



<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>

Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL

**JUNE 2025  
NEWSLETTER**



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

## THE NATIVE PLANT CONNECTION

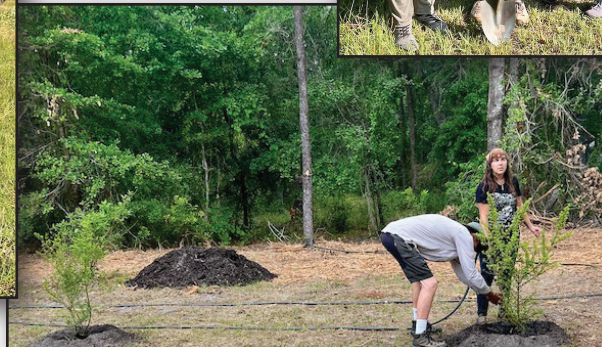
### NATIVE PLANTS FOR FLORIDA COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

*by Celina Rohman, Santa Fe Audubon President*

Spring has arrived and Santa Fe Audubon Society (SFAS) celebrated its arrival by planting Florida native trees and plants supporting the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice in Hampton, FL. This deserving community organization provides an educational space for meetings, workshops, retreats and camping.

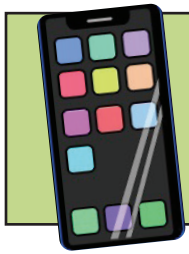
The installation volunteers consisted of a diverse group of Board Members from both SFAS and Peace and Justice as well as partners from Bradford County Master Gardeners, Alligator Creek Garden Club, Conservation Leadership Initiative and the Peace and Justice Group. These native trees will provide a future life sustaining nutritional food source of larvae, caterpillars and other bugs. These are all crucial to the survival of birds and their babies. For example, Chickadee parents must deliver an estimated 4500 larvae per nest of offspring until they fledge. A total of 35 native trees/plants consisting of 19 different species (E. Palatka Holley, Fringe Tree, Elderberry, American Beautyberry, Redbud, Shumard Oak, Chickasaw Plum, etc.) were planted at the organization's entrance area. We are optimistic that these trees will thrive and provide!

Special THANKS go to ALL volunteers!



To learn more about the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice visit their website: <https://florida4peace.org>





## RECOMMENDED BIRDING APPS FOR YOUR SMART PHONE

find them in the App Store



### MERLIN BIRD ID

by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Who's singing????? Merlin Bird ID can tell you!!! The free Merlin Bird ID app from the Lab of Ornithology helps identify birds by sound, with a photo, or when users answer a few simple questions.

For more information go to:

<https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2022/04/merlin-bird-id-app-identifies-more-450-bird-species-sound>

### THE AUDUBON BIRD GUIDE

The Audubon Bird Guide is a free and complete field guide to over 800 species of North American birds, right in your pocket. Built for all experience levels, it will help you identify the birds around you, keep track of the birds you've seen, and get outside to find new birds near you.



For more information go to: <https://www.audubon.org/app>

### eBIRD

by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology

**Find more birds!** Explore birds and hotspots near you and wherever you go, all based on the latest sightings from around the world.

**Share your sightings!** Join the world's largest birding community. Every sighting matters, contribute yours.

**Track your lists!** What's your latest life bird? What bird lists do you care about? eBird tallies them for you and archives your photos and sounds—all for free.

For more information go to: <https://ebird.org/home>

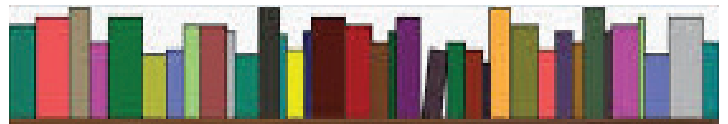
### SEEK by iNaturalist

Take your nature knowledge up a notch with Seek! Use the power of image recognition technology to identify the plants and animals all around you. Earn badges for seeing different types of birds, amphibians, plants, and fungi and participate in monthly observation challenges.



