



<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>

and



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

# Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL

## NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



### SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM

## "CARDINAL RULES: EAT HEARTY BUT ALWAYS HEED THE TITMOUSE"

**Tuesday, NOVEMBER 14**  
**speaker Katie Sieving**

**6:45 PM** at Trinity Episcopal Parish Hall  
204 SR 26 downtown Melrose

*You do not need to be a Santa Fe Audubon Society  
chapter member to attend our Speaker Series programs.*

*All are welcome!*



Katie Sieving will discuss the prodigious insect eating of the Northern Cardinal, helping organic farmers control insects, and their constant attention to the calls of vigilant titmice.



*One of my favorite students once called me the 'anti-professor'. His definition seems to have included things like I make students feel good about themselves and that I am very serious about having fun with serious science. So let's get serious about birds!*

— Katie Sieving

***The safety of our membership is of utmost importance,  
we encourage everyone to please wear a mask.***

The safety and well-being of our membership and board members is our top priority; therefore, our in-person Speaker Series may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns. Cancellation notifications will be sent out via email, posted on our website and Facebook page.

## FIELD TRIP

**Saturday, NOVEMBER 18**

**MIKE ROESS**  
**GOLD HEAD BRANCH  
STATE PARK**



One of Florida's first state parks, the Civilian Conservation Corps developed the 600-acre site during the 1930s. The extraordinary artistry of the CCC is still evident today.

Gold Head is located on rolling sandhills on the north central ridge of Florida with one of the few remaining examples of an old-growth stand of longleaf pines. A steep head ravine with seepage springs forms Gold Head Branch and bisects the park. Marshes, lakes and scrub provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Approx. 2 - 3 hours

**DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2 - May involve uneven terrain; 1-3 miles**

### TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

contact Sallie Carlock [santafeaudubonfl@aol.com](mailto:santafeaudubonfl@aol.com)

Entrance Fee \$5.00 per vehicle

Meet at Gold Head's far parking lot (picnic area)

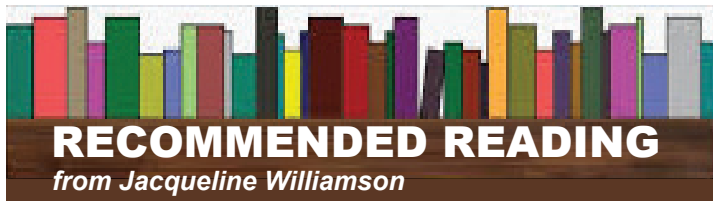
at **8:30 AM** from there we will caravan to  
the Mill Site parking area where we will begin our hike.

6239 State Road 21, Keystone Heights FL 32656

### RESTROOMS ARE AT THIS FIELD TRIP LOCATION

We ask that all observe personal distancing and suggest bringing a mask for everyone's protection, in case it is needed.

Reservations for each trip will be filled on a first-come first-served basis with waiting lists in case of participant cancellation. Please be sure to include the field trip name and date along with your name, phone number(s) and e-mail address, in case we need to notify you of any changes.



## TEN BIRDS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

by Stephen Moss



In *Ten Birds That Changed the World*, naturalist and author Stephen Moss tells the gripping story of this long and intimate relationship through key species from all seven of the world's continents. You will enjoy this fascinating, eye-opening, and endlessly engaging work of natural history.

## GOOD NEWS

by Jacqueline Williamson

### FLORIDA APPROVES OVER 40,000 ACRES FOR CONSERVATION



Grubb Ranch in Hardee Co - photo from Forever Florida

In early October the state of Florida approved more than 40,000 acres for conservation as part of the Florida Forever and Rural and Family Lands Protection Programs.

This includes 12 parcels where the state will allow owners to continue to farm and ranch. Nine parcels are in St Lucie, DeSoto, Walton, Hardee, Polk, Highlands, and Charlotte counties. Two of these properties are 1,000 acre properties on creeks which flow into the Peace River.

## BIRD OF THE MONTH

### SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza georgiana*)

band code "SWSP"



Swamp Sparrows provide sweet accompaniment to spring mornings in boreal bogs, sedge swamps, cattail marshes, and wet brushy meadows. Their clear, mellifluous trills resonate through wetlands from central Canada to the eastern United States, where Swamp Sparrows are fairly common but often hidden among aquatic plants. A vivid rusty cap and wings, combined with subtler browns, grays, buff, and black of the body, simultaneously blend with their marshy habitats and make them gloriously attractive in earth tones.

Even if your backyard doesn't include a wetland, you might attract Swamp Sparrows during migration to any lush ground cover such as ferns, lilies, blueberries, or many other plants, particularly dense plantings in moist areas.

### COOL FACTS:

A Swamp Sparrow banded in eastern Massachusetts on October 4, 1937, was found in central Florida in January 1938, about 1,125 miles away. Before the development of tracking devices, banding returns such as this one helped clarify migration patterns for many bird species.

