



Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL

DECEMBER 2024  
NEWSLETTER



santafeaudubon

<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>

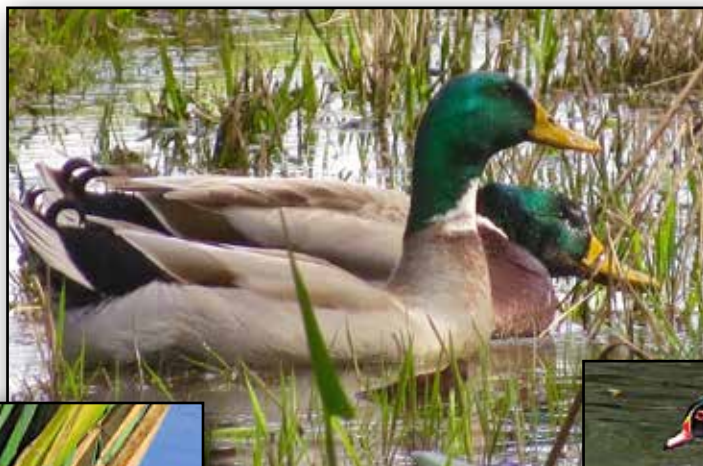


Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

**SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM**  
**THE HISTORY OF HUMAN**  
**RELATIONSHIPS WITH WATERFOWL**  
**speaker Dr. Paul Gray**  
**Tuesday, DECEMBER 9**

**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!*



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.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT JANUARY 2026 FIELD TRIP

**Due to very low lake levels, the BOAT TRIP ON LAKE SANTA FE has been postponed until further notice.**

**The January Field Trip date and destination will be in the January Kite that will be emailed on January 6 and possibly announced at the December 9th program.**



## GOOD NEWS

*from Kai Sucsy*

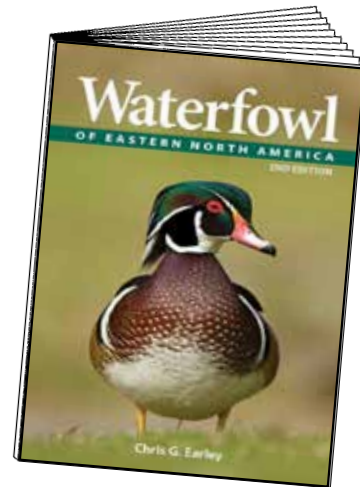
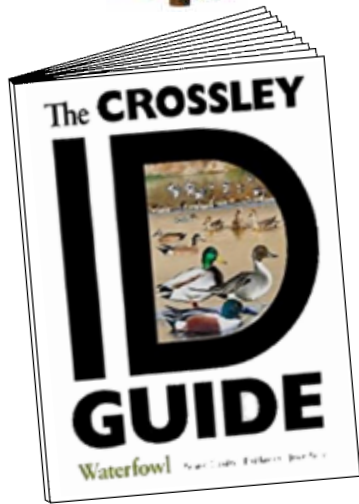
### SANTA FE AUDUBON SOCIETY AWARDED 2025 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION PROJECT!



Audubon Florida recently celebrated its 44 Chapters for their efforts to connect people to nature while protecting birds and the spaces they need. At their annual meeting in October, they awarded Santa Fe Audubon (SFAS) with their 2025 OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION PROJECT for their Southeastern American Kestrel Nest Box Project. This Project is primarily managed by two Board Members; Bill Chitty and Bette Rosenblatt. 26 nest boxes are located along high voltage powerline easements in Etoniah Creek State Forest and are managed with FWC Protocols. SFAS was the first Chapter to partner with the Avian Research and Conservation Institute working closely with Dr Ken Meyer. Kestrels have been tagged and fit with transmitters a little less than 3 grams to track and collect valuable flight distances, patterns, and death data. Since the Project began, SFAS has fledged over 100 birds! SFAS welcomes Community Education and is always searching for ways to connect with new groups and people.



# HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS FOR BIRD ENTHUSIASTS



Unlike other guides, which provide isolated individual photographs or paint illustrations, this book features large, lifelike scenes that are 'painted in pixels.' Nearly 300 pages of waterfowl scenes – showing waterfowl in a wide range of views – near and far, from different angles, in various plumages and behaviors, including flight, and in the habitat in which they live. By making identification easier, more accurate, and more fun than ever before, **The Crossley ID Guide to Waterfowl** redefines how readers look at nature.

Illustrated with over 400 photographs of waterfowl in their natural environment, this essential field guide illustrates the rich diversity among these birds. It is designed specifically to help birders identify ducks, geese and shorebirds and become familiar with the features and colors to look for upon sighting a bird.



**Wingspan** is a competitive, medium-weight, card-driven, engine-building board game from designer Elizabeth Hargrave and Stonemaier Games. It is the 2019 winner of the prestigious Kennerspiel des Jahres award.

You are bird enthusiasts—researchers, bird watchers, ornithologists, and collectors—seeking to discover and attract the best birds to your network of wildlife preserves. Each bird extends a chain of powerful combinations in one of your habitats (actions). These habitats focus on several key aspects of growth:

- Gain food tokens via custom dice in a bird feeder dice tower
- Lay eggs using egg miniatures in a variety of colors
- Draw from hundreds of unique bird cards and play them

The winner is the player with the most points after 4 rounds.

There are 3 expansions available: Wingspan Oceania Expansion, Wingspan European Expansion and Wingspan Asia, with a new expansion coming in 2026. <https://stonemaiergames.com/games/wingspan/>

**Sibley Birder's Trivia** is a game for birders to test their knowledge—with 200 cards offering 400 questions of varying difficulty about the birds of North America from the bestselling author and ornithologist David Allen Sibley.

True or false: Many dinosaurs (the ancestors of modern birds) had feathers.

If you answered 'true,' you just won a point playing this ultimate ornithology trivia game. Sibley Birder's Trivia offers 400 questions that will test your bird knowledge over five rich categories: Bird Identification, Bird Anatomy and Physiology, Bird Names, Bird Behavior, and Birds in Culture. The types of question vary: Q&A, true or false, and multiple choice. Each card offers two questions in a category, one easier and one harder. Players can choose which one they want to answer; the easy question is worth one point, while the hard one is worth two. If you answer the easier one correctly, you can move on to the harder one.

Some of the questions about identification are illustrated with Sibley's vibrant bird portraits drawn from his authoritative work, *The Sibley Guide to Birds, Second Edition*. You can play in teams, one-on one, or alone by pulling random cards to test your knowledge. No matter how you play, in the end, everybody wins as they learn hundreds of fascinating facts about birds.





# BIRDS OF THE MONTH

## Welcome Winter Visitors



**Swamp Sparrow**  
*Melospiza georgiana*  
Band Code SWSP



**Chipping Sparrow**  
*Spizella passerina*  
Band Code CHSP



**Savannah Sparrow**  
*Passerculus sandwichensi*  
Band Code SAVS



**Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler**  
(aka Butter Butt)  
*Setophaga coronata*  
Band Code YRWA



**Palm Warbler**  
*Setophaga palmarum*  
Band Code PAWA

For more information about these and other species  
<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/>

## The Great Backyard Bird Count



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FEBRUARY 13 - 16, 2026

Join the world in connecting to birds February 13–16, 2026. Watch the video to learn more about the count.

Spend time in your favorite places watching birds—then tell us about them! In as little as 15 minutes notice the birds around you. Identify them, count them, and submit your counts to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world. If you already use eBird or Merlin, your submissions over the 4 days count toward GBBC.

### Project Goal

Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days we invite people to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them to us. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.

### Our History

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online participatory-science project (also referred to as community science or citizen science) to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. Birds Canada joined the project in 2009 to provide an expanded capacity to support participation in Canada. In 2013, we became a global project when we began entering data into eBird, the world's largest biodiversity-related participatory science (community science or citizen science) project.

**For further details, the video and rules for participation, visit the website:**

<https://www.birdcount.org>

# SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS 2026

January 13..... **BLACK BEARS** - speaker Allan Hallman

February 10 ..... **BUTTERFLIES & POLLINATORS** - speaker Dr. Jaret Daniels

March 10..... **SFAS Conservationist of the Year, Election of Officers & Photo Show**

April 14..... **HORSESHOE CRABS** - speaker Dr. Jane Brockmann

May 12..... **FROGS & AMPHIBIANS** - speaker Dr. Jon Johnson

*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.*

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## FIELD TRIPS 2026

*Reservations will be required. Field trips are subject to date change or cancellation due to weather, etc.*

Saturday, January..... Date and Destination to be announced

Saturday, February 21 ..... Masters Tract Stormwater Treatment Facility - Hastings

Saturday, March 21 ..... Satsuma Springs Easement Property - Satsuma

Saturday, April 18 ..... Orange Lake Overlook - Micanopy

**FRIDAY**, May 22..... Anastasia Island Beach Bird Nesting - St. Augustine

### ABOUT FIELD TRIPS

#### **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

*So we may contact you in case of last minute change or cancelation. Please be sure to include your name, phone number, email and the number of participants.*

*Please see contact info on page 2, to make your reservation.*



- **BRING:** Water, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, rain gear and face covering.
- **WEAR STURDY WALKING SHOES.**
- **STAY HYDRATED, be safe and have FUN!**

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.