

2026 NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL, Dec 3-7, 2026

Trips shaded in green are tapered for photographers. For more details, see the Schedule page on the festival website.

12/03/2026 (Thu. 7:30AM - 11:30AM) - Thurs 1. Leader's Choice – Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive Exit, Carpooling required. Jones Road Stormwater Pond, 2990 Lake Level Canal Road, Mount Dora, FL 32757 (Exit to Wildlife Drive). \$55, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Kathy Rigling and Mary Soule

12/03/2026 (Thu. 7:30AM - 2:00PM) - Thurs 2. Waterfowl of Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive – Mostly driving, some walking. Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, 2850 Lust Rd, Apopka, FL 32703. \$65, bring your own lunch. Note longer trip time. Leaders: Chris Newton and Lorri Lilja

12/03/2026 (Thu. 8:00AM - 11:00AM) - Thurs 3. Neighborhood Lakes Scenic Trail & Trailhead - Accessible and inclusive – paved multi-use trail, up to 2 1/2 miles roundtrip. Address: 26656 County Road 46A, Mount Plymouth. \$25, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Gallus Quigley and Jeff Wermann.

12/03/2026 (Thu. 8:00AM - 11:30AM) - Thurs 5. Emeraldal Marsh, Photo Trip – Mostly driving, some walking. Emeraldal Marsh Conservation Area, 36645 Emeraldal Island Rd, Leesburg, FL 34788, on the Wildlife Drive. \$55, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Steve Shaluta and Maxfield Weakley

12/03/2026 (Thu. 8:00AM - 11:00AM) - Thursday 6 Lake Apopka West Marsh– Kayaking. Kayaks from Oakland Nature Preserve or bring your own. Lake Apopka West Marsh, Canoe/Kayak Launch, 24451 Blackhorse Trail, Astatula, FL 34705. \$40, bring lunch. Leaders: Jim Peterson and Alan Shapiro.

12/03/2026 (Thu. 8:30AM - 2:30PM) - Thurs 7 T.M. Goodwin Waterfowl – Mostly driving, some walking. T.M. Goodwin Waterfowl Management Area, Broadmoor Marsh, 3200 T. M. Goodwin Rd., Fellsmere, 32948. \$75, bring own lunch. Location is 2 hours from Apopka Leaders David Simpson and Glenn Blaser

12/03/2026 (Thu. 9:00AM - 12:00PM) - Thurs 4. Skimmers, Terns and Shorebirds, Disappearing Island - New Smyrna Beach, Marine Discovery Center – Boat trip. 116 North Causeway, New Smyrna Beach \$85, Leaders: Noah Steinberg, Gary Steinberg, Joan Tague

12/03/2026 (Thu. 12:30PM - 3:30PM) - Thurs 8 Oystercatchers, Plovers, Clapper Rails - Lunch & scoping at restaurant, walking at Ponce Inlet. Our Deck Down Under, 78 Dunlawton Ave, Port Orange, 32127. \$35 plus \$10 parking & lunch cost. Noah Steinberg, Gary Steinberg, Joan Tague

12/03/2026 (Thu. 1:00PM - 3:30PM) - Thurs 9 Afternoon on the Drive: Mostly driving, some walking. Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, 2850 Lust Rd, Apopka, FL 32703. Carpooling required. \$55. Bring your own lunch. Leaders: Kathy Rigling, Luis Gles, Mariah Hryniewicz, Alex Lamoreaux

12/03/2026 (Thu. 4:00PM - 6:00PM) - Thurs 10 Dora Canal (Sunset with The Birds) Photography Boat Trip Rusty Anchor - Dora Canal Tours, 400 W. 4th Avenue, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$60, includes cost of boat ride. Leader: Lee Ann Posavad and Jason Glatt. Note: Allow time to locate parking.

