



Santa Fe Audubon Society

Melrose, FL

**JUNE 2026  
NEWSLETTER**



santafeaudubon

<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida



Florida Wildlife Care 24-hr. Help line:  
**(352) 371-4400**

Dear SFAS Members and Friends,

Our 2025-2026 Season of Programs and Field Trips has come to an end. We have begun planning for our October 2026 through May 2027 Season and will keep you up-to-date of our progress in The Kite throughout the summer.

**\*\*Speaker Series Program Dates:**

Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Tuesday, December 8, 2026

Tuesday, January 12, 2027

Tuesday, February 9, 2027

Tuesday, March 9, 2027 (Conservationist of the Year • Election of Directors • Photography Show)

Tuesday, April 13, 2027

Tuesday, May 11, 2027

Our Programs start at 6:45 PM and are held 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 programs.

**All are welcome!**

Stay hydrated, use sunscreen and have a great and safe summer,

Santa Fe Audubon Society Board of Directors

PLEASE NOTE:

**\*\*Program dates are subject to change depending on the availability of Trinity Episcopal's Parish Hall.**

Field Trip dates are subject to change or cancellation due to weather.

# THE NATIVE PLANT CONNECTION

## FPL GRANT PLANTING - VOLUNTEER DAY

by Mark Manning, SFAS Director

Saturday May 16, 2026

Santa Fe Audubon society partnered with the North Florida Land Trust, Florida Trail, and a smattering of other volunteers who participated in the planting of over 300 plants adjacent to the Smith Lake section of the Florida Trail. This effort was made possible thanks to a grant from Florida Power and Light alongside Audubon Florida with the intent of adding native species on the landscape. Thanks to this initiative named: "Plants for Birds", project sites such as this one are able to provide resources for year-round residential birds, seasonal nesters and neotropical songbird migrants, which not only benefits the birds but also the hikers of the Florida Trail. A big shout out goes to all of the dedicated hardworking volunteers who installed these plants and enjoyed a refreshing frozen sweet treat with us when it was all said and done!





**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.



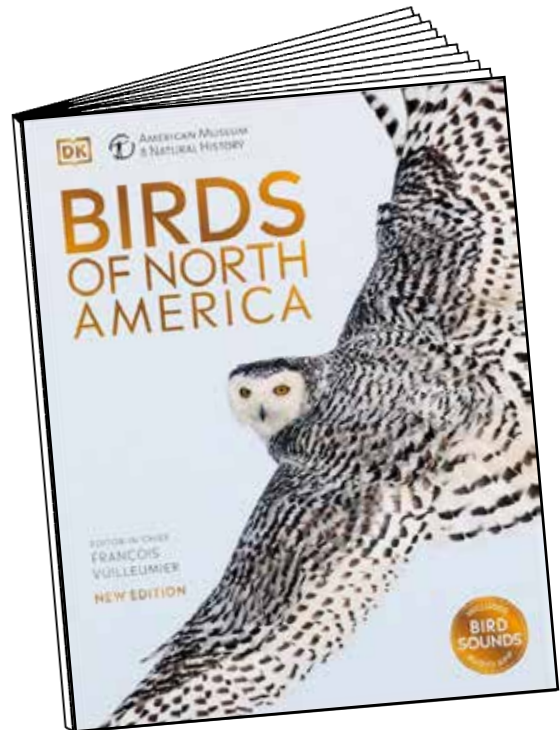
For more information go to:  
[https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek\\_app](https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/seek_app)



**RECOMMENDED READING**  
from Jacqueline Williamson

**BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA**

American Museum of Natural History  
François Vuilleumier, Editor-in-Chief



Ideal for the armchair bird enthusiast or dedicated bird-watcher, this beautiful bird-watching book includes stunning full-color photographs of over 650 birds, revealing each species with unrivaled clarity. A lavish introduction describes bird characteristics and behavior, while stunning full-color photographs reveal individual species for easy identification.



# Kestrel Corner

by Bill Chitty

In the past month, there have been a number of ups and downs with the Kestrel nest box program. Nesting got off to a slow start, then there have been two different boxes invaded by snakes who then ate the eggs. The good news however is that in both cases, the parents went back to work and have laid a second clutch of eggs. As of June 6, neither of the second clutches have hatched. Box 24 now has 5 eggs and box 22 has 4. In both cases, more eggs than with the first clutch. On the June 6 monitoring visit, the four young kestrels had fledged from box 26. Interestingly, both parents from that box are still hanging around the box and may be interested in laying again. Unlikely, but possible.

Dr. Ken Meyer and ARCI personnel came out and banded all the young in boxes 26, 23, and 1. Only the young who weighed over 100 grams (about 3.5 ounces) were tagged with GPS trackers. Totals so far are 6 fledglings with GPS tags (all female) and 10 total banded, with 9 eggs still to hatch. The next and probably last monitoring visit will be later this month.



# 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.



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>



# 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.ggcfll.org/fallexpo](http://www.ggcfll.org/fallexpo)

No Pets Allowed, Service Animals Permitted  
An Equal Opportunity Institution