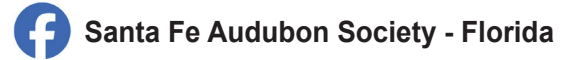




Santa Fe Audubon Society
Melrose, FL
SEPTEMBER 2025
NEWSLETTER



<http://www.santafeaudubon.org>



SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS 2025 - 2026

October 14 ..BATS - speaker Donna Bear

November 11 **SANDHILL CRANES** - speaker Tim Dellinger

December 9 **THE HISTORY OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS
WITH WATERFOWL** - speaker Dr. Paul Gray

January 13..... **BLACK BEARS** - speaker Allan Hallman

February 10 **BUTTERFLIES & POLLINATORS** - speaker Dr. Jaret Daniels

March 10..... **SFAS Conservationist of the Year, Election of Officers & Photo Show**

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

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

*You do not need to be a Santa Fe Audubon Society chapter member to attend our Speaker Series programs.
All are welcome!*

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

FIELD TRIPS 2025 - 2026

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

Saturday, October 11...Smith Lake - Keystone Heights

Saturday, November 15..... GTMNERR (Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine
Research Reserve) - Ponte Vedra Beach

Saturday, January 17..... Boat Trips on Santa Fe Lake - Melrose

Saturday, February 21 Masters Tract Stormwater Treatment Facility - Hastings

Saturday, March 21 Satsuma Springs Easement Property - Satsuma

Saturday, April 18 Orange Lake Overlook - Micanopy

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

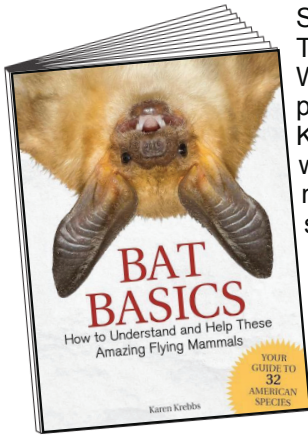
RECOMMENDED READING

from Jacqueline Williamson

BAT BASICS

by Karen Krebs

Separate Fact from Fiction with This Fun, Fascinating Guide. We need bats to eat mosquitoes, pollinate plants, and more. Karen Krebs has been studying the world's only flying mammals for more than 35 years—and she's sharing her expertise with you. Learn the bat basics, such as how they use echolocation, why they hibernate, and what they eat. Then use the field guide section to identify common and important species to know.



BIRD OF THE MONTH

TREE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta bicolor*)

Band Code TRES



Photo courtesy of Michael Drummond.

Handsome aerialists with deep-blue iridescent backs and clean white fronts, Tree Swallows are a familiar sight in summer fields and wetlands across northern North America. They chase after flying insects with acrobatic twists and turns, their steely blue-green feathers flashing in the sunlight. Tree Swallows nest in tree cavities; they also readily take up residence in nest boxes. This habit has allowed scientists to study their breeding biology in detail, and makes them a great addition to many a homeowner's yard or field.

For **COOL FACTS** and more information about the Tree Swallows go to:

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

Fun Fact: A group of Tree Swallows are collectively known as a "stand" of swallows.

GOOD NEWS

from Kai Sucsy

CONSERVATION OF SUTTLEMYRE FOREST!



The Putnam Land Conservancy is thrilled to announce the facilitation of the conservation of 1535-acre Suttlemyre Forest!

The Suttlemyre Forest is located in southwest Putnam County, approximately four miles south of the city of Interlachen. This tract is located within the Ocala-to-Osceola (O2O) Wildlife Corridor and helps strengthen the connection between existing conservation lands, including the Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway State Recreation and Conservation Area and the O'Connor East Tract Conservation Easement.

The southern-most part of the property has 4,200 feet of frontage along the north shore of the Rodman Reservoir, which is a portion of the Ocklawaha River, a primary tributary of the St. Johns River. This property's native landscape consists of basin swamps, sandhill, and scrubby flatwoods and will provide habitat for many imperiled species such as Florida black bear, gopher tortoise, sandhill crane, and swallow-tailed kite. The Suttlemyre Forest was purchased through the State's Florida Forever Program and will now be managed by the Florida Forest Service.

This property was owned and managed by the same family for nearly a century and was enjoyed by five generations. They are proud to have kept the land so unspoiled over the past 100 years, and are happy to see the property be conserved forever.

**FREE ADMISSION!
FAMILY FRIENDLY!**



presents the...

O2O Wildlife Observation Camera Project

4 & 5:30 PM presentation by



CENTER FOR LANDSCAPE
CONSERVATION PLANNING

**Dan Smith, Assistant Research Scholar &
Stephanie Medo, Graduate Research Assistant**

Saturday, October 11th 3-6:30 PM

Azalea City Brewing Co. - 120 S 7th Street, Palatka

***come learn about local conservation efforts within the
Ocala-to-Osceola Wildlife Corridor & wildlife cameras***

live music by

3-6 PM Dim Lights

7-10 PM The House Cats

5-8 PM Food Trucks

**Trail Cam Photo Booth
& Animal Masks**

joined by

**FLORIDA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
NORTH FLORIDA LAND TRUST
CONSERVATION FLORIDA
DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE
SANTA FE AUDUBON SOCIETY
FRIENDS OF DUNNS CREEK STATE PARK**



82°F



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EAGLEWATCH NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION DATES

Shawnlei Breeding

Audubon EagleWatch Program Manager

As we prepare for the 2025-2026 Bald Eagle nesting season in Florida, I will be hosting multiple sessions of the EagleWatch new volunteer orientation via Zoom over the next 4 weeks. The sessions will cover EagleWatch Program goals and objectives, volunteer requirements, Bald Eagle nesting biology, and nest monitoring protocols and processes. Prospective new volunteers are required to attend a session prior to joining the program. Returning volunteers are not required to attend but are welcome to join as a refresher.

Here are the dates for the sessions, along with a link to register for the date of your choice (registration is required). Each session will cover the same material:

Saturday September 20th, 10:00am-12:00pm <https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/mg5dgv4QS234Pm4uqyhZA>

Thursday September 25th, 6:00-8:00pm <https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/PP2hrtH7Qfq2ZinCzD0Hjw>

Saturday September 27th, 10:00am-12:00pm https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/LMyV814cQ1q_jDwhOvRXKA

The information will be presented via Powerpoint slides, which are best viewed on a larger screen such as a desktop or laptop computer.

If you plan to attend with a friend/spouse/partner, each of you should register separately to provide your information for our records, but then you may watch the session together if you'd like.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me via email. I look forward to working together for another exciting eagle nesting season!

—**Shawnlei Breeding**

Audubon EagleWatch Program Manager

407.644.0190

Pronouns: She, her, hers

<https://eaglewatch-audubon.hub.arcgis.com/>

Audubon Center for Birds of Prey