



Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL

JANUARY 2021
NEWSLETTER

www.santafeaudubon.org

and



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

The Cornell Lab Audubon BIRDS CANADA
OISEAUX CANADA

The Great Backyard
Bird Count

Join The Annual Bird Count
February 12 - 15, 2021

GBBC

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online citizen science project (sometimes referred to as “community science”) to collect data on wild birds and display results in near real time. Birds Canada joined the project in 2009 to better support participation in Canada. In 2013, the GBBC became a global project when it started using the app eBird (world’s largest biology related citizen science project) for data entry.

Project Goal

Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. During these four days people are invited to spend time in their favorite places watching, counting, and reporting as many birds as they can find. These observations help scientists better understand global bird population trends right before Spring migrations.

For 2021

In 2020 a new website was designed to make understanding and recording your 4-day count easier than ever. Santa Fe Audubon encourages everyone to participate. The minimum time requirement is only fifteen minutes, and you can do it in your own backyard or any other favorite birdwatching spot.

For further details and rules for participation, see the website: <https://www.birdcount.org>

NEW • NEW • NEW
Kestrel Corner
on page 2

The Native Plant Connection
is featured on page 2 this month

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://flawildflowers.org/attracting-birds/>

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

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/



Bill Chitty and Betty Rosenblatt have begun maintenance on all 25 of our Kestrel boxes this month, getting ready for the upcoming nesting season. They are cleaning, putting in new nesting material and making a few repairs.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

SANDHILL CRANE (*Antigone canadensis*)
band code "SACR"



Whether stepping singly across a wet meadow or filling the sky by the hundreds and thousands, Sandhill Cranes have an elegance that draws attention. These tall, gray-bodied, crimson-capped birds breed in open wetlands, fields, and prairies across North America. They group together in great numbers, filling the air with distinctive rolling cries. Mates display to each other with exuberant dances that retain a gangly grace. Sandhill Crane populations are generally strong, but isolated populations in Mississippi and Cuba are endangered.



COOL FACTS:

The earliest Sandhill Crane fossil, estimated to be 2.5 million years old, was unearthed in the Macasphalt Shell Pit here in Florida.



Sandhill Crane chicks ("colts") can leave the nest within 8 hours of hatching, and are even capable of swimming.

For more information about Sandhill Cranes visit:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Sandhill_Crane/id

Fun Fact:

A group of cranes are collectively known as a "construction", "dance", "sedge", and "swoop" of cranes.