



## **David E. Anderson, Executive Director**

**David Anderson began working on April 5, 2004 as Executive Director of Audubon of Florida.** David has an extensive history in wildlife conservation. A graduate of Duke University, his first professional position was managing the University's Primate Center. He was recruited to Audubon Park and Zoological Garden in 1978, allowing him to broaden his focus from primates to all mammals, and ultimately became General Curator adding fundraising, education and conservation to his responsibilities. During his tenure (1978-1990), David became very involved with the American Zoo & Aquarium Association (AZA) and embraced the idea of zoos as conservation organizations rather than only for family entertainment. David enjoyed the challenging task of helping rebuild the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, and managed a staff of 50. He also became enthralled with birds, and the bird rehabilitation program was part of his responsibility.

In 1990, David was recruited to the San Francisco Zoo as Zoo Director. This was a turnaround situation needing a major overhaul of the physical plant, requiring a \$48 million bond campaign and several capital campaigns, creation of new programs, and refocusing the mission. David worked with a large staff and a 57-person Board, focused expectations and set forth a vision. One of David's sources of pride is leading major conservation efforts in the field with numerous programs around the world, ensuring the protection and sustainability of as many wild habitats as possible. He has been able to influence local populations and governments about conservation, and promote change in behavior – no small task.

David has led Audubon of Florida through a major Strategic Planning effort leading to a focus on protection of habitats and watersheds. David is an avid birder, and has a strong interest in the conservation challenges facing Florida.