

# The BROWN PELICAN



**SARASOTA  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY**

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[www.SarasotaAudubon.org](http://www.SarasotaAudubon.org)

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October 2005

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to another season of bird and wildlife watching with old friends, and new. By now you would have received the summer pack which included the activity schedule and information on the events and trips we've planned. I hope you'll attend in droves! Don't forget that we are now accepting a donation of \$2 per member and \$4 for non-members on day trips. We think this is more than fair for the experience and knowledge you get from each trip leader.

I want to thank outgoing board members for their great efforts in helping SAS become what it is: Rusty Blackwell, June Mades, David Williamson, Sue Eldridge, Ann Friedman and Owen Comora. They were all hard to replace, but we came up with more gems: Carolyn Primus, Jean Hoogacker, Lynn Jakubowicz, Toni Borman and Susie Bowie. Thanks too, to continuing board members, and a special thank you to Betty Matthews who still remains on the board as our Historian. Maria Elisabeth Mantius, with her sunny smile, will make sure that we have refreshments every month and Sid Deutsch will continue to mail out publicity material as he has done for many years. This year he is helping SAS' dismal bottom line by footing the bill for the postage. Sid, we're grateful.

For my personal birding fix, I'm looking forward to going to the Bahamas with Manatee Audubon in January; we should get some nice new species there. I'm also excited about our new monthly Celery Fields walks that Mark Leggett has put together. Those walks will be open to the general public and on some occasions the group will be joined by Sarasota County personnel: engineers, naturalists and biologists.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, check out the Great Florida Birding Sites in Sarasota County. We always knew that our county was one of the best in the state for birding, and now they know that in Tallahassee! —**Jeanne Dubi - President**

## MONTHLY PROGRAMS & MEETINGS,

**October 10: An Evening in Honor of Marge Sokol** Long-time member and LBK resident, Marge has donated hundreds of incomparable slides of birds, animals and exotic places to SAS. Come say hello to Marge and help celebrate her life's work and the memory of her husband, Bob.

**November 14: David Anderson** the President of Audubon of Florida discusses his vision of conservation in the Sunshine State

## TRIPS 2005-2006

All day trips meet at McDonald's (Bee Ridge/Cattlemen) unless otherwise noted. Field trips are open to anyone interested in birding, wildlife watching or exploring Florida's natural areas. **Donation of \$2 for members, \$4 for non-members will be accepted. NO RESERVATIONS ARE NECESSARY UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.** For more information, contact each individual Trip Leader. **NOTE:** Checks for paid day trips are deposited after the completion of the trip. In the event of a cancellation, a refund will be made to the issuer of the check only. Deposits/Payments for overnight trips are made right away.

**Sept 8 & 9, 28; Oct 26; Nov 9; Dec 8 & 9; Jan 18; Feb 15; Mar 15; Apr 26; May 10: Roberts Bay** on the *Carefree Learner* with Sarasota High School students to monitor breeding populations.

*Leader: Rick Greenspun, ph: 346-8535*

**Saturday, Oct 8, (and every second Saturday of each month, Oct through April): Celery Fields Walk** Join a different leader each month while exploring one of Sarasota's best birding spots. Over 180 species have been re-

**Second Monday • October-May • 7 PM social period, followed by meeting and presentation.**

Our Meeting Place—Room #9, First Congregational Church, 1031 South Euclid, Sarasota

*Directions:* US 41 to Bahia Vista. If coming from the south, turn right on Bahia Vista; if coming from the north, turn left. Take Bahia Vista to Euclid, then north on Euclid to the church.

corded. Meet at the gazebo (Raymond & Palmer Blvd) at 8 a.m.

*Leader: Jeanne Dubi, ph: 355-1709*

**Tuesday, Oct 11: Celery Fields Clean Up** Meet at the gazebo (Raymond & Palmer Blvd) at 8 a.m. and help us keep our adopted road sparkling for all.

*Leader: Jeanne Dubi, ph: 355-1709*

**Tuesday, Oct 18: Laurel Landfill/Carlton Reserve** Bird Laurel Landfill for gulls, eagles, bluebirds and more. Then to Carlton for Red-headed Woodpeckers and more bluebirds. Meet at McDonald's (Bee Ridge/Cattlemen) at 7:30 a.m. BRING LUNCH.

*Leader: Mark Leggett, ph: 925-7220*

**Oct 20-22: Audubon Assembly in Cocoa Beach** Florida's largest gathering of conservation-minded citizens. Join chapter members and leaders, wildlife professionals, advocates and scientists to network and learn about the environment. Log onto [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) for details.

