



<http://www.santafeaudubon.org> and

**Santa Fe Audubon Society**

Melrose, FL



**MARCH 2025  
NEWSLETTER**



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

**PROGRAM  
TUESDAY, MARCH 11**

**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

**CONSERVATIONIST  
OF THE YEAR**

**Speaker: Dr. Ken Meyer**

Recipient of the this year's

*Joyce King Santa Fe Audubon*

*Conservationist Of The Year Award*

With an introduction by Gina Kent

**PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW**

**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!



Dr. Ken Meyer, Co-founder and Executive Director of ARCI (Avian Research and Conservation Institute)

<https://www.arcinst.org>

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

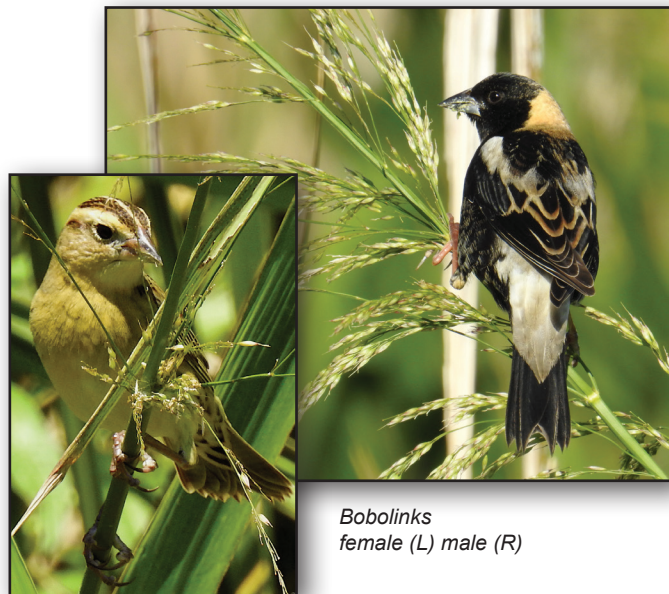
Our in-person Speaker Series may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns.

**FIELD TRIP**

**FRIDAY, April 18**

**SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK**

for Bobolinks & more



Bobolinks  
female (L) male (R)

Join us for a walk at this man-made wetland where the birds are accustomed to humans. There are often opportunities for close-up looks and great photographs. This time of year, we may see migrating Bobolinks feasting on the Southern Rice Grass, along with local favorites. Approx. 2 - 3 hours

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

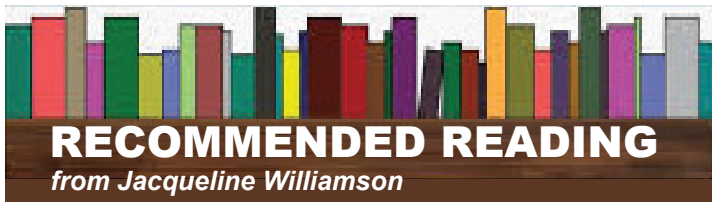
**ENTRANCE FEE \$5.00 PER CAR**

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL  
CELINA ROHMAN [virgil1946@att.net](mailto:virgil1946@att.net)**

Meet at Sweetwater Wetlands Park at **8:30 AM**  
at the Pavillion by the restrooms  
325 SW Williston Road, Gainesville

**THERE ARE RESTROOMS AT THIS LOCATION**

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.

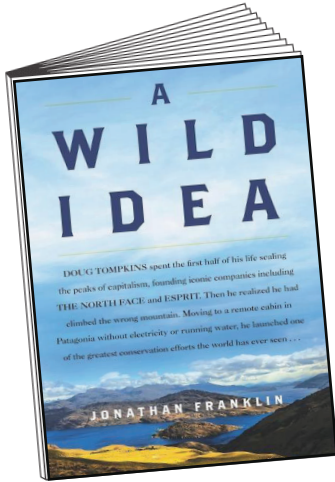


## RECOMMENDED READING

from Jacqueline Williamson

### A WILD IDEA

by Jonathan Franklin



In *A Wild Idea*, award-winning journalist and bestselling author Jonathan Franklin tells the incredible true story of Douglas Tompkins, who became one of the primary founders of our modern conservation and land protection movement.

## GOOD NEWS

from Jacqueline Williamson

### AUDUBON EAGLEWATCH PARTNERING WITH ARCI



FROM Audubon Florida:

The Audubon EagleWatch program is partnering with the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) on a new initiative to track Bald Eagles using GPS devices. This data collected will provide insight into how these majestic birds' movements, migration patterns, nest site fidelity, and nest site

selection have evolved over the past two decades in response to Florida's rapidly changing landscape.

Over the next five years, EagleWatch and ARCI plan to tag and monitor four Bald Eagles per year. This spring, two adults and two juveniles — all rehabilitated and released by the Center for Birds of Prey — will become the first cohort of eagles to be fitted with the GPS telemetry devices.



## BIRD OF THE MONTH

**CEDAR WAXWING**  
(*Bombycilla cedrorum*)  
band code "CEDW"



A treat to find in your binocular viewfield, the Cedar Waxwing is a silky, shiny collection of brown, gray, and lemon-yellow, accented with a subdued crest, rakish black mask, and brilliant-red wax droplets on the wing feathers. In fall these birds gather by the hundreds to eat berries, filling the air with their high, thin, whistles. In summer you're as likely to find them flitting about over rivers in pursuit of flying insects, where they show off dazzling aeronautics for a forest bird.



### COOL FACTS:

The oldest recorded Cedar Waxwing was a male and at least 7 years, 1 month old when he was recaptured and rereleased during banding operations in Maryland in 2014. He was originally banded in the same state in 2008.

For more information about Cedar Waxwings, visit:

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Cedar\\_Waxwing/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Cedar_Waxwing/overview)

**Fun Fact:** A group of waxwings are collectively known as an "earful" and a "museum" of waxwings.



# FIELD TRIPS 2025

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

**Friday, April 18**  
**Sweetwater Wetlands Park** Gainesville, FL  
For Bobolinks and more

*Field trips are subject to date change  
or cancellation due to weather, etc.*



## **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 PROGRAMS 2025

**April 8**

**Putnam Land Conservancy' presents**  
**"O2O PATH TO CONNECTION Protecting**  
**The Florida Wildlife Corridor" film**

**May 13**

**HOW TO BECOME A RECIPIENT PROPERTY**  
**AND WHY GOPHER TORTOISES ARE SO**  
**IMPORTANT AND FUN TO HAVE AROUND**

speaker Aaryn Tarver

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*Program topics and speakers are subject to change at the last minute for various reasons.*

**COMING (back) SOON.....**



All the boxes have been cleaned and are ready for Kestrels looking to nest, which should begin this month.



## **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/)