For more information go to:

[https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek\\_app](https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app)

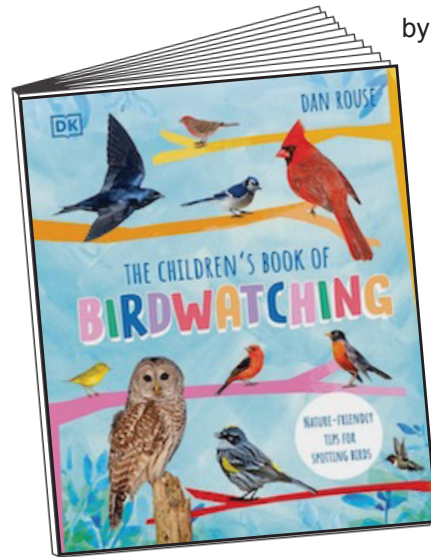


## RECOMMENDED READING

from Jacqueline Williamson

### THE CHILDREN'S BOOK OF BIRDWATCHING

by Dan Rouse



A fun, engaging birdwatching book for kids, full of information, activities, and tips on how to spot, identify, and care for birds. For children aged 5-9.

## GOOD NEWS

from Jacqueline Williamson

### SFAS RECEIVES DONATION FROM VULCAN MATERIALS



SFAS is very grateful to Vulcan Materials for the donation.

Details in the Kestrel Corner article on page 3.





# Kestrel Corner

by Bill Chitty



The 2025 breeding season is approaching its finish. While we do not have final numbers, it looks like we will finish with 13 newly fledged Southeastern American Kestrels. Almost all will have been banded by the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) who have also attached geolocators to five of nestlings just before they fledged. We will follow their travels for months and months because in addition to a GPS chip, the 3 gram units have a telephone, an antenna, a battery, and a solar cell recharging panel. ARCI also experimented with a camera system in three of the boxes to watch young develop, eggs to fledge, but the camera lens was quickly obscured on all three cameras by birds mistaking the lenses for toilet facilities.



Kestrel pairs used six of our boxes, with varying degrees of nesting success from zero to four successfully raised young. Even though the locations of the boxes have not changed in the last eight years or so, this was the very first time that two of the boxes have been used by Kestrels. And the boxes being reused, largely had different success rates than in years past. My interpretation is that we have had more than normal turnover in parenting birds this year.



More in the **“good news”** column is the South Division of Vulcan Materials won a company wide environmental stewardship competition which included a \$5,000 cash reward to be then donated to a non-profit of their choice. Vulcan chose Santa Fe Audubon to receive the funds, which we plan to use to purchase materials to build new boxes and also update some of the technology we use to track our fledged Kestrels.



In addition to our project helping the Kestrel population, it seems we are also helping Screech Owls. Our first year (2016) we had four boxes used by Screech Owls; this year, ten boxes. Other species we helped with our boxes: 3 Bluebird, 4 Great Crested Flycatcher, and 1 Titmouse pair.

Thank you to Vulcan Materials for their generous doantion! Also, thank you to the Avian Research Conservation Institute for the help, work and support they provide to make this project more meaningful; to the Florida Forest Service for their ongoing interest and assistance, to the Florida Power and Light for allowing us to place the nest boxes within their power line easements (four of the five successful nests were under power lines) and to all our volunteers past and present.

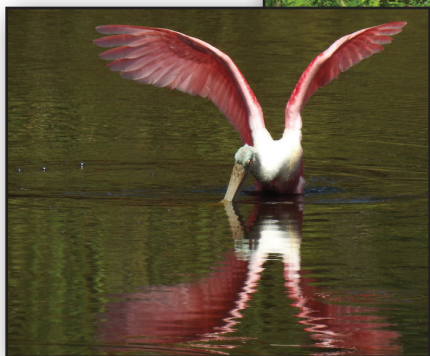




# BIRD OF THE MONTH

## ROSEATE SPOONBILL (*Platalea ajaja*) band code "ROSP"

The flamboyant Roseate Spoonbill looks like it came straight out of a Dr. Seuss book with its bright pink feathers, red eye staring out from a partly bald head, and giant spoon-shaped bill.



They sweep their spoonbills through shallow fresh or salt waters snapping up crustaceans & fish.

These social birds nest and roost in trees and shrubs with other large wading birds.



### COOL FACT:

Roseate Spoonbill chicks don't have a spoon-shaped bill immediately after hatching. When they are 9 days old the bill starts to flatten, by 16 days it starts to look a bit more spoon like, and by 39 days it is nearly full size.

For more information about Roseate Spoonbills visit:  
[www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Roseate\\_Spoonbill/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Roseate_Spoonbill/id)

**Fun Fact:** A group of Roseate Spoonbills are collectively known as a "bowl" spoonbills.

## MORE GOOD NEWS

Our new banner will be ready in a few weeks and will be on display at our programs beginning in October and at future festivals and events.



Also, we hope to have our 2025-2026 program dates and topics listed on page 1 of the July 2025 Kite.



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>