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ORANGE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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OCTOBER 2026

ORANGE AUDUBON
A Chapter of National and Florida Audubon Societies

www.orangeaudubonfl.org

Wild Turkeys, Pine Lily Preserve, Orange County, *Photo: Mary Keim.* Wild Turkey poult at Seminole State Forest, *Photo: Mary Keim.* Our speaker, Dr. Jay Exum at Rock Springs Run State Reserve, *Photo courtesy Jay Exum.*

Wild Turkeys by Jay Exum
October 15, 2026

Orange Audubon Society is pleased to have Dr. Jay Exum tell us all about Wild Turkeys for our October 15th program, timed before Thanksgiving.

Jay did research on turkeys for his Ph.D. dissertation in Wildlife Ecology at Auburn University. Since then he has conducted ecological assessments over tens of thousands of acres of land with a focus on biological diversity, threatened and endangered species, wetland ecology, and conservation of natural resources.

In the early 1900s, Wild Turkeys had been hunted nearly to extinction. Through various conservation efforts, their numbers have increased, so they are now frequently seen, including at our Apopka Birding Park. Florida is home to two subspecies — the Eastern Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*) and the Osceola or Florida Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo osceola*).

Prepare your questions, and we'll see you in person on Thursday, October 15th in the Camellia Room at Leu Gardens for this talk! It's free. 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.

ORANGE AUDUBON

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 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2026

To celebrate fall migration, Orange Audubon will again host bird walks at Mead Botanical Garden on Saturdays, October 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2026.

Each walk is led by an experienced birding leader. 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.

Mead Botanical Garden is a migration hotspot, as it provides shelter, water, seeds and insects needed by songbirds migrating south in fall or north in spring.

As our walks 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

Looking for a rare warbler at Mead Botanical Garden, September 2026, *Photos: Alan Shapiro*

Left, first visit to Truck Shop by our architectural firm, May 2024. Right, Meeting with the architect about siting the building on higher ground, September 2026. *Photos: Deborah Green*

What's New at the Apopka Birding Park

A lot! First, we are now calling our planned building the Orange Audubon Natural History Museum at Apopka Birding Park.

Second, we are moving the location of the building out of the old Truck Shop to a higher location closer to the Apopka Birding Park entrance.

Thanks to new working group member Lance Hart, who retired from a career as a wetland scientist for the St. Johns River Water Management District, we became aware that the Truck Shop was in the 100-year floodplain. We are conscious that 100-year floods come much more often today. So our working group decided to raise the floor nearly 3 feet to protect our building and its contents. But that plan became very convoluted and costly.

Our architect, Philip Donovan of Little Diversified Architectural Consulting, then had the idea to use the same building design and recreate the concrete block frame on higher ground, and our working group and board agreed. The price was about the same as raising the floor. And — bonus — we would still have the old Truck Shop to renovate for storage.

The original design of the 2400 square foot Truck Shop, with additional 1000 square foot annex, was very clever, with the exhibits able to be pushed to the side so the space could be accomodate over 100 chairs for programs.

But now, especially if we can secure the Tourist Development Tax funding, we could expand our footprint. Hopefully, we will have more news in the November issue.

Restoration Progress

One big obstacle to "rewilding" our old greenhouse nursery site has been the presence of the concrete pads that were the bases of the greenhouses that burned circa 1999. This summer, the St. Johns River Water Management District has been removing the concrete pads to use for rip-rap along the lake and other construction projects. This massive job is almost done. The District has been kind enough to consult with us as to which pads we might want to save.

Our second obstacle is widespread presence of cogongrass, a highly invasive weed pest. Getting a big infestation under control is a multi-year project. We are working with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the City of Apopka on yearly herbicide treatments. Currently, the Apopka Birding Park is closed due to these restoration activities.

Plantings

Lance Hart, Jim Helmers and Steve Turner on our Apopka Birding Park Working Group (ABPWG) are planning test plots of restored vegetation. More next month.

Deborah Green, ABPWG Committee Chair

Florida Native Plant Month

The Florida Native Plant Society celebrates October as Native Plant Month.

