

The BROWN PELICAN



**SARASOTA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY**

Phone:
941.364.9212

Our Website:
www.sarasotaudubon.org

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 5

Jean M. Hoogacker, Editor • 941.359.0088 • editor@sarasotaudubon.org

March 2006

Dear Bird Lovers,

By now you would have received our donation appeal letter. Are you a Florida Scrub-Jay or a Burrowing Owl or a Purple Gallinule? There are eight sponsorship levels to choose from, or send in whatever your budget allows. You can designate your donation to be earmarked for the Celery Fields project, for the endowment fund or for general use.

You may be asking why we need money. Here is a simplified financial statement for the year ended 5/31/05 where you can see that membership dues do not cover expenses—by a wide margin. And remember, our endowment fund of \$115,00 cannot be used.

INCOME	
Membership dues	2890
Donations	2409
Interest income	652
Sales	3508
Trip income	5313
TOTAL INCOME	14772
EXPENSES	
Membership services	8103 (mostly newsletter, mailings & meetings)
General expense	1961
Storage	1335
Grants out	6900
(we'd hate to eliminate Crowley from our plans, but . . .)	
Advocacy	1861
Insurance	2373
TOTAL EXPENSES	22593
OPERATING LOSS	(7761)

We have roughly 1,000 members. Of these, about 800 pay dues directly to National Audubon—approximately \$24,000. **National only remits about \$1,500 back to us!** This is one reason why we encourage all of our members to pay local dues of \$15; we get to keep it all. As it stands now, it costs about \$8

to provide basic services to each member and our dues only cover about \$3 each! We are working on getting our printing costs underwritten and we are constantly thinking of different ways to raise funds but we are not there yet.

So, back to the donation appeal. Are you a Scrub Jay, a Roseate Spoonbill or even a Bald Eagle?

This is an exciting time for SAS. We are now working with the County in determining a one- or two-acre space at the Celery Fields where we can put down roots. We'll start with a bird and butterfly garden area and see what happens. A building of some sort is my personal dream and I know it is a fond hope for many of you. Together we can do it. Please help now. *Jeanne Dubi, President*

NOMINATIONS FOR SAS OFFICERS FOR 2006-2007

If you know of anyone or would like to nominate someone for the positions of President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary and Treasurer for next year, please contact Nomination Committee Chair June Mades at 927-9803 or sparky4300@aol.com.



AUDUBON PRINT CARDS

\$8 FOR 5! High quality CARDS FOR...YOUR USE, TO COLLECT, or TO GIVE AWAY. Birds of prey, water birds and warblers available!

Please support your chapter!

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.

TRIPS FOR MARCH

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.**

Tuesday, Mar 7: Ft DeSoto Join leader Rick Greenspun (346-8535) on a quest for migrants at this marvelous park and premier birding hotspot. Leave the first rest area just after the toll-booths on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (1-275) at 8 a.m. **BRING LUNCH.**

Saturday, Mar 11: 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, Mar 14: 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. Coordinator: Jeanne Dubi, 355-1709.

Thursday, Mar 16: Bus trip to Corkscrew Swamp RESERVATIONS REQUIRED Wood Storks, Barred Owls, probable Painted Buntings, as well as wintering warblers. The 2-mile boardwalk provides access to this birding gem. Bus leaves McDonald's at 7:30 a.m. sharp. Leader Rick Greenspun (346-8535) will handle reservations. Send a SEPARATE check made out to SAS for \$35 (includes bus and admission fee) to Rick at SAS, P.O. Box 15423, Sarasota, FL 34277. **INCLUDE YOUR LOCAL PHONE NUMBER. BRING LUNCH.**

Saturday, Mar 25: Babcock Webb WMA, Port Charlotte Leader John Ginaven 798-9829, will help us find Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, Bachman's Sparrows, and Brown-headed Nuthatches. Note early start to get the woodpeckers. Leave McDonald's at 7 a.m.

March 26-28: Audubon Academy Eckerd College, St Petersburg. Call Julie Byrne at 379-3882 for details.

Thursday, Mar 30: Oscar Scherer SP & Nokomis Jetties Join Mark Leggett, 925-7220, at Oscar Scherer at 8 a.m. for his regular tour of the park and a visit with the engaging Florida Scrub-Jays and other wintering birds. Then on to the Venice jetties to look for gulls and shorebirds. **BRING LUNCH.**

MONTHLY MEETING

March 13: Damon Hurd of the Pelican Man's Bird Sanctuary will speak to us about the work of the Sanctuary and the three Rs: *Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release*. **Toni Borman** will also discuss the Sanctuary's education programs.

PINECRAFT PARK POTATO FEST, FEB 18, 2006

More than fifty people showed up at Pinecraft Park to remove air potatoes, exotic plants and garbage on a beautiful Saturday morning. Before we even started, we watched an immature Bald Eagle fly around and land in a tree where it observed our activities all morning long. A quick turn around the park yielded Black-throated Green, Black & White and Northern Parula warblers. Then we got down to work.

About half of the folks were kids from 14 down to 4. After eyeing the prizes, they pitched in enthusiastically and helped remove about 2000 potatoes, other nasty exotics and many pounds of garbage. The air potato prize-giving ceremonies were fun with kids winning for several categories: most, smallest, viniest, oddest, most beautiful, etc. Every child present got a prize.

Thanks go to SAS volunteers, Ridin' Rednecks 4H Club, School In The Park, Sarasota County and neighborhood children for making this an extremely productive morning. Thanks also go to prize sponsors: Jean Hoogacker, Carolyn Primus, Penney & Doug Rist, Maria-Elisabeth Mantius, Jeanne & Mike Dubi, Janny Wurts and Don Maitz. Corporate sponsors were Whole Foods and Panera Bread.

The success of this event was a good example of what can be done while partnering with other organizations. In this case, it quintupled the effort. Pinecraft Park benefited greatly today. Let's hope we can do it again next year. *Jeanne Dubi, President*

WAKULLA SPRINGS, APRIL 2-4, 2006

There are still spaces left for this overnight trip to north Florida. Join Jeanne Dubi and Karen Jensen as we return to the beautiful and historic Wakulla Springs Lodge where we'll stay for 2 nights. We do all the work from providing snacks to finding birds. Please consider joining us. See insert for more details.



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"



GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE TOUR SATURDAY MARCH 18, 9:00 AM

Come join us for a delightful tour of some wildlife gardens and see how to plant with wildlife in mind. Start at University Parkway (directions below) at either 5060 Marshfield Road in the Meadows and talk with native plant specialists or Beekman Place and chat about butterflies. At lunch time, arrive at Laurel Park, have a stroll around this lovely neighborhood, view an interesting streetscape with wildlife friendly plants, sample a home-made cookie and eat your picnic lunch at Laurel Park. After lunch from 1– 3 PM drive to Siesta Key and then to Osprey to view two more homes. In Osprey, chat with Russ Hoffman about his "Beautiful Pond" and get ideas about planting near the waters edge. To start the tour, pay entrance fees and obtain maps at either home near University Parkway. From University, drive south on Lockwood Ridge Rd to Beekman Place on the left. If you cross 17th street turn back. Enter Beekman Place and at the second stop sign, turn right to Yonge Ave. Park near the gazebo on the right hand side. Or, if you wish, from University drive south on Honore. At the first set of lights, turn right onto Longmeadow. At the first street, turn left onto Marshfield Rd. Continue on to Heronmere condominiums and enter at the last "Heronmere" sign near the corner. These are two-story white buildings with flat roofs. As you enter, turn left. The sign says 5070-5050. Follow the driveway at the left to the end for 5060 Marshfield Road. Park at any unnumbered space. Call 379-3882 if you are lost.

COASTAL BIRD MONITORING, JAN 27, 2006

As you know, we have folks walking our beaches in search of birds in an attempt to manage our beaches more effectively so that our coastal birds can flourish. We will be doing this all year, but on January 27, our results were submitted as part of the International Shorebird Survey. The beaches covered were Longboat, Siesta, Lido, Casey and Manasota Keys.

Of the four target birds (Piping, Snowy & Wilson's Plovers and Red Knots), we encountered two species: 18 Snowy Plovers and 752 Red Knots.

Thanks to coordinator Bonnie Samuelsen and her teams: Ruth Ellen Peipert (N. Lido), John & Theresa Ginaven, Stu Wilson (N. LBK), Gail O'Hara (S. Lido), Rick Greenspun, Ken Pearlman (Siesta), Freda Perrotta, Ron Platt (mid LBK), Jeanne Dubi (S. LBK), Bonnie Samuelsen (everywhere!), Jerris Foote, Keri Ferenc, Kenya Leonard (Manasota Key), Nancy Douglass (Casey Key).

Most of the Red Knots were found on LBK and many had bands on their legs. Bonnie, Jeanne and Stu were able to submit banding data to USF&WS for about 20 of these birds, thereby helping to better understand the knots' movements and migration patterns. For anyone who'd like to participate in this worthwhile project, call Bonnie at 951-7704.

CONSERVATION NOTES:

DRAFT 2007 FEDERAL BUDGET WILL SELL FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAND AND OPEN ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO DRILLING: Refusing to attack our massive deficit by repealing some of the tax cuts or reducing Iraq war-related costs, the Bush administration's budget proposal would raise revenue by selling several hundred thousand acres of public land managed by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management and open the ANWR and other environmentally sensitive land to oil drilling and mining. Revenues from the land sales are projected to raise only a little over a billion dollars in five years, a tiny fraction of our deficit. Florida's beaches might also be threatened by oil and gas drilling in new offshore areas if Congress allows the Department of Interior to lease them. While our senators and Congresswoman Harris are aware of their constituents' views on drilling offshore, they need to be informed of our views on the land sales and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. A draft list of some of the Forest Service land proposed for sale is at www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/spd.html.

BECOME A SARASOTA AUDUBON WILDLIFE DEFENDER: We need help! Almost all Audubon members appreciate birds and the natural environment that supports them and other wildlife, but too few of us are actively involved in preserving them from habitat destruction, pollution and the other overwhelming effects of human population increase. A lot of good environmental work needs to be done, and we need to involve more Audubon members. Elected and appointed officials, water management authorities, permitting authorities, and specialized boards are making decisions that affect environmental issues we deeply care about every day, and we need to make our input, often in person. You can become our SAS expert on red tide, water pollution, beaches, wetlands, parks, land use permitting, involving youth in environmental work, controlling destructive invading species, or building new alliances. Even if you aren't yet an expert, we can merge needs with your interests, help you learn, and you will quickly become our SAS point person on a vital issue. Call me at 923-0671 and let's get started. *Wade Matthews*

LEBARGE TRIP

The beautiful weather brought out 51 enthusiastic birders for our annual trip to inspect the Roberts Bay Rookery. Denise Erb, the science teacher from Sarasota High School joined us for the day. Denise supervises the honor students in recording valuable data concerning the health of the rookery. She provided an interesting narrative concerning the past, present and hopefully, the future of Roberts Bay Rookery. Twenty-six species in all were recorded. Thanks for your continuing support of Audubon and the wonderful turnout. Hopefully we can show this kind of enthusiasm for all our day trips. Please encourage friends, whether they are birders or not, to go on these trips as a way of fostering an awareness of our local environments. Enjoy and good birding. *Rick Greenspun—Day Trip Coordinator*

SARASOTA, FL 34277-1423

P.O. BOX 15423

SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Published monthly October through May by:



The BROWN PELICAN

Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Manasota, FL Permit No. 1257

★ Welcome to the following new members: ★

★ <i>Sheila Aiello</i>	★ <i>The Inmans</i>	★ <i>Ruth Richmond</i>
★ <i>Patti and Stuart Barger</i>	★ <i>Barbara Johnson</i>	★ <i>Rita Roehr</i>
★ <i>Theresa Brodrick</i>	★ <i>Eleanor Kahn</i>	★ <i>Joseph Salzberg</i>
★ <i>Virginia Daniel</i>	★ <i>Hans Kamberg</i>	★ <i>Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Schalk</i>
★ <i>Mr. & Mrs. Robert Deni</i>	★ <i>Elmer & Toby Lerner</i>	★ <i>Nanette Schneiderman</i>
★ <i>Gaye Dootlittle</i>	★ <i>Kay Kujawa</i>	★ <i>Judith Seeger</i>
★ <i>Martin Evans</i>	★ <i>Mr. & Mrs. Chad McClenathen</i>	★ <i>Ray Smith</i>
★ <i>Bryan Fluech</i>	★ <i>Lydia Miles</i>	★ <i>Marshall & Marian Sroge</i>
★ <i>Thomas Fox</i>	★ <i>Louise Morgan</i>	★ <i>Gretchen Stricker</i>
★ <i>Doug Fradley</i>	★ <i>Sarah Murphy</i>	★ <i>Chalyce Sullivan</i>
★ <i>Robert Gillespie</i>	★ <i>Marshall Nurenberg</i>	★ <i>Migon Swetnam</i>
★ <i>Ruth Gutmann</i>	★ <i>Beverly Peyser</i>	★ <i>Janet Von Dach</i>
★ <i>John Gwynn</i>	★ <i>Eileen Preece</i>	
★ <i>Marc & Peter Hayman</i>	★ <i>Clarence Price</i>	
★ <i>Frieda Hurley</i>	★ <i>Raoul & Ramona Reiser</i>	

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

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.