



COMING IN MAY

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM

TUESDAY, MAY 9

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

**The Sound of the Sea:
Seashells and
the Fate of the Oceans**

Speaker

CYNTHIA BARNETT



Cynthia Barnett is an award-winning environmental journalist and author who has reported on water and climate change around the world. Her latest book, *The Sound of the Sea: Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans*, was named one of the

top science books of 2021 by NPR's Science Friday.

The Sound of the Sea: Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans is our Recommended Reading on page 2.

To find out more about Cynthia Barnett visit
<https://www.jou.ufl.edu/staff/cynthia-barnett/>

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

THE SAFETY OF OUR MEMBERSHIP IS OF UPMOST IMPORTANCE, AND WE ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO PLEASE WEAR A MASK.

FIELD TRIPS

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL
santafeaudubonfl@aol.com**

When you make your reservation, please include your email and phone numbers(s) and please specify if you will meet at Heritage Park or the Field Trip location.

**SATURDAY, MAY 6
SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK
for Bobolinks & more**

Join us for a walk at this man-made wetland where the birds are accustomed to humans. There are often opportunities for close-up looks and great photographs. This time of year, we may see migrating Bobolinks feasting on the Southern Rice Grass, along with local favorites. Approx. 2 - 3 hours

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

PARKING FEE: \$5 PER VEHICLE

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT
contact Anne Pierce santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

To caravan from Melrose meet on the west side of Heritage Park at **7:30 AM OR**
Sweetwater Wetlands Park at **8:10 AM**
325 SW Williston Road, Gainesville

THERE ARE RESTROOMS AT THIS LOCATION



**SATURDAY, MAY 27
ANASTASIA STATE PARK
for Birds at the Beach**

With 195 identified bird species, Anastasia State Park is a bird-watcher's paradise. You don't have to be an experienced birder to enjoy the diversity. Approx. 2 - 3 hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 3

Will involve walking on the beach

PARKING FEE: \$8.00 PER VEHICLE

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT
contact Celina or Sallie santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

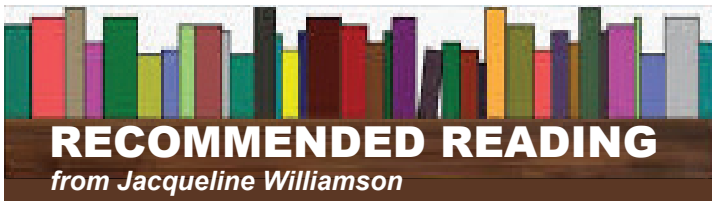
To caravan from Melrose meet on the west side of Heritage Park at **7:15AM OR**
Anastasia State Park Parking Area at 8:45 AM
300 Anastasia Park Road, St. Augustine, FL

THERE ARE RESTROOMS AT THIS LOCATION

"Share Our Shores"

To learn how to have a bird-friendly visit to the beach visit

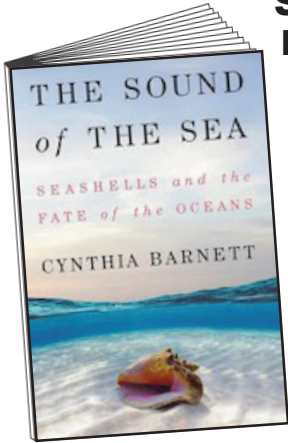
<https://sos.atlanticflywayshorebirds.org/ethical-bird-photography/>



RECOMMENDED READING

from Jacqueline Williamson

THE SOUND OF THE SEA SEASHELLS AND THE FATE OF THE OCEANS



by Cynthia Barnett

“The seashell might seem a decidedly small foundation for a book,” *The New York Times* wrote, “but Barnett’s account remarkably spirals out, appropriately, to become a much larger story about the sea, about global history and about environmental crises and preservation.”

GOOD NEWS

from Jacqueline Williamson



189 ACRES PURCHASED ON THE SANTA FE RIVER!

On January 17 the Florida Cabinet approved funding for an The Alachua County Forever Program recently celebrated the purchase of 189 acres on the Santa Fe River. This important acquisition, previously owned by the Matthews Family, protects over 1/2-mile of riverbank and adds to a growing corridor of conserved lands along this ecologically-diverse waterway.

Funding from the Wild Spaces & Public Places 1/2-cent sales tax in Alachua County helped make this acquisition possible along with assistance from ACT’s former Land Acquisitions Negotiator, Byron Flagg, and current Conservation Acquisitions Specialist, Michael Bird, who both worked on this project through ACT’s partnership with Alachua County.

ACT’s Santa Fe Springs Preserve, which was protected in 2019, is located just a mile away from this newly conserved land.

Future plans for the property will include passive public recreation and longleaf pine restoration. ACT is honored to have been a part of this project and thankful to the Matthews Family and our partners at Alachua County Forever for their commitment to seeing this land conserved as well as Alachua County voters for their support for the Wild Spaces & Public Places Program.