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

- To see great examples of how eight homeowners have made their yards attractive to birds, join our 2026 Native Bird Friendly Yards Tour. See p. 3

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

ORANGE AUDUBON

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.

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Bird-Friendly Yards Tour Returns! Sunday, October 4, 2026

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. Orange Audubon is hosting a Native Plants Yards Tour on Sunday, October 4th, 9 am–2 pm.

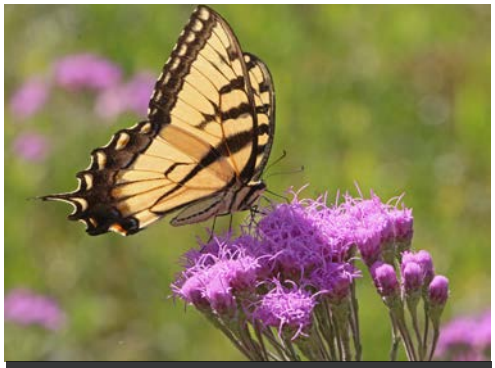
Co-sponsored by the Florida Native Plant Society Tarflower Chapter and Wild Birds Unlimited, Winter Springs, the tour will showcase 8 homes.

Some feature new, others mature native landscapes, and others feature bird feeders attracting Painted Buntings, goldfinches, and more.

Tickets are $15 (Youth accompanied by a paying adult are free). Proceeds benefit our Orange Audubon Natural History Museum at the Apopka Birding Park.

Attendees tour at their own pace. A map with descriptions of the homes will be emailed to registrants two days prior to the tour. Tickets are on sale online at this link **https://orangeaudubonfl.org/yards-tour/.**

The tour is timed to be 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 24, 2026 - 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. Go on our Yards Tour two weeks before (October 4th), make lists of plants you need and buy them from our Tarflower friends. Don't miss it!

Birding by Bike at Orlando Wetlands Park, September 2025. *Photo: Alan Shapiro*

Birding by Bike, Orlando Wetlands

October 25, 2026

Join Alan Shapiro and Pete Johnson on a Limited Edition Birding by Bike trip at Orlando Wetlands on Sunday, October 25th. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot and pedal through beautiful parts of the Wetlands that can't be easily accessed by walking. Traveling in early morning by bike, we can cover more territory than if hiking, so we are likely to see a greater number of bird species and other critters like otters, gators, deer and bobcats.

Bring your own bikes and plenty of water, sunscreen, bug spray, a snack, a good hat, binoculars, camera, and anything else you may need for a 3 1/2 hour bike ride. We will be going slow and stopping frequently, so you need not be an expert cyclist to participate. Pedal-assist bicycles are not permitted at Orlando Wetlands .

Possible sightings include Ring-necked duck, Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Mottled Duck, Lesser Scaup, Sora, Virginia Rail, Northern Harrier, Bald Eagle, Belted Kingfisher, American Kestrel, Vermillion Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat and Painted Bunting. Mammal sightings may include River Otters, White-tailed Deer and Bobcats.

Price is $15. To reserve your spot, go on our website:https://orangeaudubonfl.org/field-trip-signup/. If you have questions, contact Alan Shapiro at alangrandiflora@gmail.com

Kathy Rigling, Education Coordinator

Florida Climate Week

Florida Climate Week, October 5-11, 2026, is a celebration of engagement, education, and collective action focused on climate and resilience challenges facing our state.

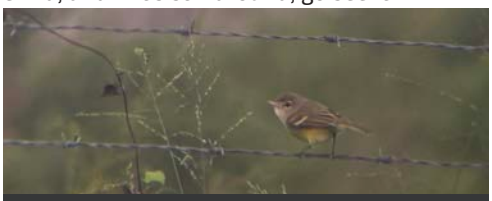
This hybrid, weeklong initiative invites all Floridians to tune in to expert-led virtual sessions, connect through community events, take meaningful action, and amplify their voices for a sustainable future.

To learn more about activities and participation check out their website at www.floridaclimateweek.org.

