

A Republican state senator from St. Pete [wants a new state bird](#). Presently, for a state with more bird variety than any other in the nation, our state bird is the absurdly common and uncharismatic mockingbird.

Why is this?

The NRA's top lobbyist in the state – a dangerous woman responsible for Florida's 'stand your ground' laws – working on behalf of development, has prevented all previous efforts to change the state's bird to something more Florida-y. She has outrageously ascribed [a "welfare mentality" to the scrub jay](#) previously.

You see, if the scrub jay or roseate spoonbill or even osprey were designated the state bird, more attention might be made to developers bulldozing their habitats for strip malls and neighborhoods, jeopardizing those development projects.

Florida can't have that.

Yes, development runs Florida, it even decides what our state bird is.

And speaking of ascribing human characteristics to birds, the bald eagle prefers stealing its food, so I suppose it's a perfect symbol for a nation built on stolen land.

LINK: <https://www.ctampa.com/news-views/local-news/article/21156103/st-petersburg-republican-jeff-brandes-wants-florida-to-have-a-new-state-bird>

LINK: <https://www.tampabay.com/archive/1999/04/09/after-fuss-and-feathers-mockingbird-still-our-bird/>

---

DYK giraffes are becoming endangered and that the [U.S. remains a major importer of giraffe parts](#)? It's all part of the massive global wildlife trade – both live animals and parts, legal and illegal.

Importation of giraffe parts could be curtailed if the animal is added to the U.S. list of endangered species, which does apply to animals outside of the U.S.

LINK: [https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/lawsuit-challenges-federal-governments-failure-to-protect-giraffes-2021-10-11/?utm\\_source=eeo&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=eeo1110&utm\\_term=International&emci=59cbfd98-672c-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&emdi=a8746d1b-252d-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&ceid=2023608](https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/lawsuit-challenges-federal-governments-failure-to-protect-giraffes-2021-10-11/?utm_source=eeo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eeo1110&utm_term=International&emci=59cbfd98-672c-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&emdi=a8746d1b-252d-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&ceid=2023608)

---

Cogongrass has overwhelmed northeast Florida yet, but [it's here and nasty](#). Learn more about this invasive grass.

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/marionco/2021/09/13/who-is-this-invader-lets-talk-about-cogongrass/>

Speaking of invasives, here's a story about a successful battle Florida fought vs. [Giant African Land Snails](#).

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2021/10/14/giant-snails-not-too-big-a-problem-for-florida-to-solve-twice/>

---

Lastly, two “dare to dream” stories from California which is [moving to ban gas powered lawn equipment](#) and construct the [world’s largest wildlife bridge](#).

LINK: [https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-10-09/california-moves-toward-ban-on-gas-lawnmowers-and-leaf-blowers?utm\\_id=39588&sfmc\\_id=1642332](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-10-09/california-moves-toward-ban-on-gas-lawnmowers-and-leaf-blowers?utm_id=39588&sfmc_id=1642332)

LINK: [https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-10-09/caltrans-wildlife-bridge-101-freeway-agoura-hills-january-2022?utm\\_id=39588&sfmc\\_id=1642332](https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-10-09/caltrans-wildlife-bridge-101-freeway-agoura-hills-january-2022?utm_id=39588&sfmc_id=1642332)