12/03/2026 (Thu. 4:45PM - 7:30PM) - Thurs 11. Evening on the North Shore – Driving (carpooling) and staying in place. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$40. Leaders: Jack Horton, Brian Cammarano, Luis Gles, Mariah Hryniewicz. Dress for mosquitos/bring repellent

12/04/2026 (Fri. 6:00AM - 11:30AM) - Fri 1. Hal Scott Regional Preserve, Red-cockaded Woodpecker Quest – Mostly driving, some walking. Hal Scott Regional Preserve and Park, Google map will be sent. \$55, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Graham Williams, Katrina Noland, Lorri Lilja. No bathroom.

12/04/2026 (Fri. 7:00AM - 2:00PM) - Fri 5. Lake Apopka North Shore, Leader's Choice – Mostly driving, some walking. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora. \$70. Bring own lunch. Leaders: Chris Newton, Luis Gles, and Mariah Hryniewicz

12/04/2026 (Fri. 7:30AM - 11:00AM) - Fri 2. Ferndale: Wintering Songbirds – Walking. Ferndale Preserve, 19220 County Rd 455, Clermont, FL 34715. \$55, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Gallus Quigley and Jeff Wermann

12/04/2026 (Fri. 7:30AM - 11:30AM) - Fri 3. Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area – Mostly driving, some walking. Tosohatchee Wildlife Management Area, 3365 Taylor Creek Road, Christmas, FL 32709. \$55, bring your own lunch. Leaders: David Simpson, Lynn Proenza and Casey Dorsch

12/04/2026 (Fri. 7:30AM - 11:30AM) - Fri 4. Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge - Walking up to 2.4 miles. 2045 Mud Lake Road, De Leon Springs, FL 32130. \$55, bring lunch (or optionally have lunch afterwards at nearby DeLeon Springs State Park). Leaders: Danny Young and Max Weakley

12/04/2026 (Fri. 8:00AM - 11:00PM) - Fri 10. Scrub-Jays and SW Volusia County Specialties – Walking. Sandy soil. Start at Lyonia Preserve, 2150 Eustace Avenue, Deltona, FL 32725. \$50, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Noah Steinberg, Gary Steinberg and Joan Tague.

12/04/2026 (Fri. 8:00AM - 11:00AM) - Fri 7. Bilingual Photo Trip (Viaje de fotografía). Lake Apopka Wildlife Dr., 2850 Lust Rd, Apopka, FL 32703. \$30, sin almuerzo. Líderes: Ed Maldonado and TBA. Conduciremos hasta la casa de bombas, estacionaremos y caminaremos fotografía.

12/04/2026 (Fri. 8:00AM - 11:00AM) - Fri 8. Sandhill Specialties at Wekiwa Springs State Park – Walking. Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. \$40 + \$4/\$6 park entrance fee, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Alex Lamoreaux, Brian Cammarano and Mary Soule.

12/04/2026 (Fri. 8:00AM - 11:00AM) - Fri 9. Trimble Park – Walking (moderate). Trimble Park, 5802 Trimble Park Rd, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$35, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Kathy Rigling and Debbie and Randy McCall.
12/04/2026 (Fri. 8:00AM - 12:00PM) - Friday 6. Blue Spring Adventure – St Johns River 2-hour boat ride. Some walking. Blue Spring State Park, 2100 W French Avenue, Orange City FL 32763. Florida Scrub-Jays, manatees, winter warblers, \$65 + \$4/\$6 park fee Alan Shapiro and Chuck Honaker
12/04/2026 (Fri. 12:00PM - 3:00PM) - Fri 11. Caracara Quest in E. Seminole Co. – Some walking. Seminole County, location to be emailed. \$50. Leaders: Scott Simmons, Brian Cammarano and Bob Duchesne
12/04/2026 (Fri. 2:30PM - 4:30PM) - Fri 12. Nature Journaling – Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. Adults \$25. Leader: Danielle Ivey with Susan Thome-Barrett. Supplies provided or bring own. Indoor at pavilion: 2:30, sketching at Lake Prevatt 3:30 - 4:30.
12/04/2026 (Fri. 3:00PM - 4:30PM) - Fri 13. Digiscoping. Youth Camp, Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. \$25, plus park entrance fee of \$4 (single person in vehicle) or \$6 (up to 8 in vehicle). Leaders: Luis Gles, Mariah Hryniewicz and Mary Soule.
12/04/2026 (Fri. 4:30PM - 6:15PM) - Friday Dinner Keynote: Field Identifiable Subspecies in Florida by Alex Lamoreaux. Wekiwa Springs State Park Youth Camp, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. \$30 regular, \$20 student, \$10 youth up to 17. Plzza and salad, vegan options.
12/04/2026 (Fri. 5:30PM - 7:30PM) - Fri 14. Woodcock and Owl Prowl, Walking. Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. \$25. Leaders: Kathy Rigling and Bob Duchesne
12/05/2026 (Sat. 6:15AM - 11:00AM) - Sat 1. Birding by Ear – Walking. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$60, includes box lunch. Leaders: Scott Simmons, Jessica Dyszel, Sandi Duchesne and Jeff Graham
12/05/2026 (Sat. 6:30AM - 3:00PM) - Sat 2. Big Day, Lake Apopka North Shore (Western side, not Wildlife Drive) and other nearby spots – Mostly driving, some walking. McDonald Canal, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora 32757. \$95, includes van and box lunch. Leaders: Chris Newton and John Thomton
12/05/2026 (Sat. 6:30AM - 3:00PM) - Sat 3. Big Day, Lake Apopka North Shore (Western side, not Wildlife Drive) + other spots. Mostly driving, some walking. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, 32757. \$95, includes van and box lunch. Leaders: Will Johnson and Gary Steinberg
12/05/2026 (Sat. 6:30AM - 3:00PM) - Sat 4. Big Day, Lake Apopka North Shore (Western side, not Wildlife Drive) and other spots – Mostly driving, some walking. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora 32757. \$95, includes van and box lunch. Leaders: Alex Lamoreaux and Lorri Lilja
12/05/2026 (Sat. 6:30AM - 3:00PM) - Sat 5. Big Day, Lake Apopka North Shore (Western side, not Wildlife Drive) + nearby spots. Mostly driving, some walking. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, 32757. \$95, includes van + box lunch. Leaders: Bob Duchesne, Mary Soule
12/05/2026 (Sat. 6:30AM - 3:00PM) - Sat 6. Big Day, Lake Apopka North Shore (Western side, not Wildlife Drive) + other spots – Mostly driving, some walking. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, 32757. \$95, includes van + box lunch. Leaders: Gallus Quigley and Brian Cammarano
12/05/2026 (Sat. 7:00AM - 3:30PM) - Sat 6a. Young Birders Big Day, Lake Apopka North Shore (Western side, not Wildlife Drive) + other spots– McDonald Canal , 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora 32757 \$25 for youth & parents, includes box lunch. Leaders: Noah Steinberg and Kathy Rigling
12/05/2026 (Sat. 8:00AM - 10:00AM) - Sat 7 - Avian Reconditioning Center Photo Workshop - Minimal Walking. Avian Reconditioning Center, 323 Lester Rd, Apopka FL 32712, \$40. Leader: Jack Rogers
12/05/2026 (Sat. 8:00AM - 11:00AM) - Sat 8. Birding by Bicycle – Bicycling, approx. 6 miles. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$50, includes box lunch. Leaders: Alan Shapiro and Pete Johnson. Bring your own bicycle suitable for dirt roads
12/05/2026 (Sat. 8:00AM - 11:00AM) - Sat 9. Oakland Nature Preserve Photo Walk – Some walking. Oakland Nature Preserve, 747 Machete Trail, Oakland, FL 34760 and Newton Park, \$30, bring your own lunch. Leaders: David Simpson and Vanessa Picarello.
12/05/2026 (Sat. 8:00AM - 11:00AM) - Sat 9a. Oakland Nature Preserve Bird Walk – Walking. Oakland Nature Preserve, 747 Machete Trail, Oakland, FL 34760 and Newton Park, \$30, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Mark Hainen and Matt Richardson
12/05/2026 (Sat. 9:00AM - 1:00PM) - Sat 10. Learning About Birds Through Drawing: Waterfowl and Songbirds – Indoor /Outdoor Workshop. Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. \$25 Leader: Tricia Newton, with Susan Thome-Barrett. Supplies provided or bring your own.
12/05/2026 (Sat. 2:30PM - 4:00PM) - Sat 11. Wekiwa Bird Walk. Youth Camp, Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. \$25, plus park entrance fee of \$4 (single person in vehicle) or \$6 (up to 8 in vehicle). Leaders: Jessica Dyszel and Colin Giebner.
12/05/2026 (Sat. 3:00PM - 4:15PM) - Sat 12. Advanced eBirding. Youth Camp, Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. \$10, plus park entrance fee of \$4 (single person in vehicle) or \$6 (up to 8 in vehicle). Leaders: David Simpson and Susan Thome-Barrett
12/05/2026 (Sat. 3:00PM - 4:15PM) - Sat 12a. Pre-Dinner Wekiwa Bird Walk. Youth Camp, Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. \$10, Leaders: Maddie Barber and Jennifer Barber.

12/05/2026 (Sat. 4:30PM - 7:30PM) - Sat 13. Young Birders Dinner + Owling Combo. Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka 32712. \$20 for youth and parents, includes dinner + owl quest on foot Ages 8-17; under 16 must be accompanied by a paid adult. Leaders: Kathy Rigling and TBA.
12/05/2026 (Sat. 4:30PM - 6:30PM) - Saturday Keynote Dinner: Bob Duchesne on Maine to Florida. Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. \$35 regular, \$20 student, \$10 youth up to 17. Caterer Krazy Greek Kitchen, vegan options.
12/05/2026 (Sat. 5:30PM - 7:30PM) - Sat 14. Woodcock and Owl Prowl – Walking. Wekiwa Springs State Park, 1800 Wekiwa Cir, Apopka, FL 32712. \$25. Leaders: David Simpson, and Alex Lamoreaux
12/06/2026 (Sun. 6:30AM - 11:00AM) - Sun 1. Ocala National Forest Woodpecker Extravaganza – Walking. Clearwater Lake Recreation Area, Ocala National Forest, near Paisley, 24511 Co Rd 42, Paisley, FL 32767. \$55, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Gallus Quigley, Noah Steinberg and Gary Steinberg
12/06/2026 (Sun. 6:30AM - 11:30AM) - Sun 2. Birding the Lake Apopka North Shore – Mostly driving, some walking. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$55, includes box lunch. Leaders: Bob Duchesne, Gian Basili and Ben Guigliotti
12/06/2026 (Sun. 7:00AM - 11:00AM) - Sun 3. Waterfowl of Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive – Mostly driving, some walking. Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, 2850 Lust Rd, Apopka, FL 32703. \$60, includes box lunch. Leaders: Alex Lamoreaux, Brian Cammarano, Haden Klinger, Kathy Rigling
12/06/2026 (Sun. 7:30AM - 11:30AM) - Sun 4. Orlando Wetlands, Walking tour with Photography – Walking, with tram ride back for bathroom break, if possible. 25155 Wheeler Road, Christmas, FL 32709. \$45, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Ethan Landreville, Brennan Landreville and Glenn Blaser
12/06/2026 (Sun. 7:30AM - 11:30AM) - Sun 5. Scrub-Jays at Seminole State Forest – Mostly driving, some walking. Seminole State Forest, south entrance, SR 46. \$50, bring own lunch. Leaders: Ralph Risch and Will Johnson
12/06/2026 (Sun. 7:30AM - 11:30AM) - Sun 6. Green Mountain Trail Hiking and Birding – Walking, approximately 4 miles. Green Mountain Scenic Overlook and Trailhead, 20700 CR 455, Montverde, FL. \$45, includes box lunch at McDonald Canal. Leaders: Pete Johnson and Jeff Graham
12/06/2026 (Sun. 8:00AM - 11:00AM) - Sun 7. Rock Springs Run State Reserve, Scrub-Jay Quest. Walking. Rock Springs Run State Reserve, 30601 County Rd 433, Sorrento, FL 32776. \$45, bring your own lunch. Leaders: David Simpson and Chuck Honaker
12/06/2026 (Sun. 8:00AM - 11:00AM) - Sun 8. Sawgrass Island Preserve Photo Trip – Walking. Sawgrass Island Preserve, 11931 Sawgrass Island Rd, Umatilla, FL 32784, North parking area. \$50, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Steve Shaluta and Max Weakley
12/06/2026 (Sun. 8:00AM - 11:30AM) - Sun 9. Birding by Kayak, A-B Canal. McDonald Canal Boat Ramp, 24600 CR 448A, Mt Dora, FL 32757. Kayaks provided by Lake County Water Authority. \$50, includes box lunch Leaders: Alan Shapiro and Matt Richardson
12/06/2026 (Sun. 8:30AM - 11:30AM) - Sun 9a. Canaveral Birding. Mostly walking, sandy surfaces. Canaveral Natl Seashore, 7611 S Atlantic Ave, New Smyrna Bch, FL 32169. \$40, bring lunch Leaders: John Kendall and Mitchell Harris. National Parks pass or \$25 per car admission. Meet to carpool
12/06/2026 (Sun. 1:30PM - 3:30PM) - Sun 10. Plein Aire Drawing. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. Adults \$25, Leader: Jessie Sodano, assisted by Susan Thome-Barrett. Supplies provided or bring your own.
12/06/2026 (Sun. 4:45PM - 7:30PM) - Sun 11. Evening on the North Shore – Driving (carpooling) and staying in place watching. McDonald Canal Pavilion, 24600 CR 448A, Mount Dora, FL 32757. \$40. Leaders: Chris Newton and Lorri Lilja. Dress for mosquitoes and bring repellent (DEET recommended)
12/07/2026 (Mon. 7:00AM - 2:00PM) - Mon 1 Joe Overstreet Road and Three Lakes. Meet at Publix, 3372 Canoe Creek Rd., St. Cloud, FL 34772. Note longer time. \$60, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Chris Newton and Lorri Lilja
12/07/2026 (Mon. 7:30AM - 11:00AM) - Mon 2. Pine Meadows: Sparrows and Bunting Pine Meadows Conservation Area, 2280 Pine Meadows Golf Course Rd, Eustis, FL 32726. \$55, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Gallus Quigley and Alan Shapiro
12/07/2026 (Mon. 7:30AM - 11:30AM) - Mon 3. Best of Birding the Lake Apopka North Shore – Mostly driving, some walking. Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, 2850 Lust Road, Apopka, FL 32805. \$65, bring your own lunch. Leaders: Alex Lamoreaux and Kathy Rigling
12/07/2026 (Mon. 8:00AM - 1:30PM) - Mon 4. Meritt Island NWR – Mostly driving, some walking. Parish Park, 1 A Max Brewer Causeway, Titusville, FL 32796. \$55 (includes access permit), bring your own lunch. Leaders: Mitchell Harris, Joan Tague, David Simpson and Bob Duchesne
12/07/2026 (Mon. 8:30AM - 11:30AM) - Mon 5. Venetian Gardens Closeup – Walking. Venetian Gardens, 109 E Dixie Ave, Leesburg, FL 34748. \$25, bring your own lunch. Leader: Jason Glatt