



Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL



**JULY 2025
NEWSLETTER**



santafeaudubon

<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS 2026 - 2027

Our programs are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month (October 2026 to May 2027) beginning at **6:45 PM** in Trinity Episcopal's 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!**

MARK THESE PROGRAM DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

October 13..... ***INSECT ID WHEN BUG IS NOT THERE***- speaker Lee Bloomcamp

November 10... ***NATIVE PLANTS*** - speaker Susan Carr

December 8 ***ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLES*** - speaker Kevin Enge

January 12..... ***WILDLIFE CORRIDOR*** - speaker Reed Noss

February 9 ***WOODPECKERS OF NORTH AMERICA*** - speaker Deb Kainauskas

March 9 ***SFAS Conservationist of the Year, Election of Directors & Photo Show***

April 13 ***WILDLIFE RESCUE*** - speaker Shawn McMahon

May 11..... ***SPRINGS*** - speaker Jim Gross



Audubon Florida Assembly

The 2026 Audubon Assembly will take place October 15-17 in St. Pete Beach.

Black Skimmer with chicks. Photo: Jean Hall

Join us in St. Pete Beach for Florida's premier conservation gathering, where grassroots leaders from around the state join Audubon's professional staff and partners to grow their knowledge and skills to protect Florida's precious natural resources.

For this year's event, held October 15-17, 2026, at the TradeWinds Resort on St. Pete Beach, our theme is "Protecting What Connects Us — Water, Wildlife, and Community."

2026 Audubon Florida Assembly *INFORMATION* link

<https://www.audubon.org/florida/get-involved/audubon-florida-assembly>

2026 Audubon Florida Assembly *REGISTRATION* link

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-audubon-assembly-tickets-1986899263182?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true

Sign up for The Advocate Newsletter

Stay up-to-date on the
legislative session to learn
when you can use your
voice for birds!

Visit fl.audubon.org/advocate to sign up

 Audubon | FLORIDA



SCAN TO SIGN UP



UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



FALL Horticultural EXPO

EDIBLE BY NATURE

PLANT FOR PEOPLE, POLLINATORS & OUR PLANET

Fall Plant Market
Bugs, Birds & More
UF/IFAS Fang Fest
KIDS ZONE
Demonstrations
Food Trucks
Live Music
Free Entry & Parking

October 17, 2026

9 AM - 4 PM

**Alachua County Ag &
Equestrian Center
Newberry, FL**

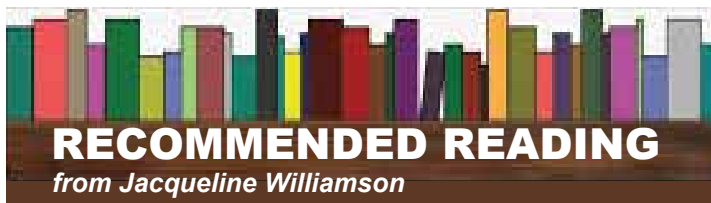


Featuring Brie Arthur
Author of
Foodscape Revolution



www.ggcfl.org/fallexpo

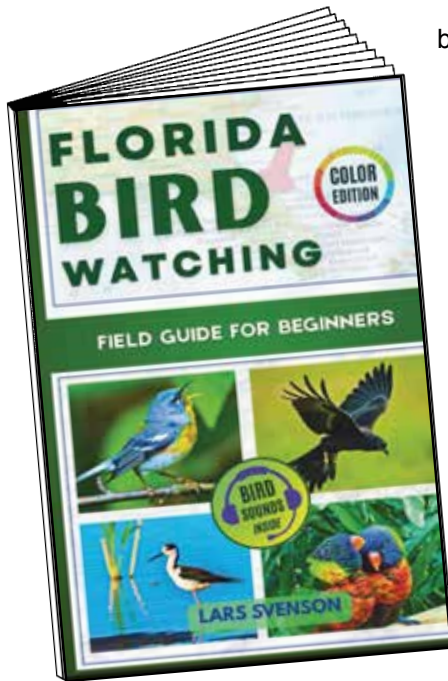
No Pets Allowed, Service Animals Permitted
An Equal Opportunity Institution



FLORIDA BIRD WATCHING

FIELD GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

by Lars Svenson



Are you having trouble spotting the birds in Florida? Do you want an easy way to enjoy watching them without feeling confused? This guide is just for you!

Here's how this book helps you enjoy birdwatching more:

- You'll be able to identify 100 common birds in Florida easily: Each one comes with clear photos and key details to help you spot them quickly.
- You will learn to recognize birds by their sounds: The audio QR codes make it fun and simple to remember their calls.
- You'll understand when and where to find different birds: making your outings more enjoyable.
- Get expert tips on using binoculars and field guides: so, you can get the most out of your experience right from the start.
- This guide is perfect for beginners: It's all straight-forward—no confusing terms, just clear and helpful information that turns your curiosity into knowledge.



As the Southeastern American Kestrel nesting season draws to a close, the totals for Santa Fe Audubon's nest box program this year are still a bit up in the air. As of July 12, we have had five boxes with nesting Kestrels. A second clutch of eggs were laid in two boxes where the first set of eggs were consumed by rat snakes. Box 22 has three nestlings (see picture) that are about 14 days old and still two weeks from leaving home and striking out on their own. Three other boxes have fledged 10 young kestrels, all of which were banded by personnel from the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI). Seven of those banded young were also outfitted with a cellphone, battery, gps chip, and antenna (total weight 3 grams) so ARCI can track their movements and see where they set up housekeeping on their own.

We have a bit of a mystery at box 24. On June 27, there were three healthy nestlings who appeared to be 8 days old, and one unhatched egg. We assumed the egg was sterile and wasn't going to hatch (it didn't) and the nestlings would be ready to fledge between July 16 and July 20. When we checked on July 12, the box was empty except for the egg. Most likely, the nestlings were taken by a snake, but there is a small possibility they fledged earlier than expected.

We will be returning to box 22 to check on their progress, band, and gps tag those new Kestrels.



Over the next several months, Santa Fe Audubon will be building new nest boxes to replace and upgrade fourteen of the current (10 year old) boxes.

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.

FIELD TRIPS 2026 - 2027

will be featured on page one in August

Reservations will be required so we may notify you on the event of a date change or cancellation due to weather, etc.

Saturday, October, 2026

Date and location to be announced

Saturday, November 14, 2026

SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK
Gainesville

Saturday, January 9, 2027

ORANGE LAKE OVERLOOK
Micanopy

Saturday, February 20, 2027

PLC - OKLAWAHA TRACT

Saturday, March 20, 2027

CEDAR KEY BOAT TRIP
DETAILS IN EARLY 2027

Saturday, April 24, 2027

MARJORIE KINNAN RAWLINGS
HOUSE TOUR AND HIKE
Cross Creek

Saturday, May 22, 2027

PRAIRIE CREEK PRESERVE
Gainesville