**Thursday, Oct 27: Manasota Scrub/Lemon Bay Preserve** This 135-acre sanctuary is one of the county's newest birding treasures. Walk the boardwalk, nature trail and observation tower in the pine flatwoods and hardwood swamp. Then on to Lemon Bay for birding and lunch. Leave McDonald's (Bee Ridge/Cattlemen) at 7:30 a.m. BRING LUNCH.

*Leader: Rick Greenspun, ph: 346-8535*

**Wednesday, Nov 2: Myakka River S.P.** This wildlife preserve always provides great birding. Meet at 8 a.m. in parking lot inside park (park fee.) SR 72, 9 miles east of I-75. BRING LUNCH.

*Leader: Owen Comora, ph: 378-5166*

**Saturday, Nov 12: Celery Fields Walk** Join a different leader each month while exploring one of Sarasota's best birding spots. Meet at the gazebo (Raymond & Palmer Blvd) at 8 a.m.

*Leader: Mark Leggett, ph: 925-7220*

**Wednesday, Nov 16: Celery Fields Clean Up** Meet at the gazebo (Raymond & Palmer Blvd) at 8 a.m. and help us keep our adopted road sparkling for all.

*Leader: Jeanne Dubi, ph: 355-1709*

## CONGRATULATIONS - JOHN GINAVEN

Congratulations to John Ginaven on receiving the SAS Volunteer of the Year Award for his generous and detailed guiding on day trips and his years of donations received from teaching a bird identification class on Longboat Key. In past years John has also served on the board and contributed a great deal to the students when he was chair of Robert's Bay Colony Watch.

## AUDUBON ASSEMBLY GOES TO THE BEACH!

**SAVING OUR BIRDS,  
OCTOBER 20-22, 2005**

Mingle with old friends and make new ones as you join birders and environmentalists from across the state at the 2005 Audubon Assembly. Help shape Audubon of Florida's legislative policies and take an active part in saving our birds, wildlife and habitats. **Register by September 28** and pay \$99 for all receptions, meals, programs, and workshops. After September 25, this all-inclusive package is \$125.

The Audubon Assembly will be held at the Holiday Inn Cocoa Beach Resort. **Make your hotel accommodations** directly with the Holiday Inn. Call 1-800-206-2747 or log onto [http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/rates/coibe?&\\_GPC=AUA&](http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/rates/coibe?&_GPC=AUA&)

Assembly participants receive a reduced rate of \$89.99/night, up to 4 in a room. The daily resort fee has been waived and parking is free. **Special rate valid through September 28.** Oceanfront suites and lofts can be reserved, if available, at prevailing rates.

Field Trips will be offered, courtesy of Space Coast Audubon and Orange Audubon Society. Look for detailed information in the upcoming **Florida Naturalist** as well as on-line later this month [www.audubonofflorida.org](http://www.audubonofflorida.org). See you there!

## EAGLE SCOUT

Thanks to the members and guests present at last May's General Meeting as well as to Whole Foods Market, the entire amount of \$217 was collected to assist Aaron Stockdale in completing his project to become an Eagle Scout. Aaron has built 25 reef balls varying sizes out of cement. They have been dropped into the waters of Sarasota Bay, where they are serving as hiding places for small fish and are attracting other marine life to attach themselves, thus preserving habitat and assisting in purifying our local waters. Congratulations to this Booker High School senior, who is now a New College freshman, on his work to preserve our local environment.

## GREAT FLORIDA BIRDING TRAIL

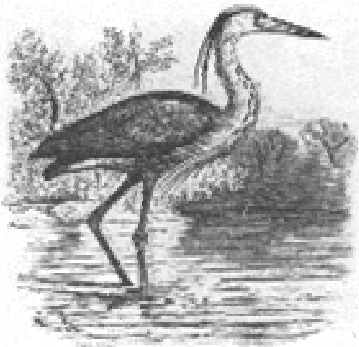
The following sites have been designated by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission for the Great Florida Birding Trail: In northern Sarasota County: Celery Fields, Pinecraft Park, Siesta Key Beach, Quick Point Nature Preserve, Red Bug Slough, Crowley Museum & Nature Center, Oscar Scherer and Myakka River SP; in south Sarasota County: Jelks Preserve, Carlton Reserve, Lemon Bay Park, Blind Pass Beach, Venice Rookery, Shamrock Park and Caspersen Beach.

## CRITICAL BEACH MONITORING

SAS has been involved in monitoring coastal nesting birds for a number of years now. We are one link in a chain that is attempting to cover the entire Florida coastline. Results ultimately get to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission. They have asked us to continue monitoring out of nesting season too. Of particular interest are Snowy, Piping and Wilson's Plovers, and Red Knots.