Rick Baird, Conservation Chair

A Rare Little Bird Creates a Stir

Bell's Vireo is a very active, nervous little bird that nests from the Midwest to the Southwest and into northern Mexico. It migrates farther south in Mexico. Off-course individuals show up in Florida as rarities. In late September, Rafael Gomez, a photographer and frequent birder on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, discovered a Bell's Vireo near the Ambassador shelter at the beginning of the Drive, and many birders had the opportunity to see it. According to local expert Paul Hueber, only 11 or 12 individuals have been seen in Orange County since records have been kept. Check eBird, and if it's still around, go see it!



Bell's Vireo, a rare vagrant at the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive, September 2026. *Photo: Haden Klinger*

Update Your Membership

October is a great time to renew your 3-way membership in Orange Audubon Society, Audubon Florida and National Audubon Society. Please pay directly to Orange Audubon, and we transmit the funds to National. The minimum membership dues are $20 ($15 for students). If you want to include an additional donation, which goes to Orange Audubon, you can. Just click the Join/Renew link on our website. If you need your expiration date, email membership@orangeaudubonfl.org. Thank you!

Your Contributions Really Help

Donations to Orange Audubon are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. You can donate online at this link or mail checks to Orange Audubon Society, P.O. Box 274, Apopka, FL 32704.

Orange Audubon now has the ability to receive monthly donations on our website and these donations can be used toward our natural history museum and educational efforts.

For those with IRAs who are over 70 1/2 years of age, making **qualified charitable distributions** (QCDs) directly to non-profits, including Orange Audubon Society, may count towards your required minimum distribution, providing a significant tax benefit. Speak with your fund manager to set this up. Thank you!

Deborah Green, President
with Sue Weidner, Treasurer

Peru Adventure, April 25 - May 3, 2027

Orange Audubon's next big international trip is to Peru with Holbrook Travel in late April through early May. The 9-day trip begins in vibrant Lima and nearby coastal areas before continuing to the Andean highlands, home to the Sacred Valley of the Incas and the famed Machu Picchu archaeological complex. Price is from $4,595, which does not include round-trip airfare to and from destination. See Holbrook's webpage: Peru | Birding Andes, Cloud Forest and Machu Picchu. The price includes a contribution to Orange Audubon's fundraising. Contact Alan Shapiro at alangrandiflora@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Halloween Bird Walk

Join Orange Audubon on October 31st at Mead Botanical Garden for our very first Halloween bird walk. To get into the holiday spirit, we are encouraging our participants to dress up like their favorite bird.

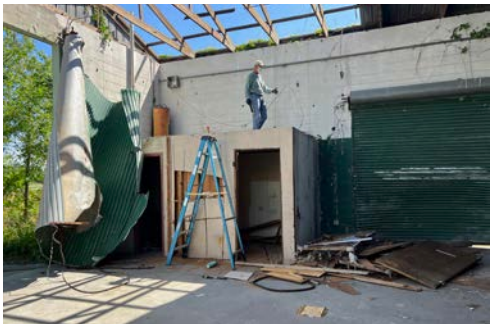
Be creative! Use materials that you already have at home. We are going to offer a first place for best adult costume and best youth under 16 costume. Don't want to dress up? Everyone who would like to guess what bird each person is dressed up as can compete too. Whoever gets the most correct answers will also win a prize!

Of course we'll take a bird walk as well. This is a free event and will be from 8 to 11. Registration is open on our website.

Looking For Volunteers

Do you have time and a passion for volunteering? Orange Audubon is looking to expand its existing base of Orange Audubon member volunteers. The Get Involved tab on our website has a survey to let us know of your interests. Or just email volunteer@orangeaudubonfl.org. Thank you!

Mary Van Egmond, Volunteer Coordinator



Above, Alan Shapiro working on cleaning up our Truck Shop. Middle, Alan leading a field trip at Orlando Wetlands Festival. Bottom, Alan guiding planting project at Wolf Lake Middle School. *Photos: Deborah Green and Kathy Rigling*

Education Program Update

Last year, in my role as Orange Audubon Education Coordinator, I visited 37 public schools including 398 classrooms, with outreach to 7,031 students. A dedicated team of 15 Orange Audubon volunteers helped to make these programs possible.

Our program installed native plant gardens at one local elementary school, two middle schools and two high schools. More native garden grants will be available for the 2026-27 school year.

