



**PROGRAM
TUESDAY-MAY 12
FROGS & AMPHIBIANS**

Speaker Jon Johnson

6:45 PM at Trinity Episcopal Parish Hall
204 SR 26 downtown Melrose
All are welcome!



Please join us May 12, 2026 for our last program of the 2025-2026 season.

Over the summer we will be planning for our 2026 - 2027 Programs and Field Trips, which will begin October 2026 thru May 2027. We will keep you up-to-date throughout the summer in The Kite.

Have a great summer, stay hydrated & use sunscreen.

Sincerely,

Celina Rohman

President, Santa Fe Audubon Society

**FIELD TRIP
FRIDAY MAY 22**



**Birds at the Beach
ANASTASIA
STATE PARK**

Anastasia State Park is a bird-watcher's paradise. You don't have to be an experienced birder to enjoy the diversity.

Please allow up to 3 hours

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 3

*Will involve uneven terrain
and walking on the beach*

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL
CELINA ROHMAN virgil1946@att.net**

When you make your reservation, please include your email and phone numbers(s) and please specify if you will meet us:

MEET AT 8:24 AM

Anastasia State Park Parking Area at 8:45AM
at the parking area (near the restrooms) on the left, approx 1 mile from the Ranger Station.

300 Anastasia Park Road , St. Augustine, FL

**FEE: \$8 per vehicle (up to eight people)
\$4 single-occupant vehicle**

“Share Our Shores”

Click on the link below to learn how to have a bird-friendly visit to the beach

<https://sos.atlanticflywayshorebirds.org/ethical-bird-photography/>



KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN BY GREG BASCO

COSTA RICA

An Introduction to Neotropical Birding

January 16-23, 2027



If you've always wanted to go birding in Costa Rica — or never taken a birding trip abroad at all — this 8-day travel program with Santa Fe Audubon Society is a great introduction to the neotropical birds of Central America. Spend time in the Caribbean lowlands and the mountainous southern highlands, seeking out species typical of the differing elevations and habitats. Your expert Costa Rican birding guide who will help ensure your group spots as many of the country's 900-plus avian species as possible. Combine that with its accessibility and friendly people, and Costa Rica is a perfect destination for beginners and more advanced birders alike.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Take guided hikes in the private, 500-acre rainforest reserve at Selva Verde Lodge, which provides habitat to more than 350 bird species, including the endangered Great Green Macaw.
- Ascend the 328-foot suspended walkway at Tirimbina Biological Reserve for the chance to see species that spend their time high within the forest canopy layer.
- Visit Nectar & Pollen Reserve, a private reserve adjacent to Braulio Carrillo National Park, where some interesting possibilities include the Snowcap, Long-tailed Tyrant, Cinnamon Woodpecker, and White Hawk.
- Search for the Resplendent Quetzal, Slaty Flowerpiercer, Ruddy Treerunner, and other high-elevation species in the cloud forests of the Talamanca Mountains.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local birding expert
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting

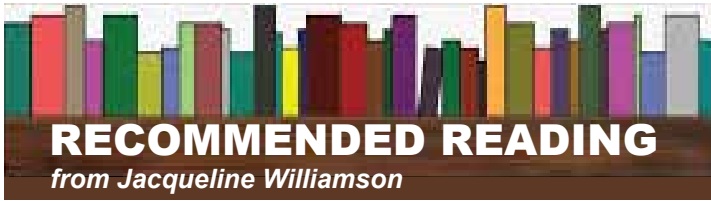
\$2,550 per person

8-10 participants, in double occupancy, limited singles available for additional \$350 per person. All inclusive except gratuities and airfare (est \$400 nonstop round trip from Orlando).

More information or to enroll:
<http://holbrook.travel/santafe-cr27>

Debbie Jordan 866-748-6146

debbie@holbrooktravel.com

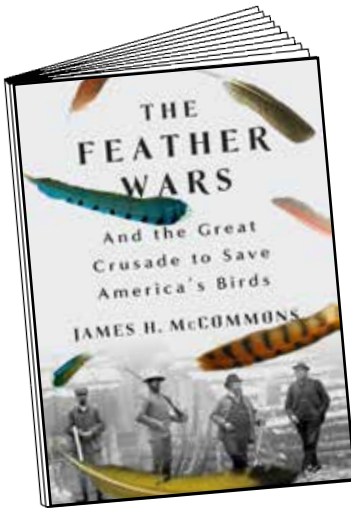


RECOMMENDED READING

from Jacqueline Williamson

The Feather Wars ***And the Great Crusade to*** ***Save America's Birds***

by James H. McCommons



The Feather Wars is an entertaining and expansive work of American history, an incredible story about how disparate characters—progressive politicians, free-thinking society belles, nature writers and artists, bird-loving U.S. presidents, gunmakers, business titans, and brave game wardens—came together to save hundreds of species of birds. Heroes, martyrs, villains, and conflicted do-gooders—the early bird conservation movement had them all. Together they transformed how Americans thought and cared about birds, forever altering the American landscape.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*)
band code "SUTA"



The only completely red bird in North America, the strawberry-colored male Summer Tanager is an eye-catching sight against the green leaves of the forest canopy.

The mustard-yellow female is harder to spot (below), though both sexes have a very distinctive chuckling call note.



Fairly common during the summer, these birds migrate as far as the middle of South America each winter. All year long they specialize in catching bees and wasps on the wing, somehow avoiding being stung by their catches.

For such a bright-red bird, Summer Tanagers can be hard to see in the tops of leafy green trees. As with many forest songbirds, the best way to find them is to listen, both for the robin-like song and for their very distinctive, muttering pit-ti-tuck call note. Look for them in open woodlands (particularly of oaks and other deciduous trees) where they are usually in the mid-canopy and above.

For more information about Summer Tanagers click on the link below.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Summer_Tanager/overview

Fun Fact: A group of Tanager's are collectively known as a "season" of Tanagers.



Kestrel Corner

by Bill Chitty

Photos courtesy of Kai Sucsy and Bill Chitty

Our April 18 monitoring visit produced several surprises. The Great Crested Flycatchers were found in only three boxes instead of the suspected 6 from last month (good news). Bigger surprise was finding five Kestrel eggs in box 1 with both parents nearby. This box had an Eastern Screech-Owl last month. No one thinks SE American Kestrels could evict an Eastern Screech-Owl, so we just do not know what happened (but we are glad it did). Box 23 was empty last month and had five SE American Kestrel eggs this month. Rounding out our discoveries were the usual suspects of Eastern Bluebirds, and a Gray Squirrel mother nursing fur/hairless babies. We still have seven boxes with little or no use.



Eastern Screech-Owl gray morph



Great Crested Flycatcher chicks



Eastern Screech-Owl red morph



Eastern Bluebird eggs

During the day, the monitoring crew was treated to several interesting bits of nature. We spotted a gray and black Southern Fox Squirrel nearby box 6. We heard, then spotted a Summer Tanager at box 2 and saw a Bachman's Sparrow between box 22 and 4.



Bachman's Sparrow



Southern Fox Squirrel



Summer Tanager

In the bad news column, we found a Red Rat Snake, fat and over four feet long in box 24. This box had four Kestrel eggs last month, none this month. The snake was evicted (with malice aforethought) and allowed to leave in peace. The Kestrel parents may return if they have not already set up housekeeping elsewhere. We have had that happen before.

