

Dear local Audubon chapter leaders:

We are pleased to again be able to conduct Swallow-tailed Kite nesting surveys at the Restoration DRI area this spring. According to Dr. Ken Meyer, the kites are back! After some discussion, we decided on an initial survey date that we felt might fall inside their nest-building time. Once they are incubating, all will be quiet on the western front. After that, we'll be looking again in late May when there will be plenty of activity around the nests with the adults bringing food back, etc.

We will again have transportation courtesy of Breedlove, Dennis & Associates (the environmental consultants for Restoration). Clay Henderson will also be joining us & bringing a jeep. Therefore, we'll have room for some folks if you don't mind riding in the back of pick-up trucks. Also, please note that although we ride around a bit when looking for the nests, we also spend time walking through heavy bushes, water, etc. when actually trying to pinpoint a nest's gps coordinates.

Therefore, bring plenty of water, a spotting scope is good if you have it, binoculars, hats, etc. and be ready to get sweaty & dirty :)

Our first nesting survey will be **Monday, April 14th at 8:30am** (usually lasts til about noon when kite activity dies down)

Please RSVP to karyn_hoffman@ml.com so we know you'll be joining us. Let us know if you have to cancel after rsvping

Please be PROMPT in your arrival.

We meet just off the Edgewater exit on I-95 (CR 442). Go west and you'll see our cars on the side of the road.

When everyone arrives, we park just inside gates of Restoration & get into the trucks.

We are very pleased to have Dr. Ken Meyer join us on this survey, and he indicated that he would like to come back again in May. The nesting information will be provided to the Avian Research Conservation Institute in Gainesville to assist with their Swallow-Tailed Kite research.

As we get closer to the date, I will send out confirmations to those who have rsvp'd along with my contact # and directions, dates, time, etc. again.

Additionally, I am requesting that each Audubon chapter mention the Swallow-Tailed Kites are back & nesting, and ask any members who actually find a nest to let us know so we can come & get GPS coordinates for ARCI. We receive many reports from members who have sited Kites, but in the event someone actually locates a nest, this would be great to know. A short article in your newsletter may help achieve this.

Many thanks & I'm looking forward to seeing members from the other chapters here locally--it is always fun to collaborate and Volusia County enjoys the unique distinction of having three Audubon Chapters, as well as the nearby Flagler Chapter (who sent 8 volunteers last year to help with the survey--KUDOS to Flagler!)

Best Regards and thank you for your interest and assistance with the kite surveys.

--*Karyn*
Karyn Hoffman