

The BROWN PELICAN



**SARASOTA
AUDUBON
SOCIETY**

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Our Website:
www.sarasotaudubon.org

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 3

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December 2006

ATTENTION ALL SARASOTA AUDUBON MEMBERS: IT'S TIME TO RENEW!

For only \$20.00 a year, you can continue to support our local Audubon Society. Besides receiving our Brown Pelican newsletter and the yearly activity schedule so that you can participate in our monthly meetings, birding trips, and other events, you will also help support our local efforts in conservation and education. If you are only a National Audubon member, we strongly urge you to help us here in Sarasota by also becoming a member of our local Audubon Society. Please visit our Membership Table at the monthly meeting, or you can renew by mail by sending in \$20.00, designated for membership. Thank you.

HOLIDAY POT LUCK

This year's Holiday Pot Luck will start at 6:00 pm with entertainment to follow. 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.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SARASOTA

Saturday, December 16 Coordinators Jeanne Dubi, 355-1709, and Edith Miller, 366-5853 Myakka River SP, **Monday December 18** Coordinator Ken Alvarez, kencalvarez@aol.com.

You can help tremendously by emailing or calling in what you see in your backyard. You don't have to spend all day watching; do whatever you can. With your sightings, please include your address or location so that we can include your count with the birds seen in that part of our count circle. Send sightings information to dubi@comcast.net or call 355-1709 no later than noon on Sunday, December 17.

Have a great holiday season! *Jeanne Dubi, President*

TAKE A HIKE

Hike a lot, hike a little! At Oscar Scherer State Park on January 13th, you'll have the choice of hiking ALL the trails in the first ever "All Trails Hike" beginning at 8AM or in the afternoon, hiking (or strolling) one of the six trails in the Park and attending an ice cream social afterwards. Friends of Oscar Scherer are hosting both events in observance of the Park's fiftieth anniversary year.

The trails of Oscar Scherer wind through some of the most beautiful pine and scrubby flatwoods in Florida with abundant wildlife including the friendly Florida scrub jay and gopher tortoise, both threatened species.

The morning event gets underway at 8 a.m. and covers 12 miles of clearly marked trails. There will be juice, water, and snacks at stations along the way as well as a lunch at the 8-mile mark.

There will be an opportunity to purchase Park tee shirts at a 20% discount. All this including free entry to the Park costs \$10. Proceeds go to benefit the Park. Friends of Oscar Scherer help maintain the trails, the very ones you will be hiking!

Those hiking in the afternoon will have a choice of trails ranging from a quarter mile to five miles. Afterwards, hikers can enjoy ice cream and the festivities at the Nature Center at 2 p.m. which are also open to the public.

Oscar Scherer State Park is conveniently located at 1843 South Tamiami Trail just minutes from Sarasota and Venice. For more information call the Park at 941-483-5956 or Russ Delaney, All Trails Event Coordinator at 941-685-7454.

NEW BROWN PELICAN EDITOR

Starting next month Nancy Nelson will be taking over the *Brown Pelican* newsletter. Thank you all for your tremendous help during my time as editor and Happy Holidays! I'll see you in the field. *Jean M. Hoogacker*

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.

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)*



CELERY FIELDS WALKS

The Sarasota Audubon Society is very excited to present 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, December 9 at 8 am, Coordinator Mark Leggett. Meet at the gazebo on Palmer & Raymond! The suggested donation is just \$4, or \$2 for Sarasota Audubon members. Bring sun screen and water.

PROPOSED WETLANDS CHANGES PUT HABITAT AT RISK!

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has proposed reissuing and modifying 44 nationwide wetlands permits and adding six new nationwide permits. Additionally, the Corps has edited 27 general conditions. The cumulative effect is a weakening of existing regulations, which could lead to loss of important wetlands and bird habitat. Your comments on these proposed changes are needed today. http://www.audubonaction.org/campaign/corps_nwp

The Corps' existing 100-year floodplain general condition has been gutted, leaving only local and state requirements to restrict development in these sensitive areas. The Corps previously independently safeguarded these areas. Under the new condition, if there are no state or local requirements, development would be wholly unrestricted in these floodplains.

Additionally, a new permit would allow for discharges of dredged or fill material resulting from surface coal mining into waters of the United States. The cumulative effect of these permits could result in large-scale destruction of waters and streams in Appalachia.

Many birds on the Audubon Watchlist, such as the Swainson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Kentucky Warbler, depend on small streams in the Appalachians for food and nesting. Productive streams are the primary food source for these birds. Additionally, these birds nest within the low vegetation surrounding these streams. Eliminating this food source and habitat would jeopardize these already depleted species.

