BIRDERS OF ST. JAMES



And You’re invited!

Birding Journey - June 2026

Picking up where I left off last month with four eggs in the Bluebird house, well…they hatched! I quickly peeked inside the box and took a picture with my phone. It looked like a furry mess but I did count three little beaks. There had been four eggs, so it could be that the

other bird was nestled underneath the others. The next stage we witnessed were the parents flying back and forth to the house, feeding the young. I could see with my binoculars the food being offered. Some of it was big, too big for these little guys so I'm picturing regurgitation happening.
Soon, squawking could be heard from the babies.



I got to thinking about the next stage… flying out of that box. After two weeks cramped inside a tiny box with their brothers and sisters, likely fighting over food, these little guys had to be dying to get out!

Being the youngest of seven I could relate, brings back memories of the breakfast table and cereal boxes…the best ones near empty and I'm stuck with the WHEATIES (feel free to substitute your least favorite cereal here).



Then one day I see the babies poking their heads out of the hole and the parents quickly blocking their exit. Maybe they weren't ready? The next morning all was quiet. They were gone! We missed their big fledging moment. Strange how quiet the backyard had become…*Empty Nest Syndrome…it's real*. I waited two days with the quiet and then cleaned out the nest. Within hours Bluebirds were bringing new pine straw to the box. And the birding journey continues.



Trish Greene

President - Birders of St. James

June invites us to step outside and rediscover the quiet magic woven into the natural places that surround us. From the shimmer of morning light across our marshes to the steady glide of ospreys over the water, the outdoors offers a daily reminder that beauty is never far from home. Whether you're walking a familiar trail, pausing to watch a Northern Cardinal flash through the trees, or simply breathing in the salt air along our creeks and shorelines, this month encourages us to reconnect with the landscapes that restore us. June's **Outdoors Month** is a celebration of the joy, peace, and inspiration waiting just beyond our doorsteps—an open invitation to explore, appreciate, and protect the wild spaces that make our coastal community extraordinary. Now, go outside!



Discovering our own Great Outdoors Birdwatching Locations

by Pam Miller and Hugh Shaw

Explore top birdwatching spots in and around St. James with our Birders **Hot Spots** guide. Each month, our newsletter highlights a public Hot Spot

featuring expected bird sightings, maps, photos, and a narrative.
Check our website for site updates from members.
June 2026 Hot Spot: **3030 Irwin Drive,** St. James.



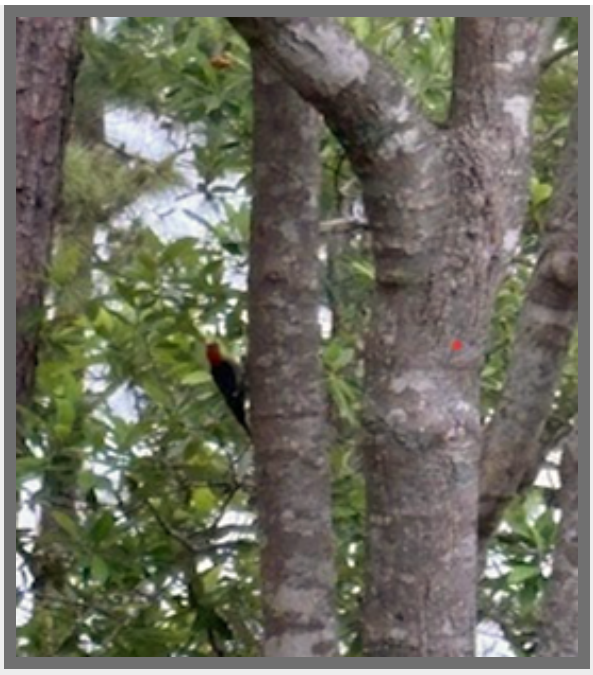


This is the home of **Hugh and Deborah Shaw,** who welcome visitors to observe the birdseed and suet feeders in their backyard beside the 13th hole of the Members Golf Course. Bird activity is typically best between 8am –10a.m. and 3:00–6:00 p.m., depending on the season.



Park on Irwin Drive to the left of 3030 Irwin Drive. Walk through the green space, past the hanging tube feeder, then continue past the deck to the backyard.





In spring and summer, regular visitors include **Mr. Speedy,** the Brown Thrasher; the neighborhood crows, known as the **Boys from the Hood; The Enforcer**, a Mockingbird; **Salley Sue,** a Carolina Wren; **Bad Boy,** a Blue Jay that chases other birds away so he can have a feeder to himself; **Crash Landing**, the Mourning Dove; **Old Hard Head**, a Red-bellied Woodpecker that drums on the gutters; and **Sharp**, a Sharp-shinned Hawk that often flies by in the afternoon. Other birds you may see include House Finches, Chipping Sparrows, Cowbirds, Common Grackles, Brown-headed Nuthatches, Carolina Chickadees, Cardinals, and Bluebirds, along with the occasional Great Crested Flycatcher and Indigo Bunting in summer. Winter brings many of the same species, plus seasonal visitors such as Hairy Woodpeckers, Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Palm Warblers, and **Butter Butts**, the Yellow-rumped Warblers.

GET INSPIRED ABOUT BIRDING

Key Environmental Dates for the month of June 2026

National Oceans Month - National Rivers Month
- National Great Outdoors Month

- **Thursday - 4th** - North Carolina Trail Days begin
- **Friday -5th** - World Environmental Day

- **Saturday - 6th** - St. James Garden Tour (Stop by the Birders table)
- **Monday -8th** - World Oceans Day
- **Monday -15th** - Global Wind Day
- **Tuesday - 16th** - World Sea Turtle Day
- **Wednesday - 17th** - Birders of St. James - Osprey Presentation
- **Saturday 20th** - World Horseshoe Crab Day
- **Sunday - 21st** - Summer Solstice (First day of summer)
- **Monday - 22nd** - World Rainforest Day
- **Wednesday - 24th** - Black Birders Day & Upcycling Day
- **Sunday - 28th** Pine snakes are nesting
- **Tuesday - 30th** - Loggerhead Sea Turtle nesting peaks & American Kestrels are fledging



Want to help us install an Osprey Nesting Platform in St. James? Our speaker will share her opinion.

