



<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>

**Santa Fe Audubon Society**

Melrose, FL

**MAY 2024  
NEWSLETTER**



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

## **SFAS NEWS**

### *A Message from the President*

Dear SFAS Member and Friend,

Our 2023-2024 Season of Programs and Field Trips have come to an end.

We have begun planning for our October 2024 through May 2025 Season and will keep you up-to-date of our progress in The Kite, our monthly newsletter, throughout the summer.

Our Speaker Series Program Dates:

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 (Election of Directors • Conservationist of the Year • Photography Show)

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Our Programs start at 6:45 PM and are held 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 programs. All are welcome!

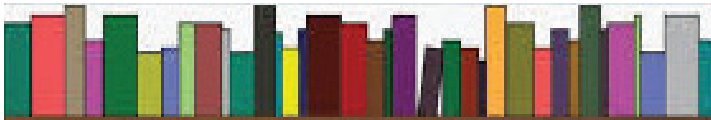
Stay hydrated, use sunscreen and play Wingspan.

Have a great and safe summer,

*Sallie Carlock*

President,

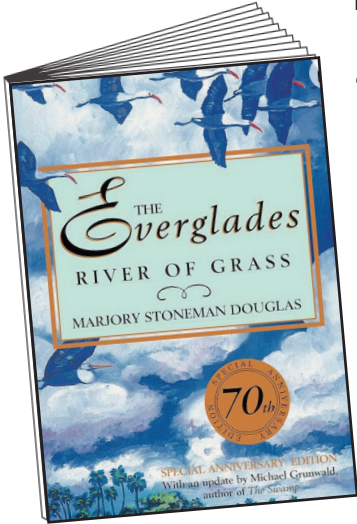
Santa Fe Audubon Society



**RECOMMENDED READING**  
from Jacqueline Williamson

**THE EVERGLADES**  
*River of Grass*

by Marjory Stoneman Douglas



“There are no other Everglades in the world,” writes Marjory Stoneman Douglas in the opening of *The Everglades: River of Grass*, her very readable 1947 study of one of the world’s most fascinating and least understood regions.

**GOOD NEWS**  
by Jacqueline Williamson

**NEW UNIT IN  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE  
REFUGE SYSTEM**

In March, The Everglades to Gulf Conservation Area became the newest unit in the National Wildlife Refuge system. Spanning twelve counties west of Lake Okeechobee from Lakeland to Naples, this 4 million acre conservation area will protect wildlife corridors and enhance climate resilience.



**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/](https://wec.ifas.ufl.edu/extension/wildlife_info/happenings/)



**Kestrel  
Corner** by Bill Chitty

The Kestrel box monitoring visit in late April revealed 4 boxes with brand new nestlings, three days old or less and one box with four eggs. There is one location where adult Kestrels are hanging out, but we cannot tell if they are a mated pair from a nearby location or if they are a late breeding pair. Eight of our boxes have Eastern Screech Owls. The rest are split between no disturbance/use (8), Great Crested Flycatchers (1 for sure, 2 more maybes), Eastern Bluebirds (1) and one box with signs of unknown activity.



The next full monitoring visit to all boxes will be in late May, along with ramping up the banding of the young about to leave the nest. New for this year, we will attempt to mist net a few adult males and outfit them with tracking tags right after they have stopped feeding their young.



# 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 (below), 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-ti-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](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Summer_Tanager/overview)

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

# THE NATIVE PLANT CONNECTION



The Mission of the Florida Native Plant Society is to promote the preservation, conservation, and restoration of the native plants and native plant communities of Florida.

Visit the Florida Native Plant Society website:  
<https://www.fnps.org>



Add wildflowers to your landscape now to help birds thrive!

To bring birds into your landscape, plant a variety of Florida native wildflowers that provide food and habitat. Include species that produce nectar and seeds, attract insects, and offer shelter.

Visit the Florida Wildflower Foundation website:  
<https://www.flawildflowers.org>

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