



<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>

Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL

**APRIL 2025
NEWSLETTER**

Follow us on  Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

**PROGRAM
NEW DATE
TUESDAY
APRIL 15**

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!

PLC
PUTNAM LAND CONSERVANCY, INC.
presents the film...



**Path to Connection
Protecting The Florida
Wildlife Corridor**

The O2O Wildlife Corridor is a 100 mile long, 1.6-million-acre landscape of public and private lands that connect the Ocala and Osceola National Forests.

The O2O Expedition featured three veterans from three branches of military who undertook a 57-mile exploration of the Florida Wildlife Corridor from the Ocala to the Osceola National Forests. The core of the Expedition involved a 4-day journey which included paddling a section of the Ocklawaha River as well as biking/hiking segments through the Florida National Scenic Trail.

<https://floridawildlifecorridor.org>

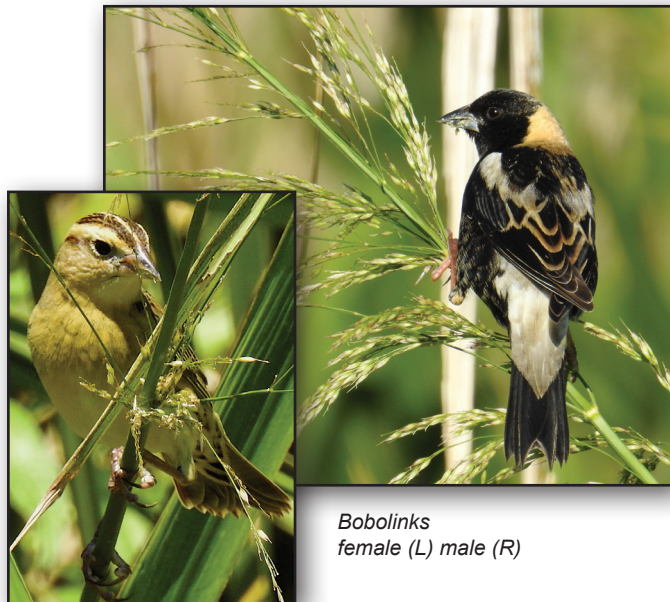
**Plus Santa Fe Audubon's Annual
PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW**

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

Our in-person Speaker Series may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns.

**FIELD TRIP
FRIDAY, April 18**

**SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK
for Bobolinks & more**



Bobolinks
female (L) male (R)

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

ENTRANCE FEE \$5.00 PER CAR

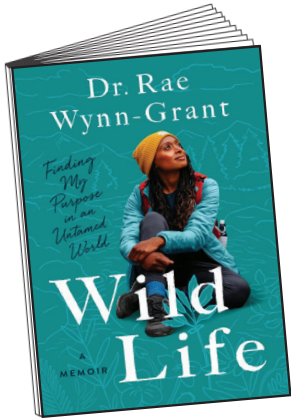
**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL
CELINA ROHMAN virgil1946@att.net**

Meet at Sweetwater Wetlands Park at **8:30 AM**
at the Pavillion by the restrooms
325 SW Williston Road, Gainesville

THERE ARE RESTROOMS AT THIS LOCATION

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.

RECOMMENDED READING
from Jacqueline Williamson



WILD LIFE

by Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant

In this vulnerable and urgent memoir, Rae Wynn-Grant explores the ever-shifting relationship between humans, animals, and the earth through her personal journey to becoming a wildlife ecologist.

GOOD NEWS
by Jacqueline Williamson

**DR. KEN MEYER HONORED
CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR
MARCH 11, 2025**



At our March program, Dr. Ken Meyer was presented *The Joyce King Santa Fe Audubon 2025 Conservationist Of The Year* award.

Gina Kent spoke on Dr. Meyer's many years of service to the field of bird conservation, especially his work with the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) and the Southeast American Kestrel Project. Dr. Myer gave a short presentation on kestrel banding and telemetry tracking and answered questions from the audience.

<https://www.arcinst.org>

**Kestrel
Corner** by Bill Chitty

Photos courtesy of Anne Pierce

The Santa Fe Audubon monitoring team checked all 25 boxes on March 27th, 2025. We only found three boxes with Kestrel eggs with parents nearby. A female flushed from a fourth box, but there were no eggs. We are hopeful that she returns to lay. The team was treated to watching a territory dispute between two male Kestrels. That took place between two boxes neither of which had eggs, but both showed signs of being used by Kestrels. So at least one of those boxes should have a female with eggs on our next visit. One of those boxes may be moved further away for next year.

We found one box with baby squirrels, five boxes with sleeping Eastern Screech-Owls, two boxes being used by Tufted Titmouse, and the rest were basically undisturbed.



Titmouse, and the rest were basically undisturbed.

Eastern Screech-Owl



Tufted Titmouse nests

IN OTHER NEWS



Santa Fe Audubon has committed money for the phase 2 native plant installation for the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice in Hampton Florida. This facility provides meeting spaces for community retreats, workshops, camps and education. It has 15 acres to hike explore and enjoy birds.



Phase 1 native plant installation, June 2024

For more information about the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice check out their website.

<https://florida4peace.org>

SPEAKER PROGRAM

Our Final program until October 2025

May 13, 2025

HOW TO BECOME A RECIPIENT PROPERTY AND WHY GOPHER TORTOISES ARE SO IMPORTANT AND FUN TO HAVE AROUND

speaker Aaryn Tarver

We begin our October 2025 through May 2026 planning starting in May and will keep you up-to-date throughout the summer in our monthly newsletter *The Kite* and on Facebook.



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
- Respect other birders
- Wear earth tone color clothing, when possible
- Stay hydrated and safe