchased through a National Audubon grant, the students were beyond excited to look for birds outside. One student exclaimed, "This is the best day of my life!" The highlight of the count was when three American Crows circled over the students and cawed loudly.

A big thank you to the volunteers who assisted with education programs this past two months: Susan Thome-Barrett, Ann Mixson, Laura Carlson and Lizbeth Guerrero.

I also had my first of the year educational webinar on the Feathered Friends curriculum from the Cornell K-12 program. If you missed that webinar, you can watch it on our YouTube channel [using this link](#). Our next monthly free educational webinar will be on October 1st from 7:00-7:30 pm with a



Dommerich Elementary first graders doing bird lesson. Photo courtesy Kathy Rigling.

program about *Audubon Adventures* digital and print resources. The link to sign up is <http://eepurl.com/imGskMs>.

Please email education@orangeaudubonfl.org to sign up for classroom or after school visits, or to request a class subscription to *Audubon Adventures* magazine.

Kathy Rigling, Education Coordinator



Orange Audubon Young Birders Club September 2025 trip to Mead Botanical Garden. Photo courtesy Kathy Rigling

Young Birders Club Trip

Orange Audubon Young Birders 8-17-year-old youth who are interested in learning more about birds. In September, we birded at Mead Botanical Garden. Despite overcast warm weather, with all the sharp ears and eyes, we observed 32 species, including 7 species of warblers. Led by seasoned young birder Haden Klinger, assisted by Susan Thome-Barrett, Lorri Lilja, Kathy Rigling and Holly Hobart, we visited varied habitats at Mead. Highlights were Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in 3 locations, male and female American Redstarts, and a camouflaged Acadian Flycatcher. The next Young Birders field trip will be November 22nd to Merritt Island for wintering waterfowl as well as wintering songbirds, raptors and wading birds. For more information contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com.

Green PLACE Walk at New Preserve on the Econ

Orange Audubon participants enjoyed a sneak preview of the Ken Bosserman Econlockhatchee River Preserve in the northern part of Orange County on September 6th. Orange County's Green PLACE (Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and Environmental Protection) program is an initiative to preserve, enhance, and restore environmentally sensitive lands.

In appreciation of the Green PLACE program and as a kick-off to our 38th annual Chertok Florida Native Nature Photo Contest, Orange Audubon co-hosts a family photo walk each fall and spring to a different Green PLACE property. The September 6th walk was led by Alexander DeBear, naturalist and photographer from Orange Audubon Society, along with naturalists from the Green PLACE program. The walk was at the Ken Bosserman Econlockhatchee River Preserve, a 241-acre Green PLACE property, that will open to the public soon. The March 29, 2026 at Lake Lucie Conservation Area in Sorrento (West Orange County).

Orange Audubon Conservation Committee

MEAD Volunteers Needed!

Do you have 1-2 days a month to help with filling the bird feeders at Mead Botanical Gardens? We are looking for several individuals who can assist on an every other week basis to fill the bird feeders at Mead with seed provided by Wildbirds Unlimited. Contact Susan at 2904susan@gmail.com.

Fall Migration: An Exciting Time by Haden Klinger

Fall is without a doubt one of the best times to bird in Florida. With our wintering birds coming back and all the different species of birds migrating through, it is a great time to bird in Florida. One of the big draws of fall is warbler migration. Warblers are small, mostly insectivorous songbirds (passerines). They are usually very colorful and energetic which makes them a “fan favorite” of birders. October is the best time overall to find warblers in central Florida, as the most species are here and they’re in the highest numbers. The warblers that come through in fall arrive at different times, because of their individual instincts, breeding ranges, and migration routes and timing. A big factor that tells each individual species when to migrate is their circannual rhythm (internal clock). This biological clock lets each species know when they should start migrating.

Some of the earliest warblers to start coming through in fall migration are Louisiana Waterthrush, Prairie Warblers, Black-and-white Warblers, and Yellow Warblers. These species usually arrive around mid-late July.

The next earliest species to start coming through are American Redstarts, Ovenbirds, Northern Waterthrush and Prothonotary Warblers. With some even arriving in late July, most of these start getting here around early-mid August.

The warblers that move through after them are Worm-eating Warblers, Hooded Warblers, Cape May Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, and Black-throated Blue Warblers. These birds start showing up in late August and early September.

The next set of warblers to migrate through are Tennessee Warblers, Magnolia Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Orange-crowned Warblers, and Palm Warblers. This group usually arrives around mid-late September.

