

**PLEASE RETURN TO THE FRONT DESK**



**Thank you for visiting the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey.**

**This is your Guide through the property. This book contains information on the raptor species who reside here and the exhibits found throughout the site.**

### **What is a bird of prey?**

Raptors include eagles, hawks, osprey, falcons, kites, owls and vultures. All raptors are predatory birds that hunt and kill other animals. They use their long talons to seize and kill their prey. All raptors have sharp, curved beaks that enable them to tear their prey. Keen vision and hearing, combined with their formidable talons, beaks and excellent flying skills, make birds of prey fierce hunters. Raptors are vital for maintaining the healthy populations of prey species, and are key indicators of the health of our ecosystems.

## Swallow-tailed Kite

*Elanoides forficatus*

**Fast Facts:** These are among the most adept and acrobatic fliers of all the raptors. They reside in Florida in the spring and summer, raise their young, then migrate to South America for the winter.

**Identification:** Adult—23"; long, deeply-forked black tail; white head and under-parts; black wings. Call: short, weak, high whistles.

**Diet:** Insects, lizards, snakes, small mammals and birds.

**Habitat:** Riverine forests, pine flatwoods, agricultural areas.

**Nesting in Florida:** March through June in communal roost in tall pines or cypress. Monogamous.



### Ansel

Ansel was admitted in 1998 after a researcher banding birds in the nest noticed the fledgling suffering from malnutrition and a dislocated left shoulder. Ansel spends her days perched with the other kites or sunning herself. She laid her first egg in 2012.

**The resident birds available for viewing at the center have been permanently injured or imprinted and cannot be returned to the wild. Our facility cares for raptors that live in and/or migrate through Florida.**

## Mississippi Kite

*Ictinia mississippiensis*

**Fast Facts:** Mississippi Kites have a unique migration pattern, congregating in groups in the Florida panhandle in late summer. They then travel west along the Texas coast to South America, covering thousands of miles.

**Identification:** Adult—14"; Falcon-like wings, broadest at the wrist, long flared tail. Their call is a high, thin whistle "pe-teew" or "pee-teeer." Dark gray above, paler below with pale gray head. Juveniles are heavily streaked brown and spotted with pale bands on tail.

**Diet:** Insects, lizards, snakes.

**Nesting in Florida:** They nest in the northern half of Florida in the spring and summer. Monogamous.

### Shadow

Shadow arrived at the Clinic in August 2017. He had been rescued near Deland and treated originally at Florida Wild Veterinary Hospital. He had a severely injured right wing, and eventually part of that wing was amputated because of his injuries. Shadow is easy to spot as he is a bit darker than Dancer, and has a few white feathers on his back.



### Dancer

Dancer was admitted in 1993 missing his right wing. When excited, he flaps his remaining wing, causing him to "dance" in circles. Mealworms are one of Dancer's favorite foods.

## Cooper's Hawk

*Accipiter cooperii*

**Fast Facts:** This medium-sized accipiter is a common sight at home bird feeders across the country, swooping in to nab an unwary songbird.

**Identification:** Adult—16-20"; Medium-size with short rounded wings, long tail and red eyes. Their alarm call is a loud "cack cack cack."

**Diet:** Small to medium-sized birds and small mammals.

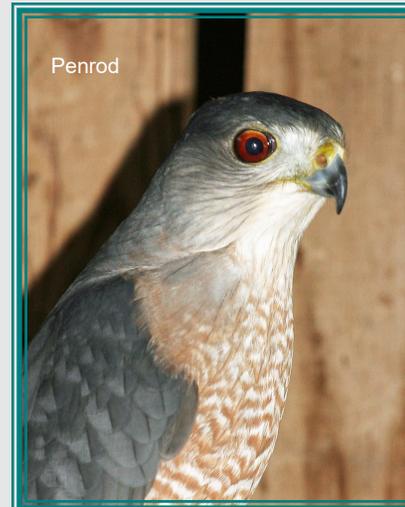
**Habitat:** Open deciduous or mixed woodlands. Some migrate south.

**Nesting in Florida:** Solitary nester, nests April through July. Monogamous.

### Penrod

Penrod was admitted to the Center in 2005. He lost the tip of his right wing as a nestling and was later found in a bush as a fledgling unable to fly. Apparently his parents had been feeding him.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Cooper's Hawks rely heavily on surprise attacks when hunting. They hunt prey using cover or by zigzagging quickly through dense vegetation.



## Red-tailed Hawk

*Buteo jamaicensis*

**Fast Facts:** Red-tails are the most widely distributed hawk in the United States.

**Identification:** Adult—22"; dark band across belly. Adults have a red tail. Wide variation in color of plumage.

**Diet:** Rodents, snakes, insects and squirrels.

**Habitat:** Ubiquitous, prefers open spaces.

**Nesting in Florida:** February through June, predominately in oak and pine trees. Monogamous.

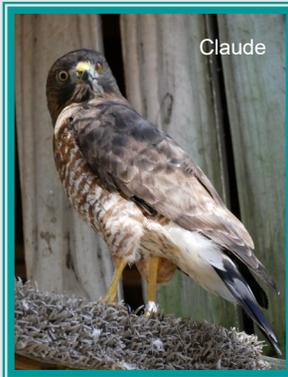
### Spike

Spike was admitted in 2000 with a damaged left eye after being found standing on a pile of logs under her nest in south Orlando. Since the condition was chronic, her damaged eye was removed. She was named for the feathers that stood straight up on her head as a baby.



## Broad-winged Hawk

*Buteo platypterus*



**Fast Facts:** Broad-winged Hawks are relatively rare in Florida but are known in the Northeastern US for their spectacular migrations where thousands travel together.

**Identification:** Adult – 13"-15"; The broad-winged hawk is plain brown above with a barred, rusty color below. They have broad black and white tail bands as adults.

**Diet:** Snakes, mice, frogs and insects.

**Habitat:** Deciduous woodlands

**Nesting in Florida:** They winter in southern Florida towards the tropics. Monogamous.

### Claude

Claude was brought in to the Center in June 2017 with an eye injury and was found to be blind in his left eye. Hawks rely on their sense of sight for hunting and need two working eyes to survive. Claude was named after Claude Monet by an online voting contest.

## Short-tailed Hawk

*Buteo Brachyurus*

**Fast Facts:** One of the smallest Buteos in Florida.

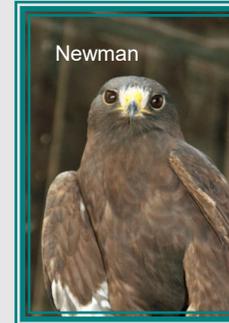
**Identification:** Adult—15-17"; The Short-tailed Hawk is seen in two color forms and is easily recognized in flight because it is the only Florida hawk whose underside is all white or all dark.

**Diet:** Preys on birds, which is rare in Buteos. Often seen kiting high overhead in the wind.

**Habitat:** Found on the peninsula of Florida and in Central and South America but rare in Florida.

**Nesting in Florida:** March through May. Monogamous.

**Newman** Newman was found hanging from a barbed wire fence in Kissimmee, Florida in 2010. His injuries caused severe tissue and tendon damage to the right wing, making him non-releasable. After multiple surgeries at Winter Park Vet Hospital and special bandaging to encourage skin growth, he was placed with our permanent birds.



## Red-shouldered Hawk

*Buteo lineatus*



**Fast Facts:** Most common hawk found in Florida.

**Identification:** Adult—19"; red shoulders, reddish barred under parts, striped tail and under wings. Permanent resident of this area; very vocal—loud, distinctive calls in rapid succession.

**Diet:** Mammals, lizards, snakes, frogs and insects.

**Habitat:** Most hardwood forests, mixed pine, broadleaf woodlands, urban areas, and wetlands.

**Nesting in Florida:** January through May. Monogamous.

**Sorren** He arrived at the Center in 2015 as an immature bird with a fractured left wing as well as trauma to his left eye. Sorren's ability to fly is limited, therefore he is not releasable to the wild. His name is a shortened version of the community of Sorrento, Florida, in which he was found.

## Turkey Vulture

*Cathartes aura*

**Fast Facts:** Currently New World vultures are classified as birds of prey, although DNA tests show they are closely related to the stork family. The most widespread vulture in North America, the Turkey Vulture is sometimes referred to as a "Buzzard".

**Identification:** The Turkey Vulture has brown feathers, grey under-wings, and a red head like a turkey. Soaring Turkey Vultures hold their wings above their backs in a shallow V shape.

**Diet:** Carrion or road kill is a staple for vultures. Turkey vultures are unique among vultures in that they find carrion by smell as well as by sight. When threatened, they defend themselves by vomiting.

**Habitat:** Florida has two populations of Turkey Vultures: year-round and migrants from the northern states.

**Nesting in Florida:** January through June. Nests in low under brush or Palmettos. Monogamous.

### Charlemagne

Charlemagne was admitted to the Center in 1989 after being hit by a car. The accident resulted in a fractured right wing and a missing toe. She shares her home with two of our hawks, Sorren and Newman. Charlemagne laid her first egg in 2005.

### Mortimer

Mortimer was brought to the center in 1988 with a fractured left wing and toe, the result of a car collision. Mortimer shares her home with our Caracaras. In the wild they are often found together on the side of the road eating carrion. Mortimer surprised Center staff in 2006 when "he" laid an egg.



## Crested Caracara

*Caracara cheriway*

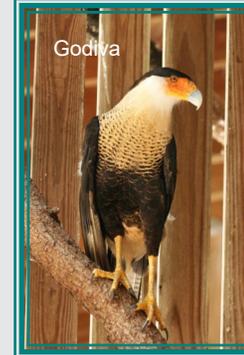
**Fast Facts:** **Threatened species.** Their population status is unknown in Florida. Found in Central and South Florida and Central and South America. Also known as the "Mexican eagle". The Caracara is in the falcon family. Caracaras can live over thirty years in captivity.

