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and



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL

DECEMBER 2024  
NEWSLETTER



**SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM**  
**PRESCRIBED FIRE**  
**at Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park**  
**Tuesday, DECEMBER 10**  
**speakers Dr. Ludie Bond and Daniel Cook**

**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!*



Please join us to learn how prescribed fire is an effective land management tool used in many state parks. This presentation will provide a brief overview of prescribed fire use, benefits and challenges, particularly at Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park in Keystone Heights.

**Speakers bios are on page 5**



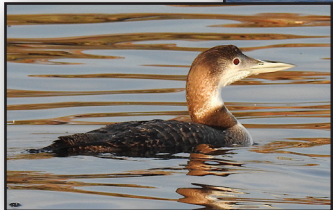
The safety and well-being of our membership and board members is our top priority, we encourage everyone to please wear a mask. Also, our in-person programs may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns. Cancellation notifications will be sent out via email, posted on our website and Facebook page.

# FIELD TRIP BOAT TRIP ON SANTA FE LAKE

For Wintering Waterfowl and Gulls

Saturday, JANUARY 11

**RESERVATION REQUIRED • LIMITED SEATING • 10 PASSENGERS**



**WEATHER PERMITTING**  
Departure Time 2:00 PM

**\$10.00 per person**

cash only the day of the trip paid to the Boat Captain

To reserve your spot contact

**Nancy Staples** [nlshootie@gmail.com](mailto:nlshootie@gmail.com) and **Celina Rohman** [virgil1946@att.net](mailto:virgil1946@att.net)

Contacts will provide departure location and parking details. Reservations 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.

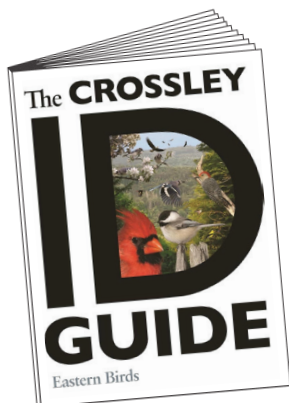


## RECOMMENDED READING

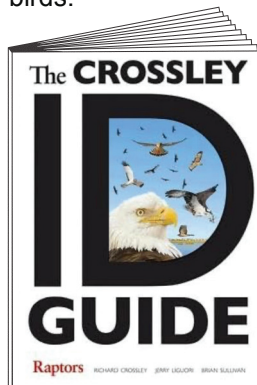
by *Jacqueline Williamson*

## HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FOR BIRD ENTHUSIASTS

These stunningly illustrated books from acclaimed birder and photographer Richard Crossley revolutionize field guides by providing the first real-life approach to identification. Whether you are a beginner, expert, or anywhere in between, *The Crossley ID Guides* will vastly improve your ability to identify birds.

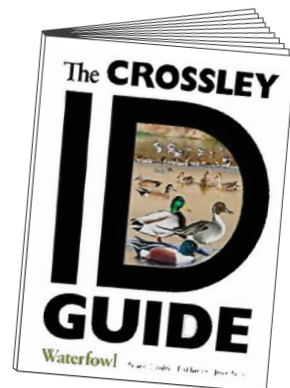


**The Crossley ID Guide  
EASTERN BIRDS**



**The Crossley ID Guide  
RAPTORS**

Page 2 of 5



**The Crossley ID Guide  
WATERFOWL**



# BACKYARD BIRDING TOUR

HOSTED BY  
**ALACHUA  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY &**



**February 1st, 2025  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Tickets: \$15**

## About Our Event

You are invited to join us on a self-guided tour of some of Gainesville's premiere backyard birding habitats, where ordinary homeowners have turned their yards into a birding paradise.

## Education

Learn how to attract birds to your yard using native plants, water features, and feeding stations.

## See Amazing Birds

Enjoy viewing colorful winter visitors such as Baltimore Orioles in the gardens and feeders of our host homes.

## Protect Birds

Learn ways to help birds by preventing window strikes, providing safe habitat for migration and breeding, and turning off lights during critical seasons.

Tickets on sale December 1, 2024  
@ Wild Birds Unlimited: 4212 NW 16th St. Gainesville



# DECEMBER SPEAKERS

## DR. LUDIE BOND AND DANIEL COOK

**Ludie Bond, Ph.D.** As a Wildfire Mitigation Specialist/Public Information Officer with the Florida Forest Service for over 20 years, Dr. Bond covers one of their 15 designated districts in Florida. The Waccasassa Forestry Center/District 8 is comprised of five counties: Alachua, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, and Putnam. In her capacity as a Public Information Officer, she provides local, state, national and international media with information about wildfire incidents, wildfire causes, wildfire prevention, prescribed burning, and fuel mitigation programs in the area. She also develops Firewise projects and Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plans to lower the risks and potential damaging effects of wildfires in communities determined to be at risk. Dr. Bond also promotes forest use such as recreation and hunting as well as special programs such as longleaf pine restoration and the enhancement of the endangered and threatened Red-cockaded Woodpecker habitat on the seven state forests within the five-county district.



Dr. Bond holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Relations ('85), a Master of Forest Resources and Conservation ('04), and a Doctorate of Forest Resources and Conservation ('24) from the University of Florida. She serves as a Type 1/Complex Public Information Officer Section Lead on one of the Florida Forest Service's Complex Incident Management Teams. She has responded as a Public Information Officer to multiple wildfire incidents throughout Florida, the southeast, and as far west as Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Texas, and Utah. Dr. Bond has also responded to multiple hurricane recovery deployments throughout Florida, including in the panhandle of Florida for Hurricane Michael and in southwest Florida for Hurricane Ian.



**Daniel Cook** grew up in Keystone Heights enjoying American history and volunteer firefighting, especially the wildland side. He joined the Florida Park Service on a Gainesville based fire team and worked his way to becoming a Park Ranger Burn Boss at Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park. Daniel was promoted to Assistant Park Manager at Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Historic State Park in Cross Creek where he enjoys being immersed in history while still assisting with the burn programs at Gold Head and Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. On his days off you can often catch him enjoying a park with his wife and son.

# FIELD TRIPS 2025

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

**Saturday, January 11**

**Boat Trip on Santa Fe Lake**

For wintering waterfowl and gulls

**Saturday, February 15**

**Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park**

Keystone Heights, FL

**Saturday, March 8**

**Salt Marsh** location to be announced

**Saturday, March 29**

**O'Leno State Park** High Springs, FL

For spring migration

**Friday, April 18**

**Sweetwater Wetlands Park** Gainesville, FL

For Bobolinks and more

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

## ABOUT FIELD TRIPS RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS

*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.**

*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.*

**Stay hydrated, be safe and have FUN!**

# SPEAKER PROGRAMS 2025

**January 14**

**BIRDS OF THE EVERGLADES**

speaker Richard Rathe

**February 11**

**SALT MARSH & CLIMATE RESILIENCE**

speaker Heather Nagy

**March 11**

**CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD**

*presented to Dr Ken Meyer,*

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS and PHOTO SHOW**

**April 8**

**Putnam Land Conservancy's Film**

**"O2O PATH TO CONNECTION**

**Protecting The Florida Wildlife Corridor"**

**May 13**

**HOW TO BECOME A RECIPIENT PROPERTY**

**AND WHY ARE GOPHER TORTOISES SO**

**IMPORTANT AND FUN TO HAVE AROUND**

speaker Aaryn Tarver

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

*Program topics and speakers are subject to change at the last minute for various reasons.*

## ACTIVITIES

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025**

**Flatwoods Fire and Natural Festival**

**10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Austin Cary State Forest Camp**

**10625 NE Waldo Road, Gainesville**