

The BROWN PELICAN



**SARASOTA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY**

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Our Website:
www.SarasotaAudubon.org

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December 2005

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.**

Monday, Dec 5: Birding Close to Home Identify birds at the Celery Fields, Ackerman Lake, Lake Osprey, and Cooper Creek Park (formerly North Metro). Leave McDonald's (Bee Ridge/Cattlemen) at 7:45 a.m. BRING LUNCH. *Leader: Edith Miller, 366-5853.*

Saturday, Dec 10: 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. *Coordinator: Mark Leggett, 925-7220.*

Tuesday, Dec 13: Lettuce Lake, Tampa Snakes, turtles, otters, lizards and birds are the attraction at this Tampa park. See the exhibits at the Audubon Center then meander through the hardwood swamp on the 3,500-foot boardwalk. *Leader Rick Greenspun, 346-8535.* Leave McDonald's (Bee Ridge/Cattlemen) at 7:30 a.m. BRING LUNCH.

Saturday, Dec 17: Christmas Bird Count Sarasota You don't have to be an expert birder to participate. *Coordinators: Jeanne Dubi, 355-1709, and Edith Miller, 366-5853.*

Monday Dec 19: Myakka River SP *Coordinator: Ken Alvarez, kencalvarez@msn.com.*

MONTHLY MEETING

December 12, 6:00 pm: Potluck Supper with presentation by Julie Byrne: *What is Audubon?* Call Ann Friedman at 349-6713 to sign up and tell us what you are bringing.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN DECEMBER

Local membership renewals are due in December. No renewal notices will be sent so please send a check for \$15 to P.O. Box 15423, Sarasota, FL 34277 or bring your check/cash to the December meeting. Remember that the Sarasota Audubon Chapter benefits 100% when you join locally.

SAVE THE DATE

Pinecraft Park Potato Fest and Clean Up, Saturday, February 18, 9 to noon. Join SAS, the Ridin' Rednecks 4H Club, School In The Park, and Pinecraft neighbors for a morning of work to remove garbage and air potatoes in this marvelous park. A great event for kids. Potato contest, prizes, food.

HOMESCAPES TOUR

Thanks to Betty & Wade Matthews, Julie Byrne, Sara King and Wanda Strickland for representing SAS at Jon Thaxton's home on the Homescapes Tour on Nov 19. It was a huge success with more than 600 people meandering through Jon's lovely backyard. SAS will share in the proceeds.

CELERY FIELDS CLEAN UP, NOV 16

Thanks to Maria-Elisabeth Mantius, Veronica Tarnowski, Julie Byrne, Mark Leggett, John Hegener, Marge Bonnett, Margaret Kaminski and Penney Rist, for helping to clean up Palmer Blvd at the Celery Fields. Nine bags of garbage were picked up weighing about 50 lbs. Where does it come from? When is it your turn?

COMING SPECIAL EVENT

An exciting event is planned for Wednesday, February 22 at 2 PM. Michael Good, our US Guide for the SAS trip to Cuba, will present *Birds of Cuba* at the Selby Library Auditorium.

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

Our Meeting Place—Fellowship Hall, 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.

BIG CAT HABITAT

The Big Cat Habitat and Gulf Coast Sanctuary is a non-profit organization that rescues and cares for exotic animals. Located just east of the gazebo at the Celery Fields, the grounds also host many wintering birds in the ponds that border Palmer Boulevard. Founder Kay Rosaire comes from a long line of circus animal trainers and educators and welcomes birders peering into the ponds.

On winter weekends, BCH is open to the public (for a donation) when Kay and her family conduct training demos. They also organize special events. BCH has plans for expanding their facility to include an exotic animal shelter for hurricane safety. For more information, call (941) 371-6377 or log onto www.bigcatencounter.com.

AU REVOIR

Betty & John Wenzel are moving to Texas to be nearer their children and grandchildren. SAS extends our sincerest thanks for all they have done for the organization over the years. We hope they are planning a return visit to Florida soon.

SAD NEWS

On November 11, Rich Paul of Tampa Audubon passed away after a valiant battle with cancer. He was only 59. Rich was a driving force behind conservation of coastal breeding birds on the Gulf Coast for more than three decades. His work protected the birds in the Tampa Bay region, including our very own populations in Roberts Bay. His passing is a sad, sad loss for conservation in our state.