For more information about Swamp Sparrows visit:

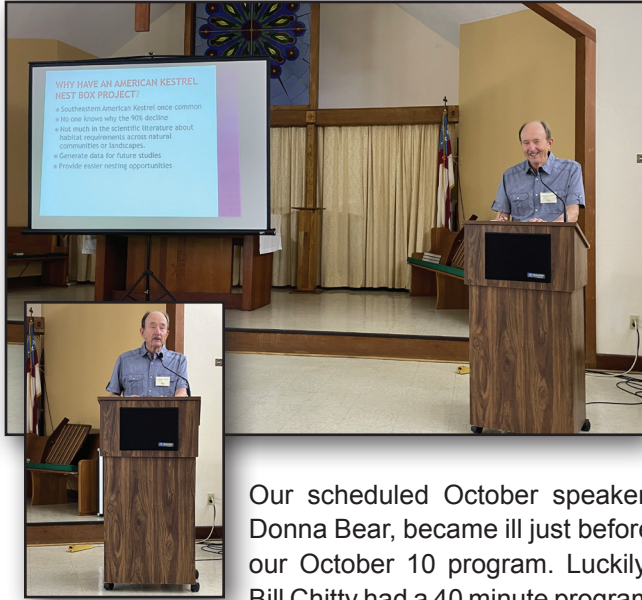
[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Swamp\\_Sparrow/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Swamp_Sparrow/overview)

**Fun Fact:** Sparrows have many collectively nouns including "crew", "flutter", "meinie", "quarrel" and "ubiquity" of sparrows.



# SFAS NEWS

## READY WHEN NEEDED



Our scheduled October speaker, Donna Bear, became ill just before our October 10 program. Luckily, Bill Chitty had a 40 minute program about American Kestrels already prepared for such an eventuality. Starting with information and statistics about them, he then talked about our Southeastern American Kestrel Nest Box Project in Etoniah Creek State Forest followed by Dr. Ken Meyer of, ARCI, speaking about banding, radio fitting and tracking the birds.



## OUR SYMPATHIES

Santa Fe Audubon Society was sad to learn of the passing of wildlife hero Nan Soistman, founder of Sunrise Wildlife Rehabilitation on October 8.

Sunrise Wildlife Rehabilitation has done two programs for us.

As Nan would say... "Stay Wild"



October 11, 2016



Nan and Odin  
November 15, 2022



Morningside Nature Center  
Field Trip  
October 21, 2023

Coastalplain Honeycombhead

Eastern Wood-pewee



Blazing Star

Summer Farewell



Azure Blue Sage



Pine Warbler - male



## SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS

**Tuesdays, starting at 6:45PM**

at Trinity Episcopal Parish Hall,  
204 SR 26 downtown Melrose

You do not need to be a chapter member to attend our  
Speaker Series programs. All are welcome!

*Details will be in that month's Kite,  
which will be emailed, posted on our Website and  
Facebook page the first week of that month.*

**December 12, 2023**

### **WHITE-TAILED DEER**

speaker Becky Peters

**January 9, 2024**

### **YELLOW-EYED PENGUINS**

speaker Bill Cooper

**February 6, 2024**

### **NEW GRU WETLANDS**

speaker Debbie Segal

**March 12, 2024**

- **CONSERVATIONIST AWARD**
- **PHOTO SHOW**
- **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**April 9, 2024**

### **THE GULF**

speaker Jack E. Davis

**May 14, 2024**

### **BEES**

speaker Rachel Mallinger

## FIELD TRIPS

*Details will be in that month's Kite, which will be emailed,  
posted on our Website and Facebook page the first week of  
that month.*

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024**

### **Masters Tract**

Hastings, FL

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024**

**(maximum 12 participants)**

### **Private Wetland Preserve near Rice Creek**

Palatka, FL

**MARCH ??, 2024**

### **La Chua Trail**

Gainesville, FL

**APRIL ??, 2024 (date and details in February)**

### **Gulf Boat Trip (Tidewater Tours)**

Cedar Key, FL

**SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024**

### **Sweetwater Wetlands Park for Bobolinks**

Gainesville, FL

### **ABOUT FIELD TRIPS**

*All field trips are subject to date change or cancellation due  
to weather, etc.*

### **TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL**

[santafeaudubonfl@aol.com](mailto:santafeaudubonfl@aol.com)

When you make your reservation, please be sure to  
include your name, phone number and email and  
the number of participants.

- **BRING:** Water, binoculars, hat, sunscreen,  
rain gear and face covering.
- **WEAR STURDY WALKING SHOES.**
- **SFAS has sanitized binoculars to loan.**
- **Stay hydrated, be safe and have FUN!**

*We all must remember to maintain safe personal distancing.  
We suggest you bring your face mask just in case it is needed.  
It is easy to forget during the excitement of bird watching.*

## ACTIVITIES

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2023**

### **Melrose Area Christmas Bird Count**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024**

### **Yesterday's Festival at**

**Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park**

Keystone Heights, FL