



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 52132 | Sarasota, FL 34232-0337 | SarasotaAudubon.org

November 2017

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, November 13th

RESILIENT BIRDS AND DEVOTED ADVOCATES

Julie Wraithmell, Deputy Executive Director/Audubon Florida, will talk about the Audubon legacy and the future of coastal bird conservation in Florida.



Social Hour: 6:30pm

Business Meeting: 7:00pm

Presentation: 7:30pm

Monthly meetings are held at the First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, 1031 South Euclid Ave., Sarasota

[CLICK FOR SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY MEETINGS](#)

Pre-monthly Meeting Dinner

Gecko's Restaurant, 1900 Hillview Avenue at 5:00pm.

All members welcome!

Contact Karen Jensen (karensarasota@yahoo.com) for reservations

SAS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2017-2018



[CLICK HERE](#)



NATURE CENTER 'FUN FACT'

Over the summer, Sarasota Audubon's accountant completed an official compilation of the cost of the Nature Center... and the total cost was... \$1,305,646.00

Our Donor's Tree painted on the side of the Nature Center has almost 1,000 leaves representing all the donations that made our beautiful space possible.

James Wallace, Treasurer

**The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center is open daily
9:00am-1:00pm**

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SAS COMMUNITY OUTREACH

FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

No reservations necessary for field trips unless noted.
Suggested donation: \$2 members, \$4 non-members.

Thursday, Nov 9: OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8am - park fee). This activity will meet every Thursday from October 19th through April 12th. Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Saturday, Nov 11: 2nd SATURDAY CF WALK

8:00am. Join some of our best birders on the 2nd Saturday of each month from November through April as we explore the great variety of habitats and birds found in the Celery Fields. Meet at the SAS Nature Center.

Sunday, Nov 12: LONGBOAT KEY SHOREBIRDS

8:00am. Find resident and migrant shorebirds. Meet at Broadway Beach access on north end of Longboat Key. Leaders: Stu Wilson (512-897-8341) & John Ginaven.

Tuesday, Nov 14: CELERY FIELDS CLEANUP

8:00am. Help keep our beautiful Celery Fields and Palmer Avenue clean. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot.

Thursday, Nov 16: OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8am - park fee). This activity will meet every Thursday from October 19th through April 12th. Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Thursday, Nov 23: OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8am - park fee). This activity will meet every Thursday from October 19th through April 12th. Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Saturday, Nov 25: SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY

5:15pm. The Deep-Sky Observers (www.lgdso.com) will set up their telescopes in the Nature Center parking lot for some star-gazing. Come see the planets and stars

Monday, Nov 27: 4th MONDAY CF WALK

9:00am. Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) leads this walk around the Celery Fields on the 4th Monday of each month, October through March. Meet at the SAS Nature Center.

Tuesday, Nov 28: SOUTH LIDO COUNTY PARK

8:30am. Meet at 2201 Ben Franklin Drive, Lido Key in the parking lot. Leader: Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Thursday, Nov 30: OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8am - park fee). This activity will meet every Thursday from October 19th through April 12th. Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).



SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY - STAR GAZING

Saturday, November 25th

5:15pm

The Deep-Sky Observers (www.lgdso.com) will set up their telescopes at the SAS Nature Center parking lot for some incredible star-gazing.



The Sarasota Audubon Society participates in many outreach activities within our community.

Pictured above was a morning tour/walk of the Celery Fields on October 26th for the Sandleheath (The Meadows) group led by Jeanne Dubi and Glynnis Thomas.

CONSERVATION



UPDATE CELERY FIELDS PRESERVE AND SENATOR BOB JOHNSON LANDING

Welcome to Fall, the days are growing shorter and there is a hint of cool air in the evening. This is a great time to get outdoors and visit your favorite wildlife area. I have some good news to share on a couple of items that we have been involved in over the past year.

First, Sarasota County has decided not to pursue using the section of Myakka River at Senator Bob Johnson Landing and US 41 as a sculling boat practice course. The proposed course would have severely impacted a major Wood Stork rookery.

Second, thanks to our persistence the "The Quad" parcels at the intersection of Apex Rd. and Palmer Blvