



Santa Fe Audubon Society
Melrose, FL



 [santafeaudubon](https://www.instagram.com/santafeaudubon)

<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>

 Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

PROGRAM TUESDAY, MARCH 10

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

•
**CONSERVATIONIST
OF THE YEAR**

Speaker: Charlie Pedersen

With an introduction by Bill Chitty

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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!



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 Saturday, March 21

SATSUMA SPRINGS EASEMENT PROPERTY



Join us on a trip to Satsuma Spring! This is a small, privately held spring located along the St Johns River. We'll visit the spring, learn about the history and why it's designated as an official Bartram Trail site, and discuss how it's now protected in perpetuity. Approx. 2 - 3 hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2

May involve uneven terrain; 1-2 miles

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL
KAI SUCSY**

Kai@PutnamLandConservancy.org

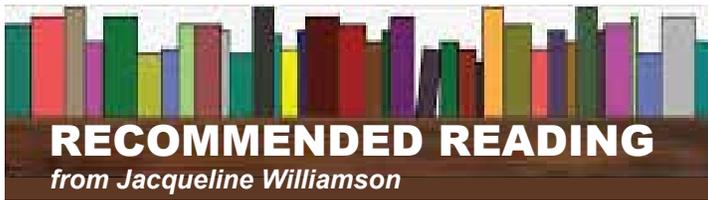
Meet at 10:00 AM

119 Norton's Fish Camp Rd, Satsuma, FL 32189
Google map pinpoint can be emailed on request.

Someone will guide attendees to a parking area.

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.

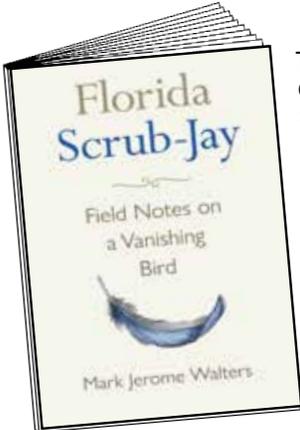


RECOMMENDED READING

from Jacqueline Williamson

FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY

by Mark Jerome Walters



The only bird species that lives exclusively in Florida, the Florida scrub-jay was once common across the peninsula. But as development over the last 100 years reduced the habitat on which the bird depends from 39 counties to three, the species became endangered. With a writer's eye and an explorer's spirit, Mark Walters travels the state to report on the natural history and current predicament of Florida's flagship bird.

A loving portrayal of a very special bird, *Florida Scrub-Jay* is also a thoughtful reflection on the ethical and emotional weight of protecting a species in an age of catastrophe. Now is the time to act, says Walters, or we will lose the scrub-jay forever.



The Southeastern American Kestrels in our area are already doing their family planning, picking out nesting sites and will start laying eggs before the end of March. Santa Fe Audubon will be monitoring their progress right from the start. After adjusting nesting box locations to four spots we think are better suited for raising young, we are hopeful that this year will see more successful clutches of Kestrels.

During the off season, we have been tracking movements of last year's tagged fledglings. We only have two left that are still transmitting and still moving around. Most interesting is that it appears that the male from box 26 has met a female who was tagged in 2024. They are hanging around inside Camp Blanding. The other kestrel we are still tracking seems to have found a home on the same power line easement as she was born on, but several miles north of Etoniah Creek State Forest.

The monitoring team goes out eight to ten times during the spring and early summer to check on the progress of our nesting Kestrels. We occasionally have room for an additional person to accompany us into the field. This sometimes takes most of the day (when we check all the boxes) and sometimes it is only several hours (when we only check boxes with known Kestrels). If you are interested in joining us for a monitoring visit, email Bill Chitty (billchitty@gmail.com). First come, first served for the limited number of opportunities to see the project first hand.



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

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

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS 2026

April 14..... **HORSESHOE CRABS** - speaker Dr. Jane Brockmann

May 12..... **FROGS & AMPHIBIANS** - speaker Dr. Jon Johnson

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

ABOUT FIELD TRIPS

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS

So we may contact you in case of last minute change or cancelation. Please be sure to include your name, phone number, email and the number of participants.

Please see contact info on page 1, to make your reservation.

FIELD TRIPS 2026

Reservations will be required. Field trips are subject to date change or cancellation due to weather, etc.

Saturday, April 18 Orange Lake Overlook - Micanopy

FRIDAY, May 22..... Anastasia Island Beach Bird Nesting - St. Augustine



- **BRING:** Water, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, rain gear and face covering.
- **WEAR STURDY WALKING SHOES.**
- **STAY HYDRATED, be safe and have FUN!**

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.