Educational visits provide standards-based science lessons, community science field experiences and guidance for planning and implementing native plant gardens—all free of charge. Programs are grade level appropriate. Last year our team brought participatory science to many campuses with 158 bird counts from one end of the county to the other.

This year we are offering a limited number of monthly before or after school STEAM birding clubs. I will visit your extracurricular club providing an engaging bird-related curriculum, loaner binoculars and other related resources. I am also available for programs for adult groups, scout groups and similar organizations.

Already for the 2026-27 school year we have conducted pollinator counts at Freedom Middle, Dommerich Elementary and Wolf Lake Middle. One of the Wolf Lake students commented that it was the most fun he had at school, watching the honeybees pollinating Frog fruit!

National Public Lands Day at REI, Winter Park. *Photo courtesy Kathy Rigling.*

Also, since August our team has tabled at the Green Fest at the South Branch of the Orange County Public Library, Public Lands Day at REI, taught an intro to birding class at REI, helped Brownie Scouts with their bug badge at Mead Botanical Gardens and conducted the bird beak adaptations lesson at Conway Elementary and Freedom Middle.

Monthly visits continue for the Zellwood Elementary Birding Club. In September we observed our first Ruby-throated Hummingbird at the Firebush that Orange Audubon provided through our native plant grant a few years ago. We have added a kindergarten class which we visit at Zellwood, right before the birding club. Currently we are doing lessons to teach them how to observe nature with their senses.

A big thank you to our August and September volunteers: Jimena Aguirre, Mitch Anderson, Rick Baird, Jennifer Barber, Terrie Leibler, Randy McCall, Jesse Sodano and Susan Thome-Barrett. We can always use more volunteers. Please email me for details.

Our next monthly free educational webinar is October 13th from 6:00-6:30 pm with a program about *Audubon Adventures* free digital resources. The link to sign up: http://eepurl.com/imGskM

Please email education@orangeaudubonfl.org to sign up for classroom or after school visits or to join the Orange Audubon education volunteer team. Thank you!

Kathy Rigling, Education Coordinator

Board member profile

Alan Shapiro

Alan Shapiro, Orange Audubon Society's Second Vice President, is a horticulturalist who owned a large nursery in Gainesville featuring native plants for 25 years. A tree-climbing arborist in his early professional career, Alan did not hesitate to climb onto structures in our old Truck Shop and help clean out the building.

A birder through his participation in Alachua Audubon, Alan moved down here to be closer to his grandchildren and was soon recruited into our community.

Alan's native landscape by the Ambassador kiosk on the Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive won a Native Garden of Honor award from the Florida Native Plant Society and helped us win a Viva Florida grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation for the planned landscape next to our new building.

Since that landscape cannot be planted until construction is complete, Alan won another grant from Florida Wildflower Foundation and one from Bloom and Grow Garden Club for an entry landscape at the Apopka Birding Park. He coordinated planting at volunteer workdays starting in November 2025.

Alan's help has been essential for Education Coordinator Kathy Rigling's program of grants to assist schools to install native landscapes.

In his retirement, Alan has been going on international birding trips and has started to organize fundraising trips through Holbrook Travel (see p.4). Alan is one of the many people who makes our progress on the Apopka Birding Park possible.

We appreciate you, Alan.

Beginners' Birdwatching Class, October 10, 17 and 24, 2026

Orange Audubon's Beginners' Birdwatching Class in October, taught by Susan Thome-Barrett and Kathy Rigling, is already full. Watch for the winter series: February 7, 14 and 21, 2027. Total cost for all three sessions is: $60 members; $75 non-members; $10 youth (12 & under) with registered adult. Register through our website.

Orange Audubon Young Birders Club September 2026 trip to Mead Botanical Garden. *Photo: Melinda Klinger*

Young Birders Club Trip

The Orange Audubon chapter of the Florida Young Birders Club has been very active these past few months. Thanks to a wonderful partnership with the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey, we've been able to offer two tours of the Center, particularly focused on our youngest of the Young Birders. Our first tour was August 29th. Led by the Center's Senior Coordinator of Education Dr. Daisy Fiore with Orange Audubon board members Susan Thome-Barrett and Jessica Sodano and Education Coordinator Kathy Rigling, the families were treated to an up close and personal visit with all the different raptors that are housed at the Center.