**Identification:** Adult—23"; bright orange skin around eyes and nares, dark crest on head.

**Diet:** Reptiles, birds, mammals and often feeds on carrion with vultures; may hunt or dig on ground for prey.

**Habitat:** Open grassland, palmetto thickets, agricultural areas.

**Nesting in Florida:** December through June in cabbage palms and pines. Monogamous.



### Godiva

Godiva was rescued, as a mature bird in Brevard County by a person on horseback in 2001. Godiva suffered from starvation, an old fracture of her right wing, and eye trauma and retinal detachment in the right eye. The affects of these injuries have made her non-releasable. She often can be found next to her BFF, Mortimer the Turkey Vulture, that lives with the Caracaras.

### Tex

Tex was admitted to the Center in 2011 as an immature bird with neurological issues affecting his wings and legs. These neurological problems prevent him from hunting and also result in his prominent "Cowboy Swagger".



## Black Vulture

*Coragyps atratus*

**Fast Facts:** The gregarious Black Vulture roosts, feeds and soars in groups, often mixed with Turkey Vultures. Vultures are often called “nature’s clean up crew” and play an indispensable role in preventing the spread of disease by eating dead animals. The most common cause of injuries is collisions with cars.

**Identification:** Adult—25” to 26”; black body and small head. The Black Vulture has a short tail and almost featherless grey head.

**Diet:** Carrion — road kill is a staple for vultures. Black Vultures will bully a Turkey Vulture away from a carcass.

**Habitat:** Throughout the southeast. Monogamous.

**Nesting in Florida:** January through June. Nests in low underbrush (such as Palmettos).

### Jeff

Jeff was admitted to Audubon in 1995 with a fractured left shoulder and right leg after being hit by a car. After her treatment, her flight was still limited and one leg is shorter than the other. Black Vultures are normally silent but can make soft “woof” and sneezing sounds. After 13 years at the center, Jeff laid an egg.



**DID YOU KNOW?** Based on plumage, most male and female raptors look the same. Sex can often be determined by size, females are larger. However, the most accurate way to tell is a DNA test.

## Peregrine Falcon

*Falco peregrinus*

**Fast Facts:** This is the world's fastest animal: it can dive or drop or "stoop" from the sky at speeds over 200 miles per hour.

**Identification:** Adult—16"-20", pointed wings, short tail and "dark sideburns".

**Diet:** Mainly medium-size birds caught from high above in spectacular stoops.

**Habitat:** Migrates following the Atlantic flyway and down along Florida's coastline in the fall on their way south.

**Nesting in Florida:** Does not nest in Florida. Monogamous.



### Amelia

Amelia was found badly injured on a cruise ship in the Atlantic during her first migration south in the fall of 2015. This young Peregrine Falcon was brought to shore in the Melbourne area and transported to the Center for care. She suffered from starvation and spinal trauma, causing paralysis. With extensive treatment and rehabilitation, she has been able to regain some of her movements but remains permanently disabled and non-releasable.

**DID YOU KNOW?** A flyway is an aerial route that birds use when migrating north or south. Peregrines can breed in Alaska and arctic regions of Canada as well as mountainous regions of the western United States. These birds wander widely after nesting season, following prey along the west and east coast, as far as southern South America utilizing the Pacific and Atlantic Flyways.

## Bald Eagle Conservation

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

**Fast Facts:** Bald Eagles were removed from the Endangered Species List in 2007. However, eagles are still protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Act. They mate for life and utilize the same nest year after year. They're able to exert 300 pounds of grasping pressure per square inch with their feet.

**Identification:** Adults (5 years old)—31"-37", white head and tail, yellow beak and eyes. Wing span 6-8 feet.

Immature birds are all brown, gradually growing in white feathers on the head and tail throughout the first 5 years.

**Diet:** Primarily fish, occasionally birds, mammals, snakes, and turtles but are opportunistic and will feed on carrion.

**Habitat:** Coastal beaches, marshes, pine flat woods, mixed pine and hardwood forests, urban and agricultural areas.

**Nesting in Florida:** October through June in large pine and cypress trees near lakes, marshes, or coastlines, also on man-made structures in urban areas. Monogamous.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Due to differences in the climates, Bald Eagles from the South are smaller than those from the North.



## Bald Eagles



Hali, immature

### Hali

Hali was rescued as a two-year-old in Sarasota in 2013. She was tangled in barbed wire, had tissue trauma, bone exposure and had lost circulation at the tip of her right wing. She was transferred to the Center for care and it was determined partial wing amputation was necessary. Eagles take five years to develop their mature plumage. Young eagles have a dark beak and brown eyes which gradually turn yellow and their brown head and tail feathers molt into white.

### Tallulah

Tallulah was rescued by our staff in 2013 after she was injured in a territory fight with another eagle in Deltona, FL. She suffered many puncture wounds and a compound fracture of the metacarpals, requiring amputation at the wrist joint. Tallulah has an interesting history. In 1998 as a young bird still in the nest, she was banded in Florida by US Fish and Wildlife and was equipped with a transmitter as part of a research project. When she was rescued she was still wearing the backpack without the transmitter. During her 15 years in the wild, she could have produced as many as 20 eaglets.



