

THE WARBLER

FALL/WINTER 2026

A New Chapter for South Florida Audubon Society

Dear SFAS Members and Friends,

The past few months have brought exciting opportunities for South Florida Audubon Society. We have established a new organizational home, earned support for coastal conservation, and begun developing programs that will connect more people with birds and nature.

Every step reflects the dedication of our volunteers, members, donors, and partners. Together, we are building a stronger future for South Florida's birds, wildlife, and communities.

Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary: Our New Home



We are delighted to announce that **Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary is now SFAS's organizational home!** On August 5, 2026, SFAS entered into a use agreement with the Town of Davie—an important milestone for our conservation and education work.

Located at **5300 Griffin Road in Davie**, the approximately 19-acre public park offers walking trails, a fishing dock, picnic facilities, and a canoe launch, along with opportunities to observe birds and enjoy nature.

Looking ahead, we envision guided bird walks, school visits, native plant gardens, environmental workshops, and community science activities. We are also developing an **SFAS Eco-Nature Center** to support hands-on learning. Volunteers, educational partners, equipment donors, and financial supporters can help bring these plans to life.

[Explore Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary](#)

\$7,500 Grant Advances Coastal Conservation

SFAS received a **\$7,500 Audubon in Action Grant** for our **Tri-City Coastal Dune & Least Tern Conservation Project**, supporting work with Deerfield Beach, Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, and Pompano Beach.

The project brings together native dune restoration, shorebird monitoring, public education, and municipal partnerships.

Our 2026 monitoring documented **no Least Tern nesting on the project beaches**, although Least Terns were observed in the surrounding coastal landscape, including nesting on nearby rooftops.

Supporting a future return to suitable beach-nesting areas remains a long-term goal. That work requires balancing healthy dune vegetation with the open, sparsely vegetated habitat Least Terns need, while reducing disturbance.

Thank you to the **National Audubon Society**, participating municipalities, volunteers, and community partners for supporting this effort.

Restoring Habitat, Sustaining Partnerships

Throughout 2026, SFAS continued coordinating coastal restoration efforts in Broward County. Native sea oats and other appropriate coastal plants help stabilize sand, support wildlife habitat, and strengthen dunes.

Successful restoration takes more than a planting day. It depends on planning, materials, volunteer coordination, municipal cooperation, monitoring, and continued stewardship.

Our commitment also extends to urban habitats, including years of native planting and habitat enhancement at **M.E. DePalma Park**. We thank everyone who contributes time, resources, and care to these shared conservation efforts.

Eagle Watch: Preserving a Legacy



SFAS is working to preserve and modernize **South Florida Bald Eagle Watch**, honoring the late **Dr. Kenneth C. Schneider** and his extensive observations, photography, and conservation contributions.

The effort includes recovering and organizing historical reports, photographs, nesting timelines, and volunteer observations. Preservation and verification remain underway.

We are also developing a modern observation program using **CitSci.org**, with the goal of making participation easier while protecting sensitive nest locations. By connecting historical records with new observations, we can preserve local conservation knowledge and support future generations of eagle watchers.

Interested in joining Eagle Watch?

We welcome new volunteers interested in observing bald eagles and contributing to community science. Whether you are an experienced birder or just getting started, contact dwalker.sfas@gmail.com to learn about upcoming opportunities and how to get involved.

Explore South Florida Bald Eagle Watch

Help Bring A Day With the Birds to South Florida



SFAS is raising support to bring the bilingual traveling exhibition ***A Day With the Birds: Community Science & the Audubon Christmas Bird Count*** to our community.

The exhibition explores birds, migration, habitat conservation, and the history of the Christmas Bird Count. It offers an opportunity to inspire students, families, and visitors to discover how their observations can contribute to conservation.

We welcome conversations with potential donors, sponsors, schools, and community partners as arrangements develop.

Learn about the exhibition

Birding Adventure Backpacks: Opening the Door to Nature

You should not need your own equipment to discover the joy of birdwatching.

Our developing **Birding Adventure Backpacks** initiative aims to provide **20 fully equipped backpacks** for visitors to borrow free of charge at Sunny Lake Bird Sanctuary.

Planned contents include binoculars, smartphone adapters, field guides, Great Florida Birding Trail booklets, all-weather notebooks, and bird checklists.

The program will welcome families, children, seniors, and beginning birders. Donations of equipment and sponsorship support can help us prepare the backpacks for use.

Welcome, Shazad Baig!



Please join us in welcoming **Shazad Baig to the SFAS Board of Directors**. We look forward to his contributions as our organization enters this new chapter.

Explore Our Updated Website

We have been expanding and improving the SFAS website to make our conservation projects, birding resources, history, and opportunities easier to find.

Visit to explore Sunny Lake, follow Eagle Watch developments, discover upcoming events, and learn how to get involved.

Visit the SFAS website

Join Us for a Fall Bird Walk

Enjoy a morning outdoors and discover birds in Broward County's natural areas. All walks below run from **8:00-11:00 a.m.**

- **October 18:** Military Trail Natural Area
- **November 1:** Tall Cypress Natural Area
- **November 15:** Woodmont Natural Area
- **December 6:** Tall Cypress Natural Area
- **December 20:** Kristin Jacobs Natural Area at Hillsboro Pineland

Check the calendar before attending for current details.

[View the events calendar](#)

Help Shape What Comes Next

Whether you enjoy restoring habitat, observing birds, teaching, or helping behind the scenes, there is a place for you in SFAS.

Our current priorities include developing Sunny Lake's educational resources, equipping birding backpacks, supporting coastal restoration, preserving Eagle Watch history, and bringing *A Day With the Birds* to South Florida.

To discuss volunteering, equipment donations, sponsorships, or educational partnerships, contact dwalker.sfas@gmail.com or (954) 279-6094.

Thank you for helping us turn conservation goals into lasting community opportunities.

Roy David Walker

Urban Conservation Director
South Florida Audubon Society

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