On September 27th, our first of the season Young Birders bird walk was at Mead Botanical Gardens. Led by Haden Klinger, a founding member of our club, assisted by Glenn Blaser and Kathy Rigling, we saw wonderful species, including Acadian Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, and a very cooperative American Redstart. The students also really enjoyed observing the plentiful butterflies that were present on this beautiful fall day, and we ended with a surprise find of a Black Racer hunting among the flowers!

Our next Bird walk is October 4th at Central Winds Park in Winter Springs, another excellent place to observe fall migration. Leaders are Brennan and Ethan Landreville and Haden Klinger. Register here on our website: https://orangeaudubonfl.org/field-trip-signup/

Kathy Rigling

Conserving Birds Every Way We Can

Bird conservation is the attempt to protect birds and their habitats they depend on, so that people can still watch them fly, nest, and sing. A simple love of birds turns into a responsibility to protect them. What makes bird conservation so important though is that, as the world is changing fast, many species of birds can't adapt quickly enough on their own.

Bird conservation matters because birds are involved in ecosystems in ways most people never notice. They pollinate flowers, carry seeds through forests, and control insect populations that would otherwise destroy crops and spread disease. Scientists studying birds have found a declining population in recent decades, because of habitat loss, pesticide use, climate change, and colliding with windows and communication towers. When bird populations decrease, farms, forests, and entire ecosystems also decline because they depend on the balance birds provide.

Conservation organizations are working to take care of these problems. Organizations such as the Audubon Society, Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Ducks Unlimited are restoring wetlands, protecting nesting grounds, and advocating against habitat destruction. They are also funding research that tracks migration routes, identifies stopover sites, and find which species need immediate protection. This work depends on accurate data, and that's where everyday people can make a bigger difference.

Everyday people can support bird conservation in ways that fit easily into daily life. Installing bird-friendly window treatments prevents fatal collisions, one of the main reasons birds die near homes. By keeping cats indoors, birds are protected from a predator that hunts them.

Sanderlings, Short-billed Dowitchers and other shorebirds resting in fall migration at Bahia Honda State Park, Florida Keys. The mounds of "wrack" host fleas and other invertebrates that the birds eat. *Photo: Deborah Green*

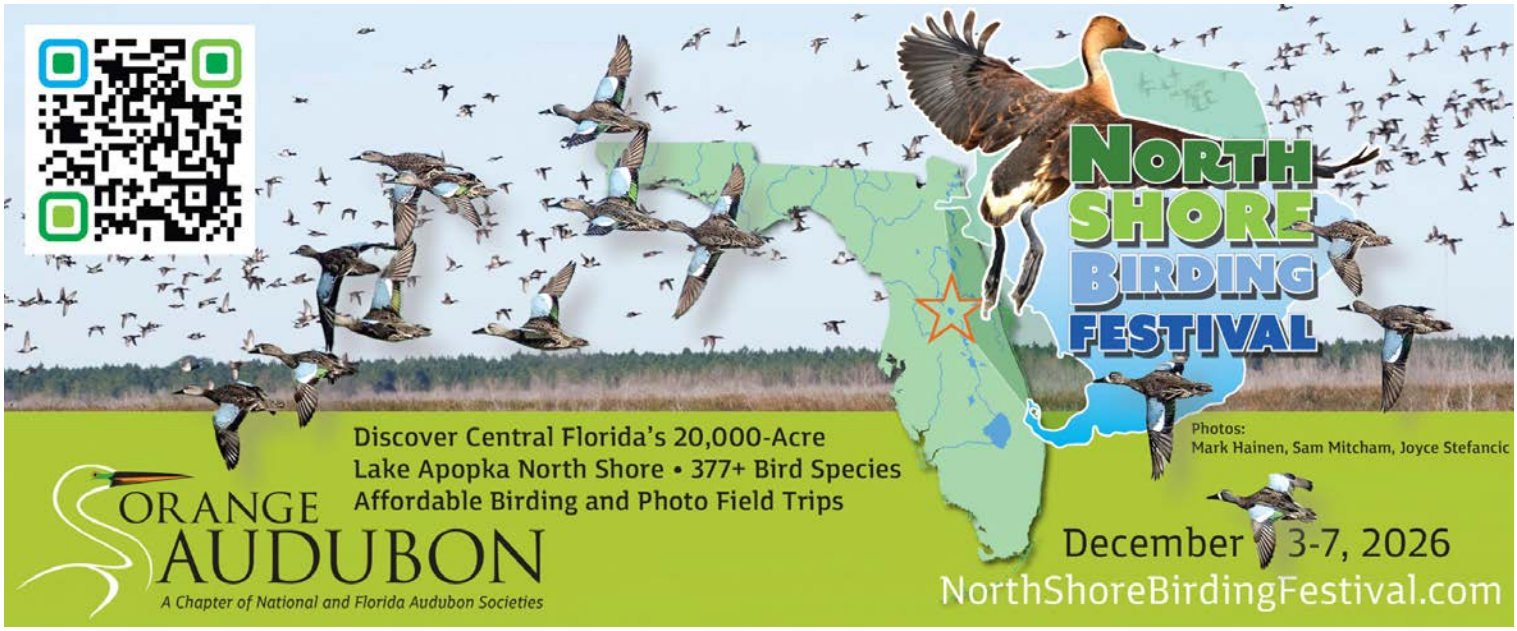
Native trees, shrubs and flowers are a food and shelter source for birds that they have relied on for a very long time, as native plants support the specific insects and seeds many species require for survival. Using organic instead of pesticides makes the food chain safer for birds and the insects they consume.