Tallulah

## Osprey

*Pandion haliaetus*

**Fast Facts:** Osprey are one of the few raptors with a worldwide distribution. Florida contains the largest population in the United States. Fish-catching specialists, ospreys plunge into the water feet first. Nickname is “fish hawk”.

**Identification:** Adult—24"; eye-stripe; white head and under-parts; brown upperparts. Females have a dark 'necklace' across chest.

**Diet:** Fish.

**Habitat:** Widely distributed: inland lakes and coastal, urban areas.

**Nesting in Florida:** March through July in live or dead trees, as well as man-made structures including cell towers, utility poles and channel markers. Monogamous.



### Smedley

Smedley was admitted to Audubon on June 7, 1998, as a nestling who fell from his nest and suffered a broken right wing. He has been an Audubon Ambassador and was adopted by the University of North Florida as the school mascot.



### Bailey

Bailey was brought to the Center in November 2017, from Hog Island, Maine, where she was hatched in a nest that has a webcam on it. Bailey sustained a fractured right wing in the nest by a Great Horned Owl, but also survived a swarm of bees and a Bald Eagle attack.

## Great Horned Owl

*Bubo virginianus*

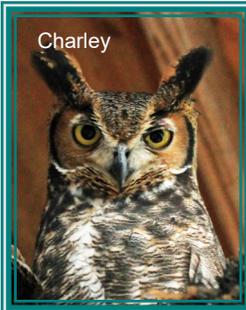
**Fast Facts:** Also known as a “hoot owl”, Great Horned Owls are the largest owl in Florida. They are considered both nocturnal and crepuscular. They are the most powerful raptors in the country with 500+ pounds per square inch of grasping pressure in their feet.

**Identification:** Adult—21", prominent feather tufts on top of head, yellow eyes.

**Diet:** Birds, mammals.

**Habitat:** Hardwood forests.

**Nesting in Florida:** November through April; known to pirate nests of other birds, especially eagles. Monogamous.



Charley

### Charley

Charley arrived at the Center as a juvenile with a badly healed right wing break and was non-flighted. He arrived at the Center the week of Hurricane Charley in 2004.

### Jeanne

Jeanne was brought in as an adult owl in 2001. She suffered from a severe barbed wire injury to her right wing. She was not named until after Hurricane Jeanne hit Florida in 2004.



Jeanne

**DID YOU KNOW?** Owls eyes are fixed in their heads but they are able to turn their head up to 270 degrees from the forward facing position.

## Barred Owl

*Strix varia*

**Fast Facts:** Barred Owls are noted for their "who-cooks-for-you-all" call. Common in Florida and prefer to live near water. Crepuscular and nocturnal.

**Identification:** Adult—20"; dark eyes; round face; barred plumage on belly; no ear tufts.

**Diet:** Small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and fish.

**Habitat:** Rivers, wetlands, urban areas.

**Nesting in Florida:** February through June; nests in natural cavities. Monogamous.

### Hitch

Hitch was found in December of 2009 as an adult. Rescuers observed him flying in and out of an open U-Haul truck in St. Cloud, FL. He suffered from a fracture to the left wing. Although the fracture healed, his ability to fly is not sufficient to survive in the wild.

### Fil

Fil arrived at the Center in 2007 after being hit by a car. Several of the primary feathers (those used for flight) on her left wing did not grow back, leaving her with limited flight and is now non-releasable.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Diurnal birds are most active during the daylight hours. Crepuscular birds are active at dusk and dawn. Nocturnal birds are most active at night.



## Eastern Screech Owl

*Megascops asio*

**Fast Facts:** Smallest owl with ear tufts in the eastern United States.

**Identification:** Adult—7": There are 3 different colors: red, brown and gray morph; yellow, hazel or green eyes and pale beak. . Nocturnal, normally spends most of the day roosting in trees.

**Diet:** Small rodents, amphibians and insects.

**Habitat:** Wooded areas, forest, swamps, orchards, parks, suburban areas.

**Nesting in Florida:** February through July. Cavity nesters but will use man-made nest boxes when natural nesting sites are unavailable. Monogamous.



There are several owls in the Screech Owl enclosure. We have two of the three colors morphs represented. Each owl has been determined to be non-releasable due to a variety of injuries. Can you find us? We like to hide.

## Burrowing Owl

*Athene cunicularia*

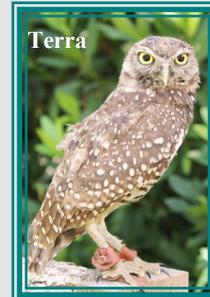
**Fast Facts:** This is a Species of Special Concern in Florida due to their declining populations. This is largely a result of habitat destruction, causing the loss of the underground tunnels or "burrows" they call home. Diurnal.

