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and



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL

JULY 2021

NEWSLETTER

BREAKING NEWS

Santa Fe Audubon Society's Planning Committee is so very pleased to announce that field trips and outdoor activities are being planned for October 2021 to May 2022.

The line-up will be announced in August for October 2021 to January 2022 through The Kite newsletter, our website www.santafeaudubon.org, on Facebook and a mailing that will include our October to January Activities Schedule along with the President's letter and membership form. Beginning this fall, our programming year will be October through May.

During the Fall, we will be planning our February through May 2022 schedule. Hopefully, plans will include the Speaker Series beginning in the Spring of 2022.

ONLINE JIGSAW PUZZLES

<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/SantaFeAudubonFL/santa-fe-audubon>



THE NATIVE PLANT CONNECTION

Your yard – and the kinds of plants in it – matters to birds! As natural area for birds continue to decrease, so do native plants and the important food sources they provide for birds.



White caterpillars of the *Zebra Longwing* butterfly and orange caterpillars of the *Gulf Fritillary* butterfly feasting on *Passion Vine*.

What are native plants?

Native plants are those that occur naturally in an area. Florida is home to thousands of native plant species. Many are stunningly beautiful; some occur nowhere else in the world. Over many millennia, our native wildlife – including birds – have adapted to the resources provided by the native flora. Native plants are, in a real sense, “home” for our birds.

Pokeweed is loved by many bird species. Red-eyed Vireos feast on these berries.



Why are native plants important for birds?

In a word: insects. Virtually all land birds – 96% - require insect food for their young. Native plants support healthy populations of insects, including caterpillars, that breeding birds feed their nestlings. However, nonnative plants contain foreign compounds that most native insects won't eat. Without insects for food, baby birds starve. By adding native plants to your yard, you can help restore the imbalance created by non-native plantings and ensure the survival of future generations of birds.

To learn more about native plants in our area:

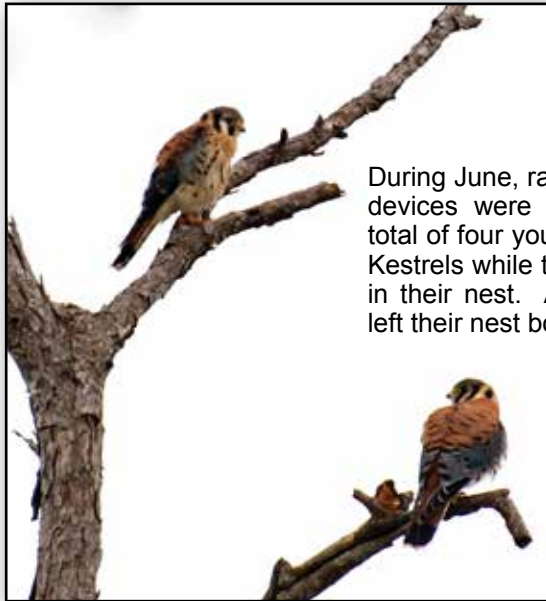
<https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>

Also, visit <https://www.fnps.org> Florida Native Plant Society for info and plant lists and sources.



Kestrel Corner

by Bill Chitty



During June, radio telemetry devices were fitted onto a total of four young American Kestrels while they were still in their nest. All have now left their nest box.

We have been going out with the radio receiver and antenna to track their movements every other day or so. The two radio tagged males from box 1 have continued to be easy to find from the ground, near box 1.

Box 1 nestling with radio tag



Box 17 parent

The male fledgling from box 17 has not been located since late June, and contact with the female has been intermittent. A flyover in a small airplane is planned for mid-July to locate them. Once pinpointed again, we hope to continue to track them.

Thank you to the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) for their collaboration on banding and attaching radio telemetry devices on our Kestrels.

To learn more about ARCI visit their website:

www.arcinst.org

BIRD OF THE MONTH

BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)
band code "BAEA"



The Bald Eagle has been the national emblem of the United States since 1782 and a spiritual symbol for native people for far longer than that. These regal birds aren't really bald, but their white-feathered heads gleam in contrast to their chocolate-brown body and wings. Look for them soaring in solitude, chasing other birds for their food, or gathering by the hundreds in winter. Once endangered by hunting and pesticides, Bald Eagles have flourished under protection.

To find Bald Eagles, head for water, where the birds are likely to be looking for fish. Nationwide, Bald Eagles are most widespread during winter, where they can be found along coasts, rivers, lakes, and reservoirs in many states.

COOL FACTS:

The largest Bald Eagle nest on record, in St. Petersburg, Florida, was 2.9 meters in diameter and 6.1 meters tall. Another famous nest—in Vermilion, Ohio—was shaped like a wine glass and weighed almost two metric tons. It was used for 34 years until the tree blew down.

Immature Bald Eagles spend the first four years of their lives in nomadic exploration of vast territories and can fly hundreds of miles per day. Some young birds from Florida have wandered north as far as Michigan, and birds from California have reached Alaska.

For more information about Bald Eagles visit:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bald_Eagle/overview

Fun Fact:

A group of eagles has many collective nouns, including an "aerie", "convocation", "jubilee", "soar", and "tower" of eagles.



**BECOME A
CHAPTER
MEMBER
TODAY!**

September 2021 – August 2022

All chapter membership dues support local activities, programs, & projects of Santa Fe Audubon & are tax deductible.

Regular Chapter Member:

Individual \$20 Family \$30

OR Become a Special Chapter Supporter!

- Eastern Bluebird \$50
- Swallow-tailed Kite \$100
- Bald Eagle \$250
- Whooping Crane \$500
- Ivory-billed Woodpecker \$1000

Make check payable and mail to:

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Benefits: Receive Audubon magazine; learn more about national conservation issues.

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THANK YOU!

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling Toll-Free within the State. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.
1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) SFAS registration number CH30159

A few of our previous field trips.



*La Chua Trail
January 2017*



100's of Sandhill Cranes



*Oklawaha
Paddle
November 2016*



*Sweetwater
Wetlands Park
January 2020*



Redhead