Because plastic pollution harms birds whether they eat it or get stuck in it, reducing plastic waste and recycling responsibly is a great thing to do. Even small choices, like buying bird-friendly coffee grown under trees instead of in farmland, support habitat preservation in coffee-growing regions that many migratory species depend on.

Sometimes, simply just observing and recording birds helps. Logging sightings through platforms like eBird turns a regular walk into data, helping researchers track populations and identify areas that need help. Every checklist adds another piece of data to bird life.

None of these actions require a nature preserve or training. A backyard, a balcony, or even a single window can become part of the solution. Bird conservation works because it's built from many small efforts, by people who care enough to act. *Arnav Dhakal*

Arnav Dhakal is a 11th grader who has been in Orange Audubon's Young Birder's Club for about 2 years. He hopes for a career in business so he can help take care of birds.



2026 NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL

Although Orange Audubon Society's 11th annual NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL is not until December 3-7, 2026, now is the time to register to get in on the action. Registration opened September 27th. Many trips fill quickly.

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 15 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.

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

Community Impact

Over 60 field trips extend over 5 days, Thursday through Monday, December 3-7, 2026. Most trips are for birding but a number are tailored for photographers.

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.

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, our keynote speaker is Alex Lamoreaux on "Beyond just the Bird - Looking more closely at subspecies and other identifiable forms of Florida birds!" Menu is pizza and salad, including vegan options.

The Saturday Keynote is by Bob Duchesne, "Maine to Florida With the Birds." Catered by Krazy Greek Kitchen in Lake Mary, our volunteers put together a great spread.

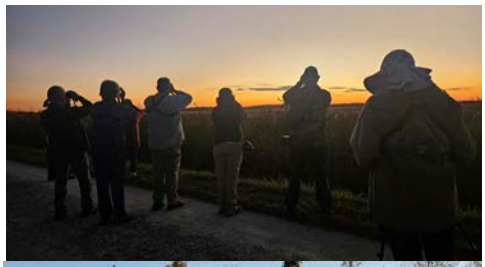
Bob is a very well known Maine birder. After a 31 year career in radio, he retired from broadcasting and developed the Maine Birding Trail as a vehicle for promoting ecotourism in Maine. His YouTube channel, started in 2011, now has 29K subscribers.

The keynote dinners will be at Wekiwa Springs State Park, and you have to enter the gate before the park closes at 5 p.m. Sign up for a workshop before dinner or a trip after dinner at the park.