Please ask the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to protect wetlands and associated habitat. Ask them to reconsider re-issuing and modifying these permits and general conditions. Send in your comments today: http://www.audubonaction.org/campaign/corps_nwp. It's quick and easy and will help protect wetlands!



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"*

ACTIVITY LIST—NOVEMBER

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.

Tuesday, Jan 9: Siesta Beach & Woods Meet in the main Siesta Beach public parking lot as close as possible to the southern end of the restroom facilities at 7:30 a.m. Leaders: Wade & Betty Matthews, 923-0671.

Thursday, Jan 11: Introduction to Birding See SPECIAL CLASSES for details.

Saturday, Jan 13: Phosphate Mines, Polk County Privately-guided tour of phosphate reclamation ponds near Lakeland. A rare opportunity to see short-tailed Hawks, wintering warblers and thousands of shorebirds. Leave McDonald's (Bee Ridge/Cattlemen) at 7 a.m. Leader: Rick Greenspun, 346-8535. **FREE LUNCH.** Bring snacks and drinks for an all-day outing.

TRIP REPORTS

22 enthusiastic birders enjoyed a bright, sunny morning walk through Red Bug Slough on **November 28**. A total of 37 species were recorded for the trip, some highlights of which included: four herons (Great Blue, Little Blue, Tricolored, and Green); Great and Snowy Egrets; Pied-billed Grebe; Wood Stork; Double-crested Cormorant; Anhinga; Red-shouldered and Cooper's Hawks; Osprey; three woodpeckers (Downy, Red-bellied, and Pileated); Hermit Thrush; House Wren; Tree Swallow; Eastern Phoebe; Carolina Wren; Gray Catbird; American Goldfinch; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; and four warblers (Yellow-throated, Yellow-rumped, Palm, and Black-and-white).

Saturday, November 18, was a beautiful day for our trip to Rye Wilderness Preserve in Manatee County. We tallied up 30 species, including scrub jay, ruby-crowned kinglet, bald eagle, pine warbler, goldfinch, house wren, white-eyed vireo, tufted titmouse, towhee, and a small flock of robins.

Fifteen birders enjoyed a beautiful day of birding at Laurel Landfill on **November 8**. Some 45 species were seen. Among the stellar appearances were 12-15 Bald Eagles, mostly juveniles. Also seen were a flock (?) of 35 or so Wood Storks. Many thanks to Kathryn Young, bird recorder, and Jim Kyle, cartographer.

DECEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

December 11: Potluck Supper, 6 p.m.

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:

Shorebird ID Classes—2 Sessions: Thursdays, Feb 8 & 15
Hone your shorebird identification skills with John Ginaven and Rick Greenspun (346-8535). First session will be on N. Lido with John and the second on Siesta beach with Rick. There may be different species on each beach, so attendance at both sessions is recommended. Meet at the N. Lido boardwalk at the corner of Ben Franklin & Ringling at 8 a.m.; at the Siesta public beach near the concession area at 8 a.m.

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.

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.

Need the latest birding info for our area? Then subscribe to SRQ Bird Alerts. Email your name, address, and telephone number today to:

SRQbirdAlerts-subscribe@yahoo.com

*Many thanks to Peter Rice for providing
this valuable service*



SARASOTA, FL 34277-1423

P.O. BOX 15423

SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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★ *Welcome to the following new members:* ★

★ Marie Burns	★ Helen JurSCO	★ Patricia Ward
★ Ruth Clay	★ Gene Knoll	★ Ralph Warren
★ Lorraine Cusson	★ Joyce Knowles	★ Donald Weindorf
★ Ingrid Cardozo	★ Daniel Laird	★ Joel Westfabl
★ Barbara Carolus	★ Andrea McCurry	★ Mary Ellen Willis
★ Barbara Dumbaugh	★ June Muckle	★ Dr. Patricia Williams
★ Cy Glickman	★ Suzanne Murphy-Larronde	★ Mrs. Antonie Wolfe
★ Constance Daly	★ John Newcomer	★ Nanci Yarter
★ D.W. Dochez	★ Ellen O'Brien	
★ J.E. Ehlen	★ Mary Packer	
★ Dana Epstein	★ Betty Pickford	
★ Eva Franziska	★ Doris Rosebraugh	
★ Mary Gerner	★ Mary Solomon	
★ Robert Haft	★ John Tunlin	

★ *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.