



<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>

and



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

Santa Fe Audubon Society
Melrose, FL



OCTOBER 2023
NEWSLETTER



SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM **“BATS”**

Tuesday, OCTOBER 10

speaker Donna Bear

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!

Join us for Donna Bear's program about Florida's bat species and the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens work with acoustic bat monitoring.



Donna Bear is the Curator of Species Management at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens. She has worked at the zoo in various capacities since 1993, previously the Curator of Birds (and Bats). She has been a member of the Florida Bat Working Group since 2009. Though the main focus of her position is record keeping and

permits for the zoo, she is responsible for several local conservation involvements with FWC. She participates with the FWC long-term bat monitoring project as well as the Timucuan Shorebird Group. The local bird rookeries on zoo grounds are monitored by her and her staff. She works closely with USFWS for wood stork monitoring in Duval county. In 2012, she assisted the FLBWG president in putting on the 2012 Bat Blitz here in Florida.

Donna enjoys most things involving local conservation efforts and attempts to volunteer with bat projects as much as possible as well as assisting at the Jekyll Island Bird Banding Station as a volunteer every year. Donna enjoys encouraging her coworkers to participate in these events as well. She also enjoys kayaking and reading.

The safety of our membership is of utmost importance, we encourage everyone to wear a mask.

The safety and well-being of our membership and board members is our top priority; therefore, our in-person Speaker Series 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 **FALL WILDFLOWERS** **Saturday, OCTOBER 21**



TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, email
santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
MORNINGSIDE NATURE CENTER

Join us for Fall Wildflowers and more with Michael Drummond in one of Gainesville's premier nature parks, Morningside Nature Center. This is one of the last remaining examples of fire-dependent longleaf pine woodlands in the area. We will explore up to three miles of the more than six miles of trails that wind through sandhill, flatwoods, cypress domes, and areas where native vegetation is being restored. Morningside boasts a spectacular wildflower display and opportunity to see a diverse array of wildlife. Approx. 2 - 3 hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2 - May involve uneven terrain; 1-3 miles

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

contact Sallie Carlock santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

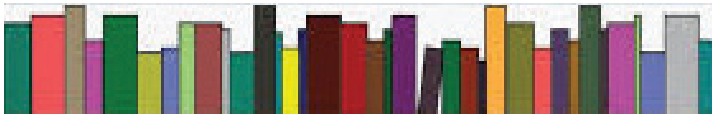
To caravan from Melrose meet on the west side of Heritage Park at **7:45 AM**

or Morningside Nature Center Parking Lot at **8:15 AM**
3540 E University Ave, Gainesville, FL

RESTROOMS ARE AT THIS FIELD TRIP LOCATION

We ask that all observe personal distancing and suggest bringing a mask for everyone's protection, in case it is needed.

Reservations for each trip 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. Field Trip Guidelines are on page 3.

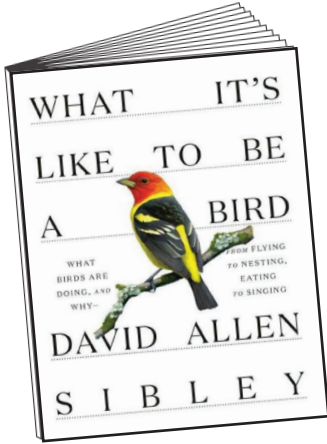


RECOMMENDED READING

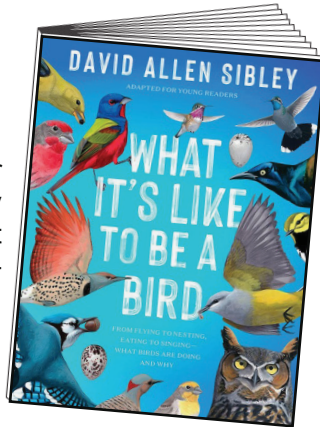
by Jacqueline Williamson

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A BIRD

by David Allen Sibley



In *What It's Like To Be A Bird*, David Sibley answers frequently asked questions about the birds we see most often. This informative book is geared for both the novice birder and the bird obsessed. It includes over 200 species with 330 illustrations by the author.



In this new edition, adapted for young readers, David Sibley combines fascinating facts about birds with amazing illustrations—some in full size. This book will delight your budding naturalist.

GOOD NEWS

from Jacqueline Williamson

FOURTEEN NEW GREAT FLORIDA BIRDING AND WILDLIFE TRAIL SITES



Sweetwater Wetlands Park



FWC announces selection of 14 new Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail sites. 3 of the 14 are within 60 miles of our area.

Sweetwater Wetlands Park -Gainesville (Alachua County)

Ocala Wetland Recharge Park - Ocala (Marion County)

Robert B. Hayling Freedom Park - St. Augustine (St. Johns County)

BIRD OF THE MONTH

BARRED OWL (*Strix varia*)
band code "BADO"

The Barred Owl's hooting call, "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?" is a classic sound of old forests



and treed swamps. But this attractive owl, with soulful brown eyes and brown-and-white-striped plumage, can also pass completely unnoticed as it flies noiselessly through the dense canopy or snoozes on a tree limb. Originally a bird of the east, during the twentieth century it spread through the Pacific Northwest & southward into California.



COOL FACTS:

Barred Owls don't migrate, and they don't even move around very much. Of 158 birds that were banded and then found later, none had moved farther than 6 miles away.

For more information about Barred Owls visit:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Barred_Owl/overview#

Fun Fact: Barred Owls have many collectively nouns including "bazaar", "glaring", "parliament", "stooping" and "wisdom" of owls.

ABOUT FIELD TRIPS
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS
TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL
santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

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!

CARAVAN FROM MELROSE

Please arrive early and be ready to leave with your supplies:
 Meet on the **west side** of Melrose Heritage Park, SR 26, downtown Melrose. Or meet at the field trip site. When you make your reservation, please specify if you will meet at Heritage Park or the Field Trip location.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
ETONIAH ROSEMARY SURVEY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023

Every year in October, a census is taken of every known specimen of this endangered species that occurs naturally nowhere else on earth. Volunteers needed, no prior experience or expertise is required. Wear clothes suitable for the weather and hiking in the woods. Meet at **8:30 AM** the Etoniah Creek State Forest Office.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Bill Chitty via email at **bill.chitty@gmail.com**

Halloween candy will be available & you don't even have to wear a costume.



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

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS

Tuesdays, starting at 6:45PM

*at Trinity Episcopal Parish Hall,
204 SR 26 downtown Melrose*

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

*Details will be in that months Kite,
which will be emailed, posted on our Website and
Facebook page the first week of that month.*

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 and ACTIVITIES

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

*Details will be in that months Kite,
which will be emailed, posted on our Website and
Facebook page the first week of that month.*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023

*Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park
Keystone Heights, FL*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2024

*Masters Tract
Hastings, FL*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2024

*Yesterday's Festival at
Mike Roess Gold Head Branch State Park
Keystone Heights, FL*

SATURDAY, 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*