**Identification:** Adult—9"; Small, brown, ground owl, short tail, long-legged. Bright yellow eyes.

**Diet:** Insects and rodents.

**Habitat:** Can be seen in daylight hours in open, upland habitat.

**Nesting in Florida:** March through July. This owl makes its nest by digging with its feet or using abandoned Gopher Tortoise burrows. Sometimes they line burrows with dried cattle or horse droppings at the entrance to deter predators. They are communal nesters. Monogamous.



### Terra

Terra was seen wandering around on the ground at the Disney Wilderness Preserve and admitted to the Center in the summer of 2012. She was found with a badly fractured left wing that did not heal properly and a left hip fracture.

## Audubon's Historic House, PLEASE COME IN.

**Audubon House**- built in 1924, this Florida bungalow is a rare example of a style once popular in Central Florida. The house was donated to Florida Audubon by Florida Audubon Society board member Lisa Von Boroski in the 1950s and serves as reception and office space for staff. Notable original features are the hardwood floors, bead board ceilings and coquina shell chimney.



## Audubon Ambassador “Porch Birds”

Tony



### **Tony, Eastern Screech Owl**

Tony, a brown-phase, was rescued after he fell from his nest in May of 2002. He had severe trauma to both eyes. After several weeks of treatment, the staff determined that he would never regain the use of the left eye lid and therefore it was surgically closed. Over the years he has developed cataracts, further inhibiting his sight. Since owls depend on their excellent eyesight to hunt for food, Tony would not be able to survive in the wild.

Gopher



### **Gopher, Burrowing Owl**

Gopher was brought to us from Kenansville in Osceola County in 2015. He had a fractured right elbow, fractured coracoid and luxated left shoulder, possibly caused by a barbed wire fence above the burrow. He was non-releasable but has joined the Center's other education birds.

## Audubon Ambassador “Porch Birds”

### American Kestrel

*Falco sparverius*

**Fast Facts:** Smallest and most common of the falcons in Florida. American Kestrels and Crested Caracaras are the only two species of falcon that live year round in Florida. Often seen perched on telephone poles and electric wires.

**Identification:** Adult—9”, One of the few raptor species that the two sexes look physically different. Males have russet back and tail, blue-gray wings. Females have brown spotted back and striped tail. Both have double black stripes, called malar lines, on white face.

**Diet:** Birds, small mammals, reptiles, insects and amphibians.

**Habitat:** Borders of woodlands, open fields, pastures with scattered trees, and highways.

**Nesting in Florida:** Mid March through early June. Monogamous.



### Lance

Lance came to us in January 2016 after being kept by a human as a pet when he was young. Unfortunately, it was found that he had a fractured wing and pelvis which left him unable to properly thrive in the wild. This pelvis injury results in Lance’s tail feathers tucking under instead of in line with the rest of his spine.

### Susie

Susie was rescued and brought to the Center in November 2017. She was a young bird that had a severely fractured wing and was underweight. The Clinic staff was able to get her weight up to a healthy level, but realized quickly her wouldn’t heal properly. She was found to have a very calm demeanor and was trained to be a bird ambassador in early 2018.



## Audubon Ambassador “Porch Bird”

### Merlin (Falcon)

*Falco columbarius*

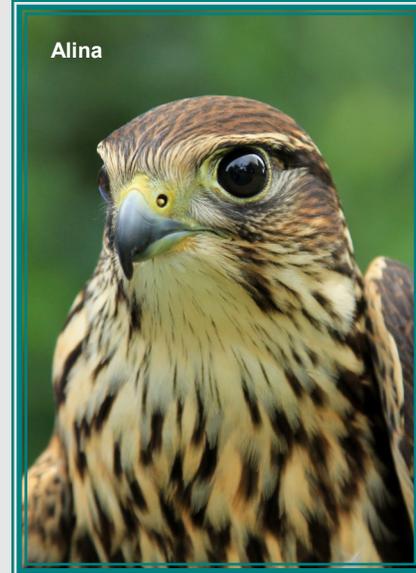
**Fast Facts:** Merlins, like all falcons, are very fast fliers; they capture birds and insects in mid-air by a level sprint. They migrate south for the winter, arriving in Florida in September-October. Some stay in Florida until the spring migration, while others continue on to Mexico, the Caribbean and South America.

**Identification:** Adult—10 1/2”; adult male is gray-blue above; immature birds and females are usually dark brown. Merlins lack the russet upperparts and strong facial markings of Kestrels.

**Diet:** Small birds, insects and mammals.

**Habitat:** Wide open spaces and open woods.

**Nesting in Florida:** Do not nest in Florida. Monogamous



#### Alina

Alina was found in Holly Hill and was brought to us in 2013 from another facility as an immature female. She was diagnosed with a severely fractured right elbow. The fracture healed, but she did not regain full extension of the injured wing so she could not be released.

