

Birds of Pine Ridge

What was that in the sky?



Swallow-tailed Kite

The black and white Swallow-tailed Kite is easily identifiable by its long, forked black tail and white head and chest. It returns to Florida at the end of February to begin breeding. You will hear its call as it soars the thermals, where it spends most of its time, catching and eating flying insects. During breeding season, they also hunt small vertebrates, including tree frogs, lizards, nestling birds, and snakes. Swallow-tailed Kites build their nests in the tallest trees in open woodlands.

Who is that Whistler?



Chuck-Will's-Widow

The Chuck-will's-widow, often confused with the smaller Whip-poorwill, migrates back to our area in March of each year to begin breeding. Since it is nocturnal, you will hear its loud call at night. Its intricately patterned feathers make them extremely well-camouflaged, which is vital since they are ground nesting birds. While primarily insectivores, they occasionally consume whole bats and small birds on the fly. This is possible due to their very large mouths. They are classified as Near Threatened due to clearing, especially underbrush, and collision with cars.

