Smithsonian Associates

Wonders of Florida Birding

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1. Complete guide to binoculars for birding

https://www.audubon.org/gear/binocular-guide

This is an incredible resource for finding a pair of binoculars that best fit your needs and budget. The best bang for your buck in my opinion are the Vortex Diamondback 8x42 magnification.

2. Best budget superzoom cameras for birding

https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-superzoom-camera/amp/ (Cameras)

These articles will help you select the best quality superzoom camera you can get on a budget. Note that the cameras are not cheap, but by having a built in zoom lens, you won't need to shell out more money for a telephoto lens. My personal combination is not a superzoom all-in-one, I use the Canon R5 with Canon 600 f/4 and 100-400mm f/4-5.6 lenses for birds.

3. Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail Website

https://floridabirdingtrail.com/

This website is a comprehensive guide to more than 500 premier birding sites across the state, showcasing Florida's extraordinary diversity of habitats and birdlife. From coastal marshes and pine flatwoods to subtropical hammocks, the trail connects residents and visitors to world-class birding opportunities while promoting conservation and sustainable wildlife viewing. It's an essential resource for exploring why Florida is one of North America's top birding destinations.

4. Audubon Florida Website

https://www.audubon.org/florida

Audubon Florida leads statewide efforts to protect birds, restore vital habitats, and address climate challenges across the Sunshine State. Through science, policy, education, and community partnerships, Audubon Florida advances conservation solutions that benefit both wildlife and people. From coastal stewardship to Everglades restoration, the site highlights impactful initiatives that safeguard Florida's birds for generations to come.

5. Intro to using field marks to ID birds

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/building-skills-the-4-keys-to-bird-identification/

This article is an excellent place to start when it comes to learning how to identify birds using field marks: physical characteristics of the bird's anatomy (plumage, bill shape, leg color, etc.). This skill is especially useful when dealing with birds that look very similar to other species.

6. Reminder of apps to download:

eBird (free)

Merlin (free)

iNaturalist (free)

Sibley Guide

The Warbler Guide

Audubon