

Pelican Island Audubon Society has a new home

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Birds of a feather flock together is the old adage, but these days the Pelican Island Audubon House indicates otherwise.

With over 20 different types of birds co-habiting just outside the new building, diversity seems to be the prevailing theme in Indian River County's wildlife.

Accented with burnt orange and yellow, Audubon's new building resembles two bird houses nestled against a backdrop of luscious green Florida vegetation.

Local architect Richard Bialosky offered his design services to the nonprofit, while Jeff Ray was the Architect of Record and Amy Thoma, Leed AP.

"It was a dynamic team to pull this project together and lend so much of their time," said Richard Baker, president of the Pelican Autobahn Society since 2003.

Other companies that contributed to Audubon's new home: Robin Pelensky with Surlaterre Landscape Architecture, Kelly Construction and Jobear Contracting.

Surrounded by over 440 acres on all sides, the Pelican Island Audubon House purchased one acre from the University of Florida to create a sanctuary for volunteers, children and adults to come learn, develop and foster their love of nature.

"An educational outdoor classroom to inform the citizens of Indian River about the importance of the lagoon, that was a motivator for us," explained Baker.

In fact, while sitting in the new classroom, he beamed with delight as he looked upon the new rookery which was recently moved from the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce building to the Audubon House by White Glove Moving.

"This exhibit shows how birds of all types come together to care for each other's young and well-being. It's an original representation of a rookery from the Sebastian area's Pelican Island Refuge," Baker said, proud of the decision by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Federation to allow the organization to house the museum piece.

The new building is open daily from 9 a.m. to 1p.m., Monday through Friday.

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