Our Special June Program:

Osprey!

Speaker: Evan Buckland - Cape Fear Bird Observatory

Date: Wednesday, June 17, 2026
Time: 7PM (doors open at 6:30)
Venue: Homer Wright Event Center
See flyer below.

Osprey!



....in St. James!

a.k.a. Fish Hawk,
Sea Hawk, River Hawk.



Wednesday, June 17, 2026
Homer Wright Event Center 7PM
(*doors open at 6:30*)

Evan Buckland, our presenter, co-founded the **Cape Fear Bird Observatory** in 2020, building it into a hub for research, conservation, and community connection along the Carolina coast.

Is there an Osprey nesting platform in St. James' future?

Learn about one of the most unique Raptors in North America. Download our free Osprey data sheet from our website "Resources" page, Folder #3—Raptors.

BIRDERS OF ST. JAMES

www.birdersofstjames.com

Get a headstart on our program with an Osprey Profile paper from NCWRC - on our **website.**

Three Important Reminders

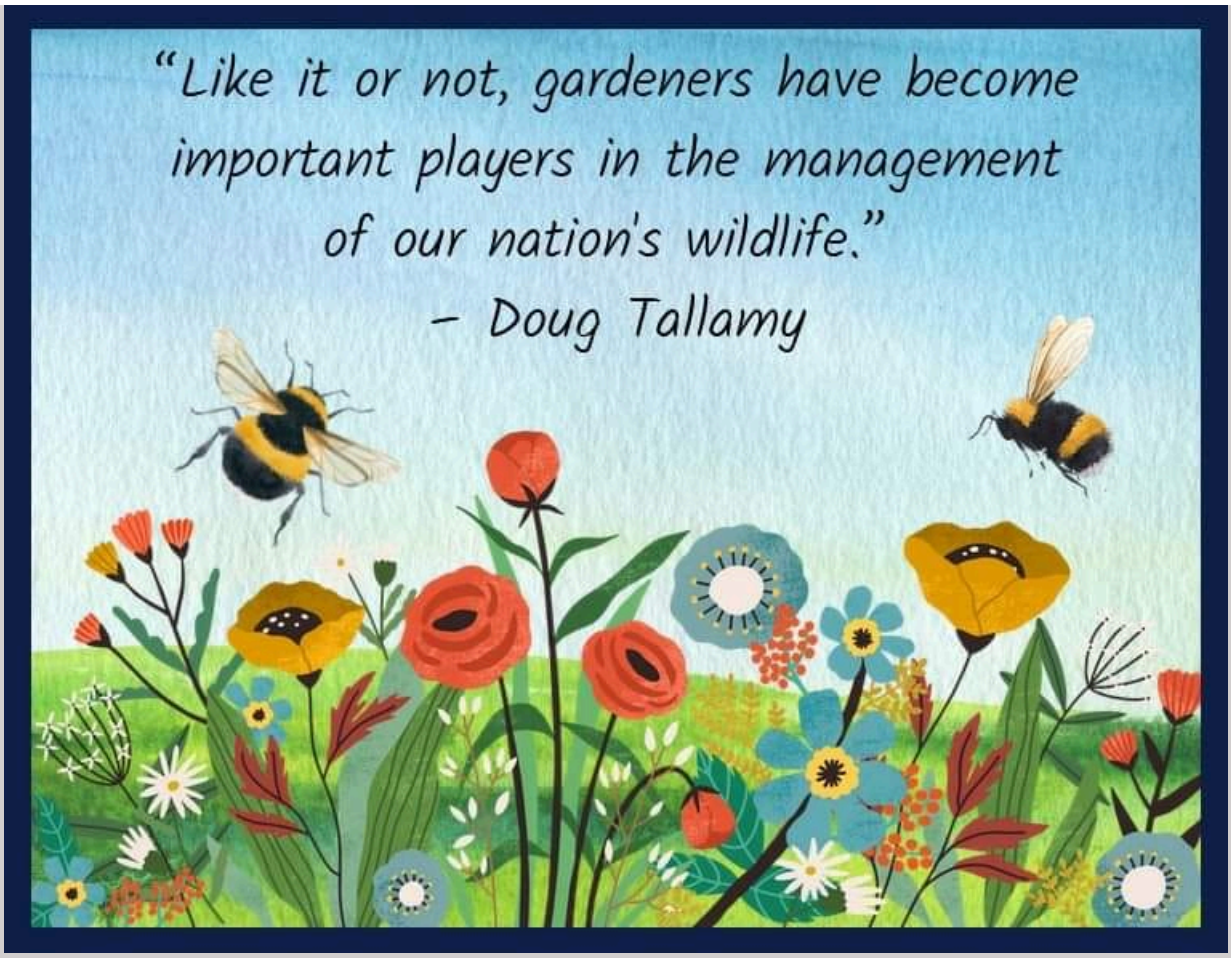




1. Ponds are great but songbirds prefer clean, less risky, fresh water. Change out every 4 days to break any mosquito cycle.
2. Attract more songbirds and let them handle your pest control.
3. Research pest control chemicals before using. **Our information.**

This option to combat mosquitoes that is gaining popularity across the south. Tried and tested for years, this option produces **results.**





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