

# The BROWN PELICAN



**SARASOTA  
AUDUBON  
SOCIETY**

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## AUDUBON ASSEMBLY REPORT

Four members of SAS went to the Assembly in Cocoa Beach, Oct 19 -21. Here are some observations: A warm welcome went to the newest chapter, Hendry-Glades, based in Clewiston; Duval Audubon which covers Duval, Clay and Nassau counties manages properties and pieces of land totaling 400 acres—all of them donations and bequests over the years from members; Everglades Audubon based in Palm Beach County are extremely proud of the fact that they got the Scripps Research Institute to change their minds about building a facility near Loxahatchee to a more suitable urban area; Francis M. Weston Audubon in Pensacola has targeted 10 urban schools for environmental education programs at their nature center. With grants and donations they now employ 2 full-time naturalists (they have never employed anyone before); St Petersburg Audubon has over 100 volunteers monitoring beaches and rooftops; Manatee Audubon received the annual Conservation Award for their work at the Felts Preserve.

The next Audubon of Florida get together will be the Audubon Academy at Eckerd College in March. Please consider going. These events are important idea-generating and networking opportunities for all. Lots of fun, too. —*Jeanne Dubi*

## CARACARA INFO WANTED

James Dwyer is collecting data on one of Florida's unique birds, the Crested Caracara. If you see any, please send details to him at [biojimmi@yahoo.com](mailto:biojimmi@yahoo.com) or snail mail to him at 863 Buck Island Ranch Road, Lake Placid, FL 33852.

Although Caracara are found quite readily near and beyond Arcadia, some have been seen much closer to Sarasota: on Ibis Road near Serenoa; on Route 72 on the way to Myakka River SP; on Fruitville Road near Verna Road; and at the Myakka Bridge near Crowley, so keep your eyes peeled for this wonderful Florida resident and help James out with his data collection.

## PHILLIPPI ESTATE BIRD BOXES

Mike Mierswa, a Boy Scout with Troop 100, put up 5 bird boxes built to his own specs for each species: Pileated, Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Northern Flicker and Eastern Screech Owl. Mike is working on his Eagle Scout Badge and came up with the idea for bird houses. He contacted Roxanne Williamson, county park naturalist at Phillippi, who helped him with locations. Check out the boxes and let us know if you see any activity in them.

## BIRD SIGHTINGS

Please call Edith Miller (366-5853), our Bird Recorder, with any sightings you have that you think important—large numbers of birds, unusual species, out of season species, first of the season, etc.

You can also send sightings electronically to SRQbirdAlerts. This e-list is maintained by Peter Rice as a service to our members. You can subscribe to the list to receive and send data by logging onto [www.sarasotaudubon.org](http://www.sarasotaudubon.org); click on Bird Alerts and follow the simple instructions.

## DO YOU KNOW MS PUBLISHER?

If so, maybe you can help me with the newsletter. In spite of a killer schedule, I have agreed to edit the Brown Pelican for this year, but won't be able to do it beyond that. I will be happy to teach a willing volunteer, so please call me at 359-0088 if you are interested.

## VOLUNTEERS

Speaking of . . . if you'd like to help but don't know how, then call Jeanne Dubi at 355-1709 to discuss ways in which you can help to keep our chapter running smoothly.

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**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.

## HIGH SCHOOL PROJECTS

In addition to the regular monitoring of the Roberts Bay rookery islands, **Sarasota High School** honors marine class students have begun a monthly Red Knot watch on both south and north Lido Keys. In addition to the knots, students will record all birds they see, thereby developing useful baseline data. This effort will continue until May. Science teacher Denise Erb has come up trumps in leading and educating her students in yet another Audubon conservation project.

### **“GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE” HOMESCAPE TOUR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006**

Up in the treetops, or down by the Gulf! You'll view landscapes from every vantage point at the “Gardening for Wildlife” Homescape Tour which will be held on Saturday, November 18. Everyone is invited. Bring the children and grandchildren.

Wildlife gardens on the homescape tour will range from salt-tolerant plantings on larger Siesta Key properties to townhouse gardens in the city. Several are larger acreages of mostly native habitat. You'll visit established collectors' gardens, and others which are newly planted.

This year's tour will start in Sarasota at the Florida House (located on the SCTI campus at the northwest corner of Beneva and Proctor Roads) where you can pick up free, informative “gardening for wildlife” handouts. Plan to attend one of the free workshops that will be ongoing from 9:00 til noon. Talk with wildlife backyard habitat experts from the University of Florida as well as knowledgeable locals. Free maps of wildlife friendly parks and preserves in Sarasota County will be available. Free wildflower seed packets will be handed out to the first 500 “early bird” participants.

Maps to the homes on the “Gardening for Wildlife” Homescape Tour may be purchased on November 18 at the Florida House for a donation of \$10.00 per carload. Homeowners or volunteers will be on hand at each homescape from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to show you around. Learn from fellow gardeners who have transformed their yards and now share them with local butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. Listen to their practical advice on what to plant and where. Many will have before and after photographs on display.

Proceeds from the homescape tour will be distributed among participating Sarasota not-for-profits: the Florida Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, ReLeaf Sarasota, and the Sarasota Butterfly Club.

You'll also have the opportunity to buy holiday gifts at participants booths such as native and Florida-friendly plants, books, T-shirts, and bat, bird and butterfly houses. Extension Service Master Gardeners, Florida Native Plant Nursery, and other nurseries will sell wildlife attracting plants for sustainable, pesticide-free, water conserving gardens. For more info call: The Florida House at 316-1200.

## OUR SPONSORS

The activities of Sarasota Audubon are funded in part by donations from Florikan ESA and Wild Bird Center.