We also will have Nature Journaling this year, along with Drawing from Nature and Plein Aire Drawing. These classes are Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Over 50 trip leaders, including professional guides, donate their time to lead trips, supported by 20+ volunteers, including the event coordinators. Proceeds of the NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL support Orange Audubon's natural history museum and educational programs. If you have any questions, email festival@orangeaudubonfl.org or call (407) 637-2525. Visit the festival website at https://northshorebirdingfestival.com/.

We look forward to having you with us!



Evening on the North Shore trip, 2025. *Photo: Lorri Lilja.* Digiscoping workshop. *Photo: Deborah Green.* Clay-colored Sparrow, a difficult to find winter sparrow. *Photo: Nicola Dronoff-Guthrie.*

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Bird Chats with OAS via Zoom
October 8 – Birding Peru by Alan Shapiro
October 22 – The Spark Bird Project by Jenn Lodi-Smith
October 29 – NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL Update by the Bird Chat team
November 5 – Echos of the Night Sky Project by Brad Bumgardner, Indiana Audubon
November 12 – Bluebird Basics and Project Nestwatch by Kristen Mattson
Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org
See past Bird Chats on Orange Audubon Society on YouTube

Mead Botanical Garden Bird Walks, Winter Park
October 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2026
Register: https://orangeaudubonfl.org/activities/field-trips/
Contact Linda at (941) 704-1189

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka
October 4, 2026
Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Young Birders Trip to Central Winds Park
October 4, 2026
Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Bird-friendly Yards Tour
October 4, 2026
Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

Beginners Birdwatching Class (FULL)
Orlando Wetlands, Mead and Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive
October 10, 17 and 24, 2026
Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

October Program: Wild Turkeys by Jay Exum
October 15, 2026
Contact Alan at alangrandiflora@gmail.com

Rock Springs State Reserve Bird Survey, Apopka
October 21, 2026
Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Backyard Biodiversity Day, Mead Botanical Garden, Winter Park
October 24, 2026
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Oakland Nature Preserve Quarterly Survey
October 25, 2026
Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Limited Edition Field Trip: Birding by Bike, Orlando Wetlands
October 25, 2026
Register: https://orangeaudubonfl.org/activities/field-trips/

North Shore Bird Survey
October 27, 2026
Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

Mead Botanical Garden Halloween Walk
October 31, 2026
Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Apopka Birding Park Bird Survey
October 31, 2026
Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Apopka Birding Park Workday
October 31, 2026
Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

Wekiwa Springs State Park Bird Survey, Apopka
November 7, 2026
Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Limited Edition Field Trip: Pine Meadows, Lake County
November 8, 2026
Register: https://orangeaudubonfl.org/activities/field-trips/

Monthly Field Trip: PEAR Park, Lake County
November 14, 2026
Register: https://orangeaudubonfl.org/activities/field-trips/

Young Birders Trip to Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive
November 21, 2026
Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

North Shore Bird Survey
November 24, 2026
Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

Apopka Birding Park Bird Survey
November 28, 2026
Contact Kathy at riglingkathy@gmail.com

Apopka Birding Park Workday
November 28, 2026
Contact Deborah at info@orangeaudubonfl.org

NORTH SHORE BIRDING FESTIVAL, Lake Apopka
Dec 3–7, 2026
Contact Deborah at (407) 637-2525

Christmas Bird Counts (Mark Your Calendars)

- Bay Lake: Saturday, December 19, 2026. Contact John Thomton at john.thomton@gmail.com
- Wekiva River: Saturday, December 19, 2026. Contact Jay Exum at jay.h.exum@gmail.com
- Zellwood/Mt. Dora: Thursday, December 17, 2026. Contact Gallus Quigley at gallusq@gmail.com
- Kissimmee Valley: Sunday, December 20, 2026. Contact Chris Newton at dexterdevon68@gmail.com
- Emeralda Marsh: Monday, December 21, 2026. Contact Gigi DelPizzo at h2otrailgal@gmail.com
- Econlockhatchee: Saturday, December 26, 2026. Contact Lorne Malo at lornekmalo@gmail.com
- Clermont: Sunday, January 3, 2027. Contact John Thomton at john.thomton@gmail.com