



Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL



<http://www.santafeaudubon.org> and



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

SFAS NEWS

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS

- October 10, 2023 **BATS** speaker Donna Bear
- November 14, 2023 **CARDINALS** speaker Katie Sieving
- 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

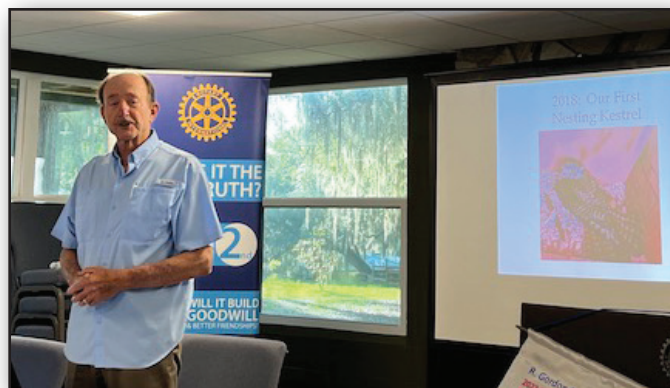
FIELD TRIPS

Reservations will be required & all field trips are subject to date change or cancellation due to weather, etc.

- Saturday October 21, 2023
Morningside Nature Center for Fall Wildflowers
Gainesville, FL
- November ??, 2023 - to be announced
- Saturday January 20, 2024
Masters Tract
Hastings, FL
- February 24, 2024 (maximum 12 participants)
Private Wetland Preserve near Rice Creek
Palatka, FL
- March ??, 2024 - to be announced
- 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

AMERICAN KESTREL PROGRAM AT KEYSTONE HEIGHTS ROTARY CLUB

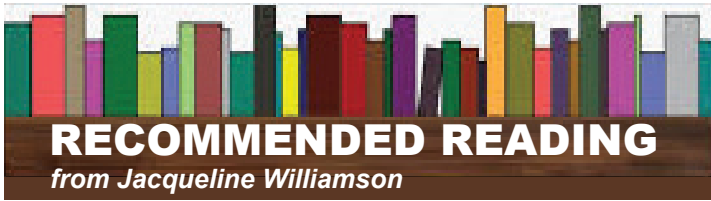
Bill Chitty gave a presentation about SFAS's Southeastern American Kestrel nest box project for the Keystone Heights Rotary Club on July 12, 2023.



JAY WATCH 2023

Several SFAS Board Members volunteered in this summers Florida Scrub-Jay "Jay Watch" in Clay and Putnam Counties.



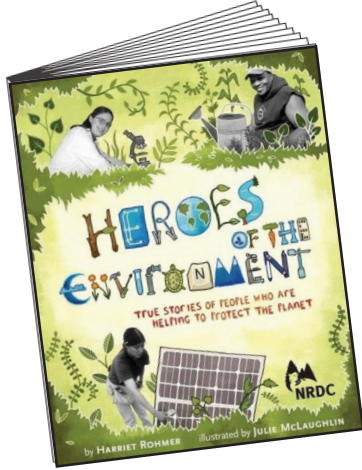


RECOMMENDED READING

from Jacqueline Williamson

HEROES OF THE ENVIRONMENT TRUE STORIES OF PEOPLE WHO ARE HELPING TO PROTECT THE PLANET

by Harriet Rohmer



This inspirational book presents true stories of 12 people from across North America who have done great things for the environment. Its photos and illustrations bring each interesting story to life.

Rather than featuring the typical group of environmental heroes, this book showcases 12 contemporary conservationists who are working to help the environment from Alaska to Mexico City. Many of the featured activists are young people, and this book would make a great addition to the library of the budding conservationist.

GOOD NEWS

by Jacqueline Williamson

FEDERAL FUNDS AIM TO PROTECT LOCAL BIRD HABITATS

Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) and Alachua County have earned a 1 million dollar grant from USFWS to purchase key tracts to expand the N FL Wetland Connector Conservation Project. Funds will buy land near Lake Alto, Lake Tusawilla and Lochloosa Creek, as well as cover closing costs on its purchase at Orange Lake Overlook which will double the preserves footprint.

THE NATIVE PLANT CONNECTION

What are native plants?

Native plants are those that occur naturally in an area. Florida is home to thousands of native plant species. Many are stunningly beautiful; some occur nowhere else in the world. Over many millennia, our native wildlife – including birds – have adapted to the resources provided by the native flora. Native plants are, in a real sense, “home” for our birds.

Pokeweed is loved by many bird species. Red-eyed Vireos feast on these berries.



Why are native plants important for birds?

In a word: insects. Virtually all land birds – 96% - require insect food for their young. Native plants support healthy populations of insects, including caterpillars, that breeding birds feed their nestlings. However, nonnative plants contain foreign compounds that most native insects won't eat. Without insects for food, baby birds starve. By adding native plants to your yard, you can help restore the imbalance created by non-native plantings and ensure the survival of future generations of birds.

Your yard – and the kinds of plants in it – matters to birds! As natural area for birds continue to decrease, so do native plants and the important food sources they provide for birds.



White caterpillars of the *Zebra Longwing* butterfly and orange caterpillars of the *Gulf Fritillary* butterfly feasting on *Passion Vine*.

For additional information on native plants for birds:
<https://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>

Florida Native Plant Society for info and plant lists and sources.
<https://www.fnps.org>

BIRD OF THE MONTH

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*)
band code "KILL"



L to R: Wilson's Snipe, Least Sandpiper, Killdeer, Least Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs

A shorebird you can see without going to the beach, Killdeer are graceful plovers common to lawns, golf courses, athletic fields, and parking lots. These tawny birds run across the ground in spurts, stopping with a jolt every so often to check their progress, or to see if they've startled up any insect prey. Their voice, a far-carrying, excited killdeer, is a common sound even after dark, often given in flight as the bird circles overhead on slender wings.

COOL FACTS:

The Killdeer's broken-wing act leads predators away from a nest, but doesn't keep cows or horses from stepping on eggs. To guard against large hoofed animals, the Killdeer uses a quite different display, fluffing itself up, displaying its tail over its head, and running at the beast to attempt to make it change its path.

For more information about Killdeer go to:

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Killdeer/overview>

Fun Fact: A group of Killdeers are collectively known as a "season" of Killdeers.



Kestrel Corner

This is the last Kestrel Corner for 2023. Below are a few photos from this past season.