### Wild Bird Center

8323 Lockwood Ridge Road  
Sarasota, FL 34243  
(941) 351-9500

is pleased to offer 10% off your entire purchase  
to members of Sarasota Audubon Society

*(a portion of each sale will be donated to Sarasota Audubon)*

**You must bring in this coupon to receive your discount!**

*(Excludes optics) Expiration date 12/31/06*

*(Located at the northeast corner of University Parkway and Lockwood Ridge Road – same plaza as Albertson's)*



## FUNDRAISING SALES

**Handcrafted carvings:** Birds and ornaments crafted by Stu Hills will be available for purchase at the November monthly meeting. Beautiful carvings of humming birds, egrets, and roadrunners will be available. Painted wooden hanging ornaments including Belted Kingfishers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, snowmen, and Scandinavian santas will also be featured. All proceeds go to support Sarasota Audubon.

**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@sarasotaaudubon.org](mailto:cprimus@sarasotaaudubon.org). Support your local chapter.

## 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. *Hot Spots* is available at meetings, on day trips, and by mail. Cost \$6 (add \$1.75 for mail.)

Send to Sarasota Audubon Society, P.O. Box 15423 Sarasota, FL 34277-1423. Please mark your envelope “Hot Spots”

## CELERY FIELDS WALKS

The Sarasota Audubon Society is very excited to resume our monthly Celery Fields walks. Mark Leggett, Celery Fields Chair has put an exceptional line up of leaders together to guide you, your friends and your family around one of Sarasota's hottest birding spots.

The next walk of the season is Saturday, November 11 at 8 am, Leader Jeanne Dubi. Meet at the gazebo on Palmer & Raymond! The suggested donation is just \$4, or \$2 for Sarasota Audubon members. Bring sun screen and water.



## ACTIVITY LIST—NOVEMBER

**Wednesday, Nov 8: Laurel Landfill** Check out this very birdy landfill site in Laurel. Leader: Mark Leggett, 925-7220. Meet at McDonald's (Bee Ridge/Cattlemen) at 8 a.m.

**Celery Fields Clean Up, Tuesday, Nov 14** Meet at the gazebo (Palmer & Raymond) at 8 a.m.

**Saturday, Nov 18: Rye Wilderness** A very nice Manatee County park that hosts scrub-jays and wintering warblers. BRING LUNCH. Leave McDonald's at 8 a.m. Leader: Lynn Jakubowicz, 355-4073.

**Saturday Nov 18 Homescapes Tour** Tour 12 homes to see how folks are making their yards wildlife friendly. Pick up tickets at Florida House (Beneva, near Proctor) from 9 until noon.

**Tuesday, Nov 28: Red Bug Slough** Join leader Ken Pearlman, 587-5992, on a walk in one of our newer county parks. And it's close to home! Meet in the parking lot of Red Bug Slough, just south of Proctor on Beneva, at 8 a.m.

**Wednesday, Dec 6: Myakka River SP** This wildlife preserve always provides great birding. Meet at 8 a.m. in parking lot inside park (fee.) SR 72, 9 miles east of I-75. Leader: Owen Comora, 378-5166. BRING LUNCH.

**Wednesday, Dec 13: Jelks Preserve** Check out this lovely preserve along the Myakka River. Leader: Mark Leggett, 925-7220. Meet at McDonald's (Bee Ridge/Cattlemen) at 8 a.m. BRING LUNCH.

## NOVEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

**November 13:** *The Work of Disney's Animal Kingdom with Piping Plovers* Chelle Plasse and James Grant discuss this funded project that is saving Piping Plovers on the shores of Lake Michigan.

## TRIPS, 2006-07

**Roberts Bay on the *Carefree Learner*** with Sarasota High School students to monitor breeding birds on the mangrove islands. Members more than welcome. Two trips on most days: 9:40 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. Boat is docked next to *Le Barge* at Marina Jack's. Call Rick Greenspun at 346-8535 to secure a spot. **Nov 29; Dec 7 & 8; Jan 24; Feb 21; Mar 21; Apr 25; May 9.**

## SPECIAL CLASSES:

**Introduction to Birding—5 Sessions** Two classroom sessions with handouts, slides, and tips for beginners, followed by three field trips to practice skills. First two sessions will be held on **Thursdays, Jan 11 & 18** in the Bee Ridge Park building (on Wilkinson between Swift and Beneva), Room B, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Field trip locations will be determined but will be held on **Saturday, Jan 27; Saturday, Feb 3; and Wednesday, Feb 7;** all at 8 a.m. Cost of the classes is \$50 for members; \$65 for non-members. **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Send a check made out to SAS and mail it to Sarasota Audubon Society, P.O. Box 15423, Sarasota, FL 34277. Mark the envelope "Birding Class". Call Jeanne Dubi at 355-1709 for more details.

**GPS Classes: Sundays, Nov 5 (adults) & Nov 12 (kids) at 2 p.m.** Dave Munro, our webmaster and techie, will teach us how to use GPS (Global Positioning System) units. Learn to find longitude/latitude positions, distances and more. We have a limited number of GPS units, so **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** Call Veronica at 955-2875 to **SIGN UP.** Meet at the Siesta public beach parking lot, close to the restrooms.

## SELBY LIBRARY DISPLAY

Betty Matthews will be setting up a display in the conservation area of the Selby Library. The display will feature items on the shorebird count, Roberts Bay nesting and migration. It can be viewed during December and January. Be sure to check it out the next time your in downtown Sarasota.

## HOLIDAY POT LUCK

This years Holiday Pot Luck will start at 6:00 pm with entertainment to follow. Please register at the November monthly meeting or call Julie during ASAP at 379-3882. During December please make reservations with Maria Elisabeth at 363-9029. Remember to confirm that you are either bringing a main dish or a salad that will serve 8 people.