GET WELL

We're glad to say that Rusty Blackwell is doing well after her recent surgery and expects to make a full recovery. We've missed you Rusty and hope to see you out and about very soon.

FUNDRAISING

License Plates: Sarasota Audubon is now offering license plates promoting preservation, conservation, education and restoration. Get yours for \$10 at the meetings or \$12.50 via mail.

Audubon Print Cards: High quality cards for your use, to collect, or to give away. Now in boxes! \$8 FOR 5. Contact Carolyn Primus at 753-9737, or cprimus@sarasotaudubon.org. Support your local chapter!

OVERNIGHT TRIP CHANGE

Due to lack of participants and uncertainty about the birding opportunities due to Hurricane Wilma, we have cancelled our trip to the Hatchees, Feb 25-27, 2006. We have scheduled another one though, to Wakulla Springs Lodge and Tallahassee area for April 2-4, 2006. Most of the registrants have already converted to the new trip, which costs less—only \$355. For more information or to sign up for the new trip call Karen Jensen at 924-2446.

CROWLEY MUSEUM & NATURE CENTER

Snowman Gourd Crafts

Saturday December 10, 10:00 am

Join Ronda Smalley from the Sarasota Gourd Patch and turn an ordinary gourd into a snowman. Make a homemade holiday gift for someone special! \$20 per person/ \$15 per Crowley member, includes admission and all materials. Registration is required, please call 941-322-1000.

Wildlife Detectives

Tuesday December 20, 10:00 am

Children and their parents will be able to search for the clues that wildlife left behind. The group will learn to identify tracks, scat, nests and holes left by Crowley's resident armadillos, bobcats, gopher tortoises, barred owls & other creatures! Free with \$5 adult/ \$3 child (ages 5-12) admission.

Winter Solstice Nature Walk

Saturday December 21, 11:00 am

Enjoy a guided nature walk on the first day of winter. Discover the 2000 foot boardwalk through the swamp and marsh, look for winter bird migrants and enjoy a breathtaking view from the observation tower overlooking the Myakka River. Free with \$5 adult/ \$3 child (ages 5-12) admission.

Budding Birders

Friday December 23, 10:00 am

In this guided bird walk for kids, Owen Comora from Sarasota Audubon will teach kids how to use binoculars and how to spot common Florida birds. Binoculars will be available for use or bring your own. Free with \$3 child/ \$5 accompanying adult admission. Registration is required, please call 941-322-1000.

HELP WANTED

SAS needs someone to keep the local libraries stocked with activity schedules and membership forms. If you can help please call Jeanne Dubi at 355-1709.

BIRDING HOTSPOTS

The new revised *Birding Hot Spots of Sarasota and Manatee Counties* is available! It includes an updated checklist of area birds and provides explicit descriptions of, and directions to, good local birding spots. Several new spots have been added as Sarasota County's land acquisition program brings more land into public use. *Hot Spots* is available at meetings, on day trips, and by mail. Cost \$6 (add \$1.75 for mail.)

TRIP REPORTS

Oct 27—Manasota Scrub Preserve

Nancy Edmondson, an environmental specialist from Sarasota county led 4 members of SAS on a trip to one of our newest preserves. Nancy shared her wealth of information with us concerning the preserve, including its history, the acquisition, current management, and the different plants and animals that inhabit the area. In all we tallied 36 species with highlights being Bald Eagles, Northern Flicker, E. Phoebe, House Wren and last but not least a Yellow Billed Cuckoo that appeared (WHERE ELSE) right next to the parking lot right after most of our participants had left. Hopefully more of our members will take advantage of this fabulous preserve in the near future. Our thanks again to Nancy for showing us around.— Rick Greenspun



Nov. 2—SAS Field Trip to Myakka River State Park

In spite of the “iffy” weather, nine birders showed up for our Myakka River State Park birding trip (10, if you count the trip leader). Five were SAS members. Two visitors were from Quebec, Canada and another couple were from New Hampshire. They all learned about the trip from the SAS Web Site.

Birding in the Park was slow. Most passerine migrants had already passed through. In addition, the lake’s water level was so high, the entire shoreline was under water. With no visible shoreline, not one shore bird was sighted. Our bird count for the park was a miserable 39.