The last groups of warblers to migrate are Bay-breasted Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Black-throated Green Warbler. These species arrive throughout all of October. Though most Blackpoll Warblers migrate nonstop over the Eastern Seaboard during fall, some do end up in central Florida in October.

Some uncommon and rarer warblers to look out for are Golden-winged Warblers, Blue-winged Warblers, Swainson Warblers,

Cerulean Warblers, Kentucky Warblers, Nashville Warblers, Wilson Warblers, and Canada Warblers. Mid August through Mid September is a good time to look out for Kentucky Warblers, Cerulean Warblers, Blue-winged Warblers, Swainson Warblers, and Canada Warblers. October is a good time to look for Wilson Warblers. Golden-winged Warblers and Nashville Warblers are more unpredictable but tend to show up more toward late September through October.

Some great places to find warblers in and around central Florida are Mead Botanical Gardens, Central Winds Park, and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. These are some good hotspots for finding warblers but you can find warblers almost anywhere during migration, even in your yard. A good way to find warblers is checking hardwood hammocks and mixed woodlands as a lot of warbler species enjoy that habitat during migration. A great resource to help you find and learn about not just warblers but birds in general is eBird. eBird is an app that gives a variety of information on birds including when they start showing up.

Mead Botanical Garden is by far one of the best places to find warblers during fall in central Florida. Part of what makes it so good is that it’s a patch of green in the middle of an urban area so it has a concentration of migrants. Mead has a good mix of habitat for migrating warblers. Orange Audubon Society offers free migration walks at Mead Botanical Garden every Saturday in April and October.

One of the best parts of Mead Botanical Garden is called Warbler’s Corner. Warbler’s Corner is a patch of trees by a creek near the back of the park. It has a good mix of tall canopy, mid level, and understory growth. Howell Creek runs next to Warblers Corner. The influx of insects caused by the creek creates a lot of food for hungry migrating warblers. Little midges emerging from their larval stages are snapped up by little beaks.

Many rare warblers have shown up at Mead Botanical Gardens. Just last fall in Warbler’s Corner, a Canada Warbler showed up. Also last fall a Wilson’s Warbler showed up in a different part of Mead Gardens. On one of the April spring bird walks, we found a Golden-winged Warbler not far from the parking lot. Mead has so much potential for rare warblers and just a variety of warblers in general.



Warblers at Mead Botanical Garden: Top to bottom: Hooded Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Canada Warbler. Photos: Delsy Rodriguez

Overall, warblers are very exciting and beautiful songbirds, and warbler migration is an amazing experience. I highly recommend that you try to find warblers around your area, because it is very fun to follow when different species arrive.

Haden Klinger is a high school sophomore and trip leader for Orange Audubon. He was one of the founding members of our Young Birders Club when only 11 years old.

See also the Bird Chats presentation on Warblers by Alex DeBear [at this link](#).



Discover Central Florida's 20,000-Acre
Lake Apopka North Shore • 377+ Bird Species
Affordable Birding and Photo Field Trips

**ORANGE
AUDUBON**
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

December 11-15, 2025

Photos:
Mark Hainen, Sam Mitcham, Joyce Stefancic

2025 NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL

Although Orange Audubon Society's 10th annual NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL is not until December 11-15, 2025, now is the time to register to get in on the action. Registration opened October 1st. Popular trips fill quickly—in most years, 65% of registrations happen within the first 24 hours.

Filmmaker Jim Cunningham has created two short promotional videos posted on northshorebirdingfestival.com.

A strength of our festival is our young trip leaders. The youngest trip leader, age 14 last year, co-led with his father. Several trip leaders who received their start with us have gone on to guide at larger festivals and for prestigious companies.

Since its 2016 launch, attendance has grown steadily, with 350 participants in 2024 from 18 states and over 70 Florida cities. The festival aims to expand its national reach, spark return visits, raise awareness of Central Florida's natural treasures and contribute ecotourism dollars to the area. It showcases the region's conservation value and habitat protection efforts.

Community Impact

Over 50 trip leaders, including professional guides, donate their time to

lead trips, supported by 20+ volunteers, including the event coordinator.

Once Orange Audubon's nature center is built, the festival will include a free Expo Hall with displays by optics and tour companies, allowing added community engagement.

Over 60 field trips extend over 5 days, Thursday through Monday, December 11-15, 2025. Most trips are for birding but a number are tailored for photographers. Visit the festival website at <https://northshorebirdingfestival.com/>.

Our great birding locations and our incredible trip leaders are what makes this festival grow and participants return year after year. The festival brings together a critical mass of leaders and participants to catch up on their common interest—birding.

