

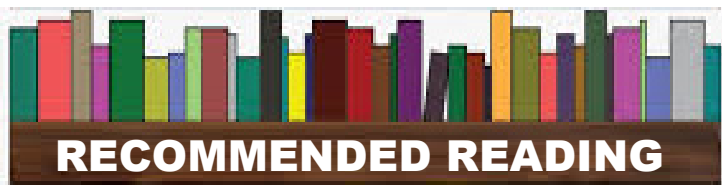


[www.santafeaudubon.org](http://www.santafeaudubon.org) and

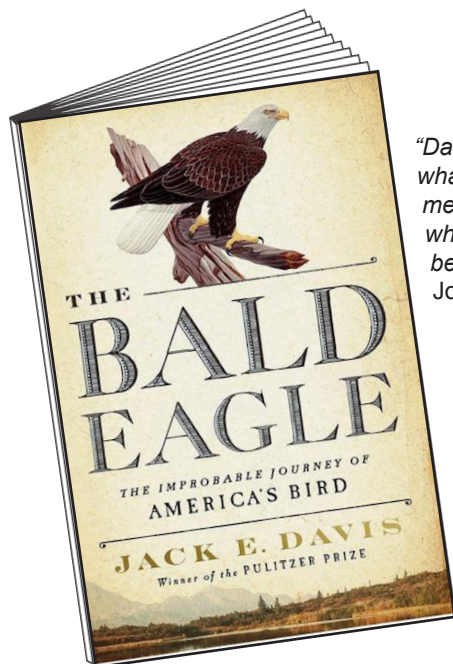


Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

Santa Fe Audubon Society  
Melrose, FL



by Jacqueline Williamson



*"Davis shows us not only what bald eagles have meant to humans....but what it might feel like to be one."*

Jonathan Meiburg

## WRITER'S TALKS AT RAWLINGS HOUSE

**Saturday, April 2, 2022**

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jack E. Davis  
presents his newly published book

***The Bald Eagle***  
***The Improbable Journey of America's Bird***

In Marjorie Rawling's citrus grove  
on the edge of Orange Lake

- Music and light refreshments •
- Free with standard park admission •

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park  
County Road 325, Cross Creek  
For more information call 352-466-3672



## GOOD NEWS

by Jacqueline Williamson

In the desperate but necessary move to feed wild manatees in an effort to keep them from starving, the US Fish and Wildlife Service are reporting a good sign...an increase in manatee fecal matter in the water, which means the manatees are consuming and processing the provided lettuce. So far the rescue effort has provided over 25 tons of lettuce to these gentle giants.

## The Native Plant Connection

To learn more about native plants in our area:

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

Florida Native Plant Society for info and plant lists and sources.

<https://www.fnps.org>



# BIRD OF THE MONTH

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE** (*Elanoides forficatus*)  
band code "STKI"

photos courtesy of Dr Jeff Smith



## WELCOME BACK

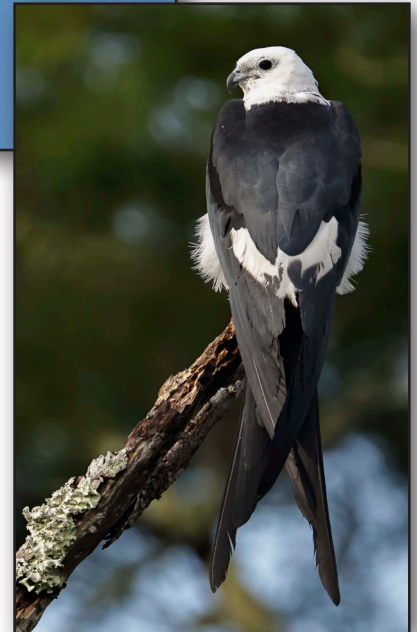
The lilted Swallow-tailed Kite has been called "the coolest bird on the planet." With its deeply forked tail and bold black-and-white plumage, it is unmistakable in the summer skies above swamps of the Southeast. Flying with barely a wingbeat and maneuvering with twists of its incredible tail, it chases dragonflies or plucks frogs, lizards, snakes, and nestling birds from tree branches. After rearing its young in a treetop nest, the kite migrates to wintering grounds in South America.

Befitting their aerial nature, scattered individuals also rarely but regularly turn up far to the north of their normal range. To find Swallow-tailed Kites, keep your eyes on the skies, as these light and graceful birds spend most of the day aloft, either skimming the treetops or soaring up high. Remember that these birds leave the U.S. after the breeding season, so summer is the time to look for them.



## COOL FACTS:

The kite's aerial acrobatics while on the hunt are something to see. It continually flicks and rotates its tail, switching from a straight course to a tight turn in an instant as it scans for prey. Sometimes it rolls and dives backward to catch an insect behind it. Adults swallow their food while flying, rarely perching during the day.



For more information about Swallow-tailed Kites visit:

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Swallow-tailed\\_Kite/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Swallow-tailed_Kite/overview)

## Fun Fact:

A group of kites has many collective nouns, including a "brood", "kettle", "roost", "stooping", and (one of our favorites) "string" of kites.



## FLORIDA WILDLIFE EXTENSION Wildlife Happenings

Click on the link below to check out the  
"Wildlife Happenings" in our area.

[https://wec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife\\_info/happenings/](https://wec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/happenings/)

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