As you may know, Red Knots are in serious decline throughout the US due to commercial harvesting of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay. At the current rate of decline they are predicted to become extinct in 2010!

If you see any of these birds, please send your sightings in to: [beachmonitor@sarasotaudubon.org](mailto:beachmonitor@sarasotaudubon.org). If you do not have email, call in your sightings to our Bird Recorder, Edith Miller: 366-5853. We will accept and forward any sightings from Longboat Key south through Manasota Key. When submitting your sightings indicate the following: species, number of birds, location (please be as specific as possible, not just Venice Beach, for example. GPS is even better), date, observer's name, and any banding information (color of bands, left or right leg, number on band if possible).



## HURRICANE KATRINA

The destruction wrought by Hurricane Katrina is overwhelming and heartbreaking, and its impact will be far reaching and long lasting. Hundreds of thousands of residents of the Gulf Coast have suffered devastating losses and face enormous challenges in the weeks, months and even years ahead. At Sarasota Audubon Society we extend our deepest sympathies to those who are suffering as a result of this tragedy. If you are interested in donating to the relief effort please contact the Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)/1-800-HELP NOW or the Salvation Army at [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org)/1-800-SAL-ARMY.

*Thanks David Munro for your work  
on our great website*

**WWW.SARASOTA AUDUBON.ORG**

## FLORIDIANS ASKED TO CONSERVE ENERGY

Hurricane Katrina's path took it through key fuel production regions of the Gulf of Mexico, producing uncertainty about fuel supplies. Since the Gulf provides about 25 percent of the US's domestic oil output, this is a national issue. Please take voluntary energy conservation measures now, not only as a way to lower your electric use and your bill, but to lower the impact of what may become a fuel shortage as a result of Hurricane Katrina's impact to fuel production in the Gulf of Mexico.

Easy ways to make a difference:

- \* Set the thermostat at 78 degrees or warmer.
- \* Set the thermostat fan switch on "auto." Keep temperature readings constant until notified that the fuel uncertainty has passed.
- \* When away from home, raise thermostats to 82 degrees or warmer.
- \* Close curtains and blinds to help insulate homes and buildings against cooling loss.
- \* Turn off the lights and television set when you leave a room.
- \* Avoid using room air conditioners or turn them off when you leave the room or your home.
- \* Reduce use of all non-essential electric appliances, such as dishwashers and clothes dryers, especially during the late afternoon and early evening.
- \* Turn off all non-essential lighting and electric appliances, such as pool pumps and sprinkler systems.



### *Birding Hot Spots in Sarasota and Manatee Counties*

Pick up your copy of the latest edition of the highly successful *Birding Hot Spots*. Available at monthly meetings for \$6, at local bookstores and places of interest, and by mail. If ordering by mail, send a check for \$7.75 made out to SAS to:

**Sarasota Audubon Society,  
P.O. Box 15423  
Sarasota, FL 34277-1423**

*Please mark your envelopes  
"Hot Spots"*



SARASOTA, FL 34277-1423

P.O. BOX 15423

SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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★ Welcome to the following new members: ★

★ C.J. Amstutz	★ Eva M. Hardy
★ L Kendig/C. Aronson	★ Thomas Hopp
★ Mary Bibler	★ Nancy Hyoner
★ Gabrielle Brandt	★ Karen Johnson
★ Adlaide Brown	★ Andrea Kass
★ Julie Dempsey	★ Jerome Kerson
★ Rockne DePaull	★ Linda Kohl
★ Elaine Amass/Ed Ellis	★ Joy Kuhn
★ Donald Fielding	★ Frank/Idelle Levey
★ Edward Freeman	★ Roger/Linda Lockwood
★ William Gard	★ Ray Louden
★ Alan Geyer	★ Anne Lunghino
★ Darrel Grinstead	★ Wayne R. Manning

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For Membership information, email lynn@sarasotaudubon.org or leave a message at 364-9212

Need the latest birding info for our area? Then subscribe to SRQ Bird Alerts. The service covers Sarasota and Manatee counties and parts of Charlotte and DeSoto counties too. You can share your sightings as well as receiving those of others. Email your name, address, and telephone number today to:

SRQbirdAlerts-subscribe@yahoo.com

Many thanks to Peter Rice for providing this valuable service

SAS NAME TAG

If you are a new member or do not have an official SAS NAME TAG, you can get one delivered right to your door. Send your name, full address and telephone number, along with your check for \$4.50 made out to: Michael Fox, 2749 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34237. For an extra \$2 (total of \$6.50) you can get a badge that attaches by magnet—no pinholes!

Be sure to identify yourself as a member of Sarasota Audubon Society.