Vision/Impact Statement:
A world in which people and wildlife thrive.

Mission Statement:
The Oklawaha Valley Audubon Society leads the community in protecting birds, wildlife, and the places they need throughout Lake County and the region using science, advocacy and conservation.

Long-term Outcomes:
OVAS will support the strategic goals of National Audubon, Audubon Florida, and the Central Florida Region of Audubon Florida. Specifically, the long-term outcomes that OVAS will directly contribute to are:

Working Lands: The quality of wildlife habitat on government and privately managed lands in Lake County and the region is increased.

Water and Coasts: Water quality and water flows in the watersheds of the Ocklawaha and St. Johns rivers, and the lakes, wetlands, springs, and aquifers in Lake County and the region are noticeably improved to restore the functioning of habitats across priority landscapes in the region and downstream along Florida’s coast.

Wildlife-Friendly Communities: Local community members are engaged in ensuring wildlife-friendly habitats are established throughout Lake County and the region; Wildlife-friendly policies have been passed; Community members are engaged in local and region-wide conservation efforts; Conservation corridors have been established.

Climate and Coasts: Greenhouse gas emissions from Lake County and the region are reduced to minimize the related human-induced impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, and sea level rise.

Short-term Outcomes:

Working Lands: Engage land managers of government and privately-owned lands and advocate for increased wildlife habitat quality on those lands.

Water and Coasts: Engage with community leaders, planners, and decision makers to protect water at the source (e.g., aquifers, wetlands, lakes, springs, and rivers); Advocate for sustainable water supplies for natural and built systems; Advocate for water quality improvements.

Wildlife-Friendly Communities: Engage community to increase awareness of the need and participation in increasing wildlife-friendly habitats.

Climate and Coasts: Engage with community leaders, planners, and decision makers to reduce the impact of greenhouse gases.
Strategies:

Education:
- OVAS will provide speakers on relevant topics (working lands, water, coast, wildlife-friendly communities, and climate) for our monthly programs.
- OVAS will organize field trips; birding data will be uploaded to eBird for scientific use.
- OVAS will kindle the interest of children and young adults in the outdoors and conservation issues.
- OVAS will organize the Festival of Flight and Flowers.
- OVAS will support Trout Lake Nature Center.

Working Lands:
- OVAS will advocate for state laws and local land use decisions and programs, including funding, which protect conservation lands and provide for managing those lands to restore and maintain wildlife and habitats.
- OVAS will further the Conservation Action Agenda of Audubon Florida for Working Lands.  [https://fl.audubon.org/conservation](https://fl.audubon.org/conservation)

Water and Coast:
- OVAS will be mindful of public policy decisions impacting water quality and flow in Lake County and the region, and provide input to state and local managers and decision makers and private property owners. [e.g., St. Johns River Water Management District, Lake County Water Authority, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, County and City Commissioners and Planners].
- OVAS will further the Conservation Action Agenda of Audubon Florida for Water and Coast.  [https://fl.audubon.org/conservation](https://fl.audubon.org/conservation)

Wildlife-Friendly Communities:
- OVAS will join the National Audubon Plants for Birds program as a partner.
- OVAS will support Audubon Florida’s EagleWatch and Jay Watch programs.
- OVAS will support Audubon Florida’s Center for Birds of Prey and similar local facilities.
- OVAS will collaborate with like-minded organizations on plants sales, speakers, and projects to mobilize communities to promote the use of native plans in all landscapes.
- OVAS will advocate for public policies that conserve existing wildlife habitat and restore damaged habitats.
- OVAS will further the Conservation Action Agenda of Audubon Florida for Bird-Friendly Communities.  [https://fl.audubon.org/conservation](https://fl.audubon.org/conservation)

Climate and Coast:
- OVAS will encourage local governments and communities to protect tree canopy and shrubs, and to facilitate residents in planting more trees and shrubs.
- OVAS will further the Conservation Action Agenda of Audubon Florida for Climate and Coast.  [https://fl.audubon.org/conservation](https://fl.audubon.org/conservation)