**AMBASSADOR BIRD GARDEN**



**FRANCIS**  
Bald Eagle  
*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*



**HANK**  
Osprey  
*Pandion haliaetus*



**CHOPPER**  
Peregrine Falcon  
*Falco peregrinus*



**PAIGE**  
Bald Eagle  
*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*



**TROUBLE**  
Bald Eagle  
*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*



**MAPLE**  
Barred Owl  
*Strix varia*



**MERLIN**  
Barred Owl  
*Strix varia*



**RONIA**  
Red-Shouldered Hawk  
*Buteo lineatus*



**GRETEL**  
Swallow Tailed Kite  
*Elanoides forficatus*



**SCARLET**  
Red Tailed Hawk  
*Buteo jamaicensis*

## Audubon Ambassador “Garden Birds”

### Paige, Bald Eagle

Paige, an adult female Bald Eagle, came to the Center in April of 1995 as a fledgling suffering from avian pox and a fractured right collarbone. The Center staff believes that Paige fell from her nest due to impaired vision caused by the pox. Although the pox was treated successfully, she is unable to fly well enough to survive in the wild. At a weight of over 10 pounds and a length of 34 inches from head to tail, she is the largest bird at the Center.



### Francis, Bald Eagle

Francis, an adult male Bald Eagle, was admitted to the Center as a two-day-old eaglet in April of 1991. He was very sick when admitted due to a respiratory infection and a cataract in one eye. Francis required constant care and he was literally hand-raised by Center staff. It was soon determined that he was non-releasable due to his reduced lung capacity from the infection and being imprinted on humans. Francis is named for St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals.

**DID YOU KNOW?** All wild birds and their parts (feathers, eggs, etc.) are protected by state and federal agencies. The Center collects eagle feathers and shares them with Native Americans who use them for their religious and ceremonial purposes.

## Audubon Ambassadors “Garden Birds”



### **Trouble, Bald Eagle**

Trouble, a male Bald Eagle, has an unusual history. In 1986, a wildlife photographer who was taking photos of an eagle nest noticed that one of the young eaglets had a deformed beak. He contacted the Center, where staff received state and federal permission to remove the eaglet from the nest for examination. The deformity, a congenital defect, would have prevented the young eagle from tearing his food and feeding himself once he fledged the nest. Several corrective surgeries improved this misalignment to the point where Trouble can eat on his own, but since the beak continues to grow in the crooked position, he is non-releasable. Trouble is one of the Center's most famous residents. He has appeared at numerous community and statewide functions, spreading his wings and providing an inspirational touch to patriotic events.



### **Chopper, Peregrine Falcon**

Yearly migration for the Peregrine Falcon includes flying thousands of miles one way to South America! So you can imagine how many of young falcons don't make it their first migration. Chopper was found in October 2017, as a first year bird. He had a badly injured left wing. After initial treatment our veterinarians made the call to partially amputate the wing since it wasn't healing.

**The term “Ambassador” refers to the glove-trained permanent resident raptors. All of these birds were glove-trained at a very young age; however, they are not tame. The Ambassador Birds are used in educational programs at the Center and in the community. They spend nights in their individual enclosures and are tethered around the Center in the daytime.**

## Audubon Ambassadors “Garden Birds”

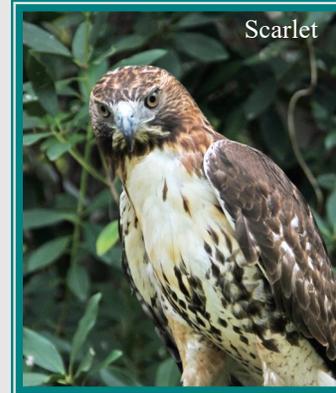
### Scarlet, Red-tailed Hawk

Scarlet was admitted in November 2016 from Washington county, Florida. She had a gun shot wound to her right shoulder which caused a fracture. Pellet fragments were found throughout her right shoulder, and the injury left Scarlet unable to fly.



### Ronia, Red-shouldered Hawk

Ronia was found in St. Lucie County in 2010 as a young bird after falling from her nest. She was sent to us for evaluation for possible release. Unfortunately, we determined she had been imprinted to humans and could not be released into the wild. She is flighted and very vocal.



### Hank, Osprey

Hank was found in Biscayne National Park as a baby in the spring of 2017. There were attempts to return Hank to his nest but they ultimately failed because his parents didn't return. In the end, he was too habituated to humans to be returned to the wild.



## Audubon Ambassadors “Garden Birds”



### **Merlin, Barred Owl**

Merlin was admitted in 1987 as a nestling. He had spent several weeks (illegally) with humans. This prolonged human exposure caused him to become a human imprint, a fact unknown to the Center staff. Unfortunately he was housed with other owls. Seeing him as “different”, they attacked him, causing the loss of one eye. Stories like Merlin’s are of vital importance, educating people of the harm ultimately caused when wild birds are raised incorrectly and illegally by well-meaning people.



### **Maple, Barred Owl**

Maple was admitted in March 2018 as a few day old chick, small enough to fit in your palm! She had a broken leg bone and the veterinarian, put a small pin in her leg to help it set properly. Luckily, the leg healed enough that she can stand but not enough that she could catch and hold prey in the wild.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Imprinting is an instinctive form of learning in which, during a critical period in early development, a young animal forms an association to the first moving object it sees and/or hears, usually the mother.