Most of us decided to continue on around to the Sidell Road–Clay Gully Road loop. And our count picked up substantially. Along State Route 72 we sighted a group of wild turkeys.

About a mile along Sidell Road, two Scissor-Tailed Flycatchers made an appearance. They were sitting along a wire fence, flying high, catching insects and returning to different parts of the fence and into nearby trees. With luck they may remain in the area through the winter.

Next we traveled east on Clay Gully Road but were unsuccessful in spotting the reported Crested Caracara. After seeing groups of Meadow Larks, Sandhill Cranes and a Loggerhead Shrike, we headed west on Clay Gully. There we saw a flock of about 30 Pine Warblers, some Eastern Bluebirds and a couple of Red-Headed

Woodpeckers. By the end of the morning, our total species count had bumped up to more a respectable 57.—Owen Comora

MYAKKA ISLAND TRAIL DEDICATION

The SAS dog and pony show rolled out again for the Myakka Island Trail dedication. We set up our display unit with wonderful photos of Sarasota County birds. The event occurred at the Carlton Reserve and was attended by many county officials, including 4 commissioners and State Senator Lisa Carlton. We saw many friends and solidified our relationships within the conservation community. We had a very nice day in spite of the rainy conditions.

Thanks to Rick Greenspun, Tom Blacksheer, Julie Byrne, Betty & Wade Matthews, Stu Hills, Jeanne Dubi, Penney Rist and grand daughter Zoe for supporting the SAS cause.

GOLDEN APPLE THEATER PRESENTATION OF *URINETOWN* Friday Feb 24, 2006, Dinner 6 p.m., Show 8 p.m.

A spirited spoof of musicals, *Urinetown* was a smash hit on Broadway winning three Tony awards (including best musical and musical score), playing to rave reviews and packed houses for three years.

Help support SAS for a rollicking evening of laughs, songs and dance. Price is \$38 for the show and dinner (including minimal gratuity) with a portion of the proceeds going to Sarasota Audubon.

Send a separate check for \$38 made out to Sarasota Audubon Society to Stuart Hills, 5275 Wellfleet Dr., West, Sarasota, FL 34241-5416. INCLUDE YOUR LOCAL ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER. Friends and others are welcome. Tickets can be picked up at the Monday, February 13 Audubon program meeting or will be mailed February 14.

NOTE: Dining tables seat four, five or six persons. If you have a preference to sit with a specific persons, please list their names. Every effort will be made to accommodate requests.

Give Florida’s Birds a Voice!

Audubon of Florida’s
online Advocacy Center
keeps you up-to-date
on issues facing our
environment! Sign
up for free monthly
e-newsletters and
learn how you can
help birds with the
click of a mouse!



<http://ga1.org/natureadvocate/home.html>

SARASOTA, FL 34277-1423

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SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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★ *Welcome to the following new members:*

★ Joy Ely	★ Mark Truesdell	★ <i>For Membership information, email</i>
★ Fred Friedrich	★ Brad-Paul Boserup	★ <i>lynn@sarasotaaudubon.org or</i>
★ Tim & Cindy Hallinan	★ Albert & Sandra Coran	★ <i>leave a message at 364-9212</i>
★ Renee Hardin	★ Robert & Doris Anne Lucia	★ Christine Mucklow
★ Donna Harris	★ Agnethe Manchester	★ Patch Davis
★ John Hartley	★ June Wilson	★ Susan Bowie
★ Larry Helmuth	★ George Dubro	★ Sharon Smith
★ Joan Lawton	★ R. Heiligman	★ Robert Czina
★ Michael Lehner	★ Russ & Carol Hoffman	★ Mildred Theaman
★ Maxine McIntosh	★ Marjorie McLoughlin	★ Mary Ackerman
★ Louise McHaffie	★ Kathleen Rosebrock	★ Stuart Wilson
★ Cindy Nolan	★ Paul Stander	★ Kathy Albury
★ Robert & Ruth Peipert	★ Angela Chatfield	★ Bob Amee
★ Rosalind Rowe	★ John Fischbeck	★ Jerry Balash
		★ Evalyn Bebenesee

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.