The start location for most field trips is the McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. Proceeds of the NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL support OAS' nature and environmental center fund. If you have any questions, email festival@orangeaudubonfl.org or call (407) 637-2525.

We have again been able to rent the Wekiwa Springs State Park Youth Camp, as a place to house out-of-town leaders. This enables new trips and dinners Friday and Saturday nights in the Youth Camp Dining Hall.

On Friday, we are hosting a simple Dinner with the Leaders, Pizza and Salad.

Visit our website northshorebirdingfestival.com. If you have questions, email festival@orangeaudubonfl.org or call 407-637-2525.

Deborah Green

New Display out of Recycled Wood

At the Oakland Nature Fest September 20th, Orange Audubon was there with its new Bird Advice booth. On display was a taxidermy Wild Turkey donated by the Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. Thanks to Alan Shapiro for the new booth and to volunteers Elizabeth Osborne, Sheilla Johnson and Todd Hartleb.



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bird Chats with OAS via Zoom

Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

Creating a Bird and Pollinator-Friendly Outdoor Space by Susan Thome-Barrett and Kathy Rigling

October 9, 2025

What's New at the NSBF by Deborah Green

October 23, 2025

Birding in Yellowstone National Park by Zach Hutchinson

October 30, 2025

Project Feederwatch by Olivia Sanderfoot

November 6, 2025

eBird Tips and Tricks: Maximizing Your Use of the World's Largest Citizen Science Database by Will Johnson

November 13, 2025

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walk, Winter Park

October 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2025

Register: <https://orangeaudubonfl.org/activities/field-trips/>

Contact Linda at (941) 704-1189

Oakland Nature Preserve Quarterly Survey

October 5, 2025

Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Beginners Birdwatching Class

Orlando Wetlands, Mead and Lake Apopka

Wildlife Drive

October 11, 18 and 25, 2025

Register: <https://orangeaudubonfl.org/activities/field-trips/>

Bird-friendly Yards Tour

October 12, 2025

Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

October 12, 2025

Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

October Program: Bats, Myth and Reality by Shari Blissett Clark

October 16, 2025

Contact Alan at alangrandiflora@gmail.com

Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park

October 18, 2025

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Limited Edition Field Trip: Pine Meadows Conservation Area, Lake County

October 19, 2025

Register: <https://orangeaudubonfl.org/activities/field-trips/>

Apopka Birding Park Bird Survey

October 25, 2025

Contact Alexander at alexdebear@icloud.com

Apopka Birding Park Workday

October 25, 2025

Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

North Shore Bird Survey

October 28, 2025

Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka

November 8, 2025

Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Apopka Birding Park Bird Survey

November 29, 2025

Contact Alexander at alexdebear@icloud.com

Apopka Birding Park Workday

November 29, 2025

Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

North Shore Bird Survey

November 24, 2025

Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL, Lake Apopka

Dec 11-15, 2025

Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Beginners' Birdwatching Class, October 11, 28 and 25, 2025

Orange Audubon's Beginners' Birdwatching Class starts October 11th and continues October 18th and 25th. If you have to miss one of the three Saturday mornings, you can make it up in the winter series (Feb 7, 14 and 21, 2026). All sessions are 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Locations are Mead Botanical Garden and the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive. Total cost for all three sessions is: \$60 members; \$75 non-members; \$10 youth (12 & under) with registered adult. Instructors are Susan Thome-Barrett and Kathy Rigling. Register [through our website](#).

Christmas Bird Counts

- Bay Lake: Saturday, December 20, 2025. Contact John Thomson at john.thomson@gmail.com
- Wekiva River: Saturday, December 20, 2025. Contact Jay Exum at jay.h.exum@gmail.com
- Zellwood/Mt. Dora: Thursday, December 18, 2025. Contact Gallus Quigley at gallusq@gmail.com
- Kissimmee Valley: Sunday, December 22, 2024. Contact Chris Newton at dexterdevon68@gmail.com
- Econlockhatchee: Saturday, December 27, 2025. Contact Lorne Malo at lornekmal@gmail.com
- Clermont: Monday, January 4, 2025. Contact John Thomson at john.thomson@gmail.com

Orange Audubon's Panama Trip with Holbrook Travel includes a contribution to Orange Audubon's fundraising. Contact Alan Shapiro at alangrandiflora@gmail.com for details.



PANAMA

Panama | Birding Central Panama and the Darién Lowlands

with Orange Audubon

February 18-28, 2026