## Audubon Ambassadors Birds

### Uff-da, Black Vulture

Uff-da was found as an adult with a fractured right wing. X-rays also showed multiple gun shot pellets throughout her body. Uff-da was transferred to us from another facility who admitted her in 2002. She joined our education team for supervised appearances at programs. You may sometimes find her out on a walk around the Center or doing a training session with her keepers.

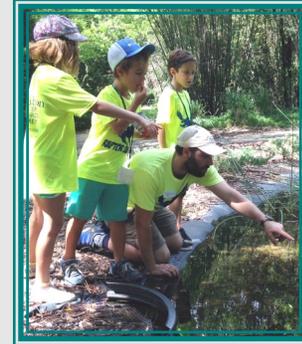


### Sanford, Eastern Screech Owl

Sanford can be found perched in the Raptor Trauma Clinic window when he is at the Center. He was rescued only a few days old in 2011. He suffered from a broken wing, which, although healed, isn't strong enough for him to survive in the wild. Sanford is a guest favorite and even has his own social media sites—find him at Sanford the Eastern Screech Owl on Facebook or SanfordofCBOP on Instagram.

## AUDUBON EDUCATION

Audubon seeks to educate individuals about birds of prey and their role in our environment. Audubon Florida works to protect and preserve the habitats that support these significant species. More than 30,000 individuals are reached through our education initiatives. Contact [auduboncbop@audubon.org](mailto:auduboncbop@audubon.org) to schedule a program. Each of these are fee-based activities to help support operations at the Center.



**Tours and offsite programs:** The Center offers onsite tours to groups of all ages and visits to offsite locations. Participants learn about Audubon's conservation efforts, the Center for Birds of Prey programs, and our unique resident birds.

**Eagle Eyes on the Environment**, an education and outreach program that delivers relevant and impactful conservation programming, engaging participants in learning and actions related to water, energy and habitat conservation. Using the iconic Bald Eagle as symbol for a healthy environment, programs focus on the W.E.B: Water, Energy and Birds, and their interactions.

**Raptor Camp:** By participating in Raptor Camp, children will learn about our amazing raptors and how to become stewards of the environment.

The Center is available to host birthday parties, corporation lunches and other special events. Contact a staff member for more details. **407-644-0190**

## Opportunities to get involved with Audubon Center for Birds of Prey

### Volunteers

The Center provides a hands-on opportunity for volunteers to participate in “Conservation in Motion”. The volunteer program is diverse, with a variety of service positions available throughout the Center. We greatly value our volunteer force. Ask a staff member how to get involved or visit <http://fl.audubon.org/volunteer>.