SFAS NEWS

Our Annual Meeting held March 14, 2023, included election of directors for terms that will run March 2023 to March 2025, a report on our current activities such as the Southeastern American Kestrel Nest Box program which now includes banding and radio-tagging some of the fledglings, and our members’ photography show.



photo courtesy of
Celina Rohman

Left to right: Jacqui Sulek, Helen Warren, Joyce King, and Sallie Carlock.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of our “Santa Fe Audubon Lifetime Conservation Award” to S. Joyce King our founder, past President and Conservation Chair Director. Prior to Santa Fe Audubon, Joyce served the St Petersburg Audubon Society as a driving force in the protection of nesting shorebirds. She as also served as a Director for both the National Audubon Society and Audubon Florida.

Helen Warren from Alachua Audubon and Jacqui Sulek from Four Rivers Audubon were our featured speakers. We thank them for joining us and sharing wonderful stories about Joyce.



photo courtesy of
Jacqueline Williamson

Starting in 2024, our yearly conservation award will now be titled the “Joyce King Santa Fe Audubon Conservationist of the Year Award”.

Our 2022-2023 Annual Report is posted on our website.

SFAS Directors 2023 through 2025

Term expires at the 2024 annual meeting

Sallie Carlock, President

Celina Rohman, Vice President

Jacqueline Williamson, Secretary

Bettina Moser, Director

Term expires at the 2025 annual meeting

Laura Berkelman, Treasurer

Anne Pierce, Membership

Joy Segall, Director

Bill Chitty, Kestrel Nest Program

Betty Rosenblatt, Kestrel Nest Program

BIRD OF THE MONTH

BOBOLINK (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

band code "BOBO"



male Bobolink

A small New World blackbird and the only member of the genus *Dolichonyx*. An old name for this species is the "Rice Bird", from its tendency to feed on cultivated grains. Adults are 16–18 cm (6.3–7.1 in) long with short finch-like bills and weigh about 1 oz.

One of the world's most impressive songbird migrants, traveling some 12,500 miles (20,000 kilometers) to and from southern South America every year. Throughout its lifetime, it may travel the equivalent of 4 or 5 times around the circumference of the earth.



female Bobolink

A migrating Bobolink can orient itself with the earth's magnetic field, thanks to iron oxide in bristles of its nasal cavity and in tissues around the olfactory bulb and nerve. Bobolinks also use the starry night sky to guide their travels.

Bobolinks stop by *Sweetwater Wetlands Park mid April through mid May feasting on the plentiful Southern Wild Rice (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*).

For more information about Bobolinks click on the link:
<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bobolink/overview>

*Sweetwater Wetlands Park

325 SW Williston Rd, Gainesville, FL

<https://www.sweetwaterwetlands.org>

Fun Fact: A group of Bobolink's are collectively known as a "chain".



Our first Kestrel box monitoring was done on March 26 & 27, and all boxes were checked.

So far we already have four boxes with Kestrel eggs, for a total of 13 eggs. This is a good sign for this early in the nesting season. We expect that more boxes will be Kestrel homes when we check later this month. In fact, adult Kestrels were flushed from the area around two other boxes.



Southeast American Kestrel
near Box 17

Other inhabitants were the usual suspects, 5 boxes with Eastern Screech-Owls, 4 with Great Crested Flycatchers, 1 with Eastern Bluebirds, and thankfully, just one box with a single Southern Flying Squirrel.



Eastern Screech-Owls in Box 7

Since we did not see him, the Southern Fox Squirrel we found earlier this year in box 22 has apparently moved on. Five more boxes had obviously been used with no evidence of which species were in them.

We are looking forward to April's monitoring which should give us a better idea of what the final counts might be.

Morningside Nature Center
Field Trip
March 13, 2023



photo courtesy of
Jacqueline Williamson



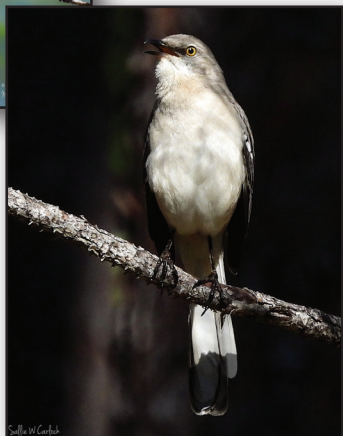
Thistle
photo courtesy of
Jacqueline Williamson



Zebra
Swallowtail
photo courtesy of
Jacqueline Williamson



Blue-headed
Vireo



Northern
Mockingbird

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As our 2022-2023 Program and Activities Season comes to a close, we will begin planning for our 2023-2024 Season, October 2023 through May 2024.

Watch for updates in *The Kite* throughout the summer.

Saffie Carlock



**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/

WANT TO BE A NATURE TRACKER?

Check out "Florida WildQuest"
Explore Florida's Wildlife Management Areas through a unique scavenger hunt experience!

<https://floridanaturetrackers.com/wildquest/>



**BIRDING ETHICS
(including photography)**

Practical guidelines that aim to mitigate the stress birds and their habitats face when humans intrude.

- Leave pets home
- Bring binoculars
- Mute cell phones
- Gently close vehicle doors
- Talk softly/whisper
- Keep bird call playback and pishing to a minimum.
- Walk quietly in woods (pick up feet)
- Avoid using a flash when taking photographs
- Keep your distance
- DO NOT flush or disturb birds (especially during spring nesting season)
- Stay on established trails
- Be alert for bird sounds/movements
- Coughing/sneezing? Stay away from group or, if possible, in vehicle
- Respect other birders
- Wear earth tone color clothing, when possible
- Stay hydrated and safe