

**Marlene Babic <marlenebabic@gmail.com>**

[the-village-birders] Avian Rehab and Education Center Bird Walk

To: Village Birders <the-village-birders@googlegroups.com>

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We had a wonderful program put on for our group of seven birders by the Avian Reconditioning and Education Center on Weds Nov 7th. This center in Apopka takes in raptors not only to be rehabilitated, but also raptors that are injured badly enough that they can not survive in the wild. While the rehab birds are kept away from the public to prepare them for eventual release the injured birds are brought out to educate the public on the needs of each species for certain types of food and habitat. We had a chance stand next to a Swallow-tailed Kite, an American Kestrel, Short-tailed Hawk, Crested Caracara, Black Vulture and Barn and Barred owl. We were so close we were shown the ears of the Barred owl. The photographers of the group got to try to photograph a young Red-shoulder Hawk being trained by a falconer to fly from glove to perch and back.

This center is open to the public every Saturday from 10-3 and is only 45 minutes away from The Villages. It is run on donations only and manned by only a few full time workers and many volunteers. It is a great place to visit, especially for photographers and for grandkids; the volunteers will bring out the raptors all day and give talks any time of day.

Avian Reconditioning Center

323 W. Lester Road

Apopka Fl

407-461-1056

[www.arc4raptors.org](http://www.arc4raptors.org)

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