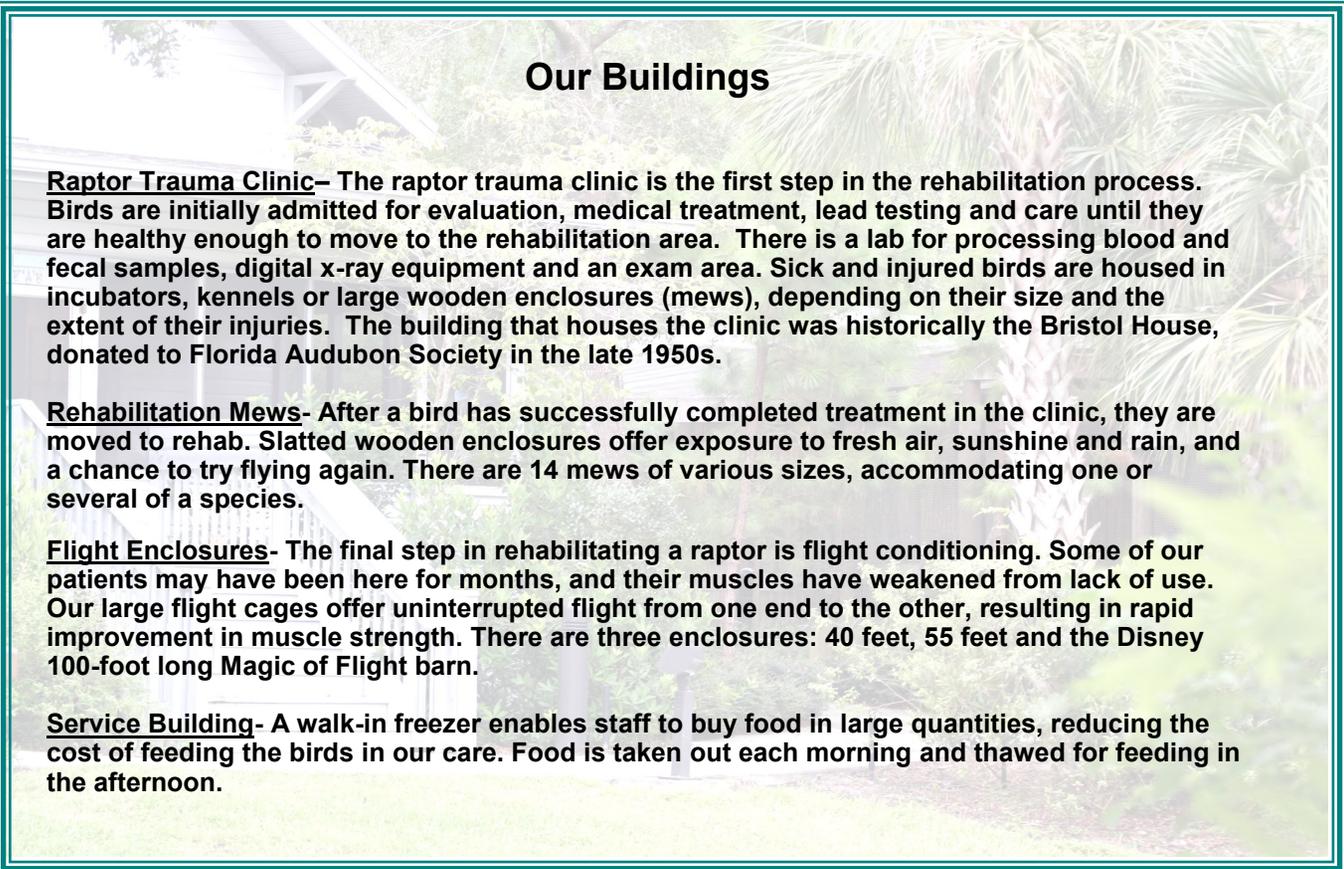


### Audubon EagleWatch, a Citizen Science program

Through Audubon's EagleWatch program, more than 30% of Florida's approximately 1500 pairs of nesting Bald Eagles are monitored by citizen science volunteers. This team collects data on Bald Eagle nests, identifies potential threats to nests, nest site productivity, and works to protect the important habitats that support them. For more information on EagleWatch and how to join our team, email [eaglewatch@audubon.org](mailto:eaglewatch@audubon.org), or visit <http://fl.audubon.org>.

### Eagle Eyes on the Environment

Eagle Eyes on the Environment is a behind-the-scenes look into rehabilitation at the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. This project encompasses and links the rehabilitation of Bald Eagles with education and outreach programs. Eagle Eyes has three components: E-technology, environmental education and engagement. Visit Eagle Eyes online [www.acfbop.org](http://www.acfbop.org) or at the Center for a live view of Eagles under rehabilitation and how you can get involved with conservation.

The background of the text area is a photograph of a building, likely the Raptor Trauma Clinic, with several palm trees in the foreground. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be read clearly.

## Our Buildings

**Raptor Trauma Clinic**– The raptor trauma clinic is the first step in the rehabilitation process. Birds are initially admitted for evaluation, medical treatment, lead testing and care until they are healthy enough to move to the rehabilitation area. There is a lab for processing blood and fecal samples, digital x-ray equipment and an exam area. Sick and injured birds are housed in incubators, kennels or large wooden enclosures (mews), depending on their size and the extent of their injuries. The building that houses the clinic was historically the Bristol House, donated to Florida Audubon Society in the late 1950s.

**Rehabilitation Mews**- After a bird has successfully completed treatment in the clinic, they are moved to rehab. Slatted wooden enclosures offer exposure to fresh air, sunshine and rain, and a chance to try flying again. There are 14 mews of various sizes, accommodating one or several of a species.

**Flight Enclosures**- The final step in rehabilitating a raptor is flight conditioning. Some of our patients may have been here for months, and their muscles have weakened from lack of use. Our large flight cages offer uninterrupted flight from one end to the other, resulting in rapid improvement in muscle strength. There are three enclosures: 40 feet, 55 feet and the Disney 100-foot long Magic of Flight barn.

**Service Building**- A walk-in freezer enables staff to buy food in large quantities, reducing the cost of feeding the birds in our care. Food is taken out each morning and thawed for feeding in the afternoon.

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**Audubon**

Center for  
Birds of Prey

Audubon remains a leader in conservation for Florida's raptors and their habitats because of our donors and supporters. Consider becoming a corporate or individual sponsor for our programs or exhibits on site. Call 407-644-0190 for information, or to donate online visit: [www.auduboncenterforbirdsofprey.org](http://www.auduboncenterforbirdsofprey.org)

Like the birds you visited today? Join Audubon's **Adopt a Raptor** Program. An "adoption" is an investment in the care, feeding and medical treatment of the birds permanently housed at the Center for community education programs. See the ticketing window volunteer for more information.

**1101 Audubon Way, Maitland, FL 32751**

**407-644-0190**

**Hours: 10-4 Tues.- Sun.**

**Closed Federal Holidays**

**[www.auduboncenterforbirdsofprey.org](http://www.auduboncenterforbirdsofprey.org)**

**Facebook Page: Audubon Center for Birds of Prey**

**Follow us on Twitter: @auduboncbop**

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Updated for 2019

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