



Santa Fe Audubon Society
Melrose, FL

 **MAY 2023** 
NEWSLETTER

www.santafeaudubon.org and  Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

FIELD TRIP - SATURDAY MAY 27

ANASTASIA STATE PARK

for Birds at the Beach

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 us:

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

PARKING FEE: \$8.00 PER VEHICLE

We will meet at the parking area (near the restrooms) on the left, approx 1 mile from the Ranger Station.

Celina and Sallie are your contact-leaders for the last field trip of our Oct 2022 - May 2023 season. Paul Dunn, with Duval Audubon, will be our guide for the nesting shore birds. 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.

Please allow up to 3 hours • DIFFICULTY LEVEL 3 - Will involve uneven terrain and walking on the beach



Willet



Piping Plover



Sanderling



Black Skimmers

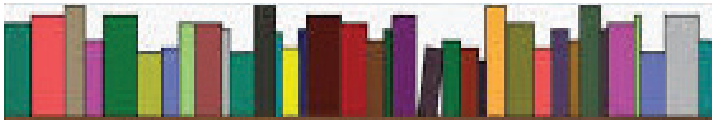


Ruddy Turnstone

“Share Our Shores”

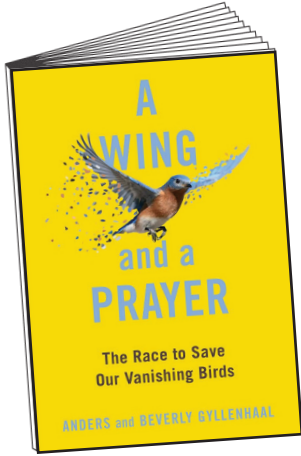
Click on the link below to learn how to have a bird-friendly visit to the beach visit

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



RECOMMENDED READING
by Jacqueline Williamson

A WING AND A PRAYER
The Race To Save Our Vanishing Species
by Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal



From retired journalists Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal, comes *A Wing and a Prayer*. Part travelogue, part passionate reporting, this book comments on the serious decline of North American bird populations. The couple traveled the US in an RV some 25,000 miles to chronicle the decline of birds in North America from Hawaii to Florida to the Sierra Madre mountains of California to explain how scientists and others are in a race to save our birds.

GOOD NEWS
by Jacqueline Williamson



AUDUBON CENTER FOR BIRDS OF PREY CELEBRATES 700th BALD EAGLE RELEASE !

This year the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in Maitland, FL celebrated the release of its 700th rehabilitated Bald Eagle since the center's Raptor Trauma Center opened in 1979.

In 2022 the center released a total of 22 Bald Eagles back into the wild.

SFAS NEWS

Santa Fe Audubon Society was sad to learn of the passing of our former Board Member, Jill McGuire. Jill was an environmental icon, longtime president of Santa Fe Lake Dwellers Association and a local and state champion for environmental protection. Jill passed away peacefully on Monday, May 1, 2023



In June SFAS will begin planning for our October 2023 - May 2024 Speaker Series Programs, Field Trips and Activities.

If you have any suggestions for a program or field trip please email us at santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

Watch for updates in The Kite throughout the summer.



A few other photos from early May's Southeastern American Kestrel box check.
Kestrel Corner article and more photos are on page 3.



BIRD OF THE MONTH

SUMMER Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

band code "SUTA"



The only completely red bird in North America, the strawberry-colored male Summer Tanager is an eye-catching sight against the green leaves of the forest canopy.

The mustard-yellow female is harder to spot, though both sexes have a very distinctive chuckling call note.



Fairly common during the summer, these birds migrate as far as the middle of South America each winter. All year long they specialize in catching bees and wasps on the wing, somehow avoiding being stung by their catches.

For such a bright-red bird, Summer Tanagers can be hard to see in the tops of leafy green trees. As with many forest songbirds, the best way to find them is to listen, both for the robin-like song and for their very distinctive, muttering pit-tit-tuck call note. Look for them in open woodlands (particularly of oaks and other deciduous trees) where they are usually in the mid-canopy and above.

For more information about Summer Tanagers click on the link below.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Summer_Tanager/overview

Fun Fact: A group of Tanager's are collectively known as a "season" of Tanagers.



May 11, 2023

We are expecting all 8 Kestrel nestlings in boxes 17 & 26 to fledge in the next five days.

Southeastern American Kestrels from Box 17



Male fledgling being tagged



Mom keeping a watchful eye

Southeastern American Kestrels from Box 26



Male fledgling has a lot to say



All four soon to fledge

The Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) has fitted each of them with either radios or cell phones for us to track where they go when they leave home. The cell phones, at 4 grams, are too heavy for the lighter weight males, so only the four females have phones, the males have VHF radio transmitters. The radios weigh less than 3 grams, have a longer range and less accuracy. The phones not only give pinpoint locations, but include a tiny solar panel to recharge the battery, which should last about a year. At last count, there are nine more healthy Southeastern American Kestrel nestlings in Santa Fe Audubon nest boxes. ARCI plans to fit them all with a radio or cell phone tag before the end of May.



Sisters from Box 26

Again, thank you to Dr. Ken Meyer and the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) for their collaboration on banding and attaching radio telemetry devices on our Kestrels.

To learn more about ARCI visit their website:

www.arcinst.org

Bolen Bluff Field Trip

April 22, 2023



Participants
photo courtesy of
Ida Little



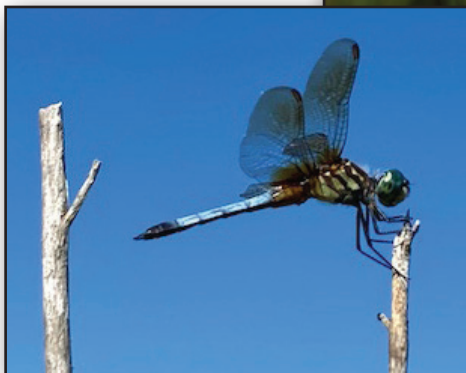
Blue Dasher (male)
on Nuttall's Thistle

photo courtesy of
Michael Drummond



Checkered White
(male) nectaring on
Swamp Smartweed

photo courtesy of
Michael Drummond



Blue Dasher
(male)

photo courtesy of
ida Little

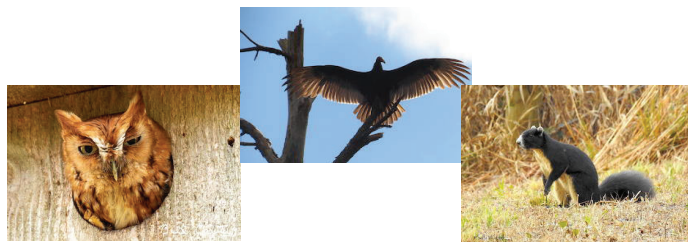


FLORIDA WILDLIFE EXTENSION Wildlife Happenings

Click on the link below to check out the
"Wildlife Happenings" in our area.

https://wec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/happenings/

ONLINE JIGSAW PUZZLES



<https://www.jigsawplanet.com/SantaFeAudubonFL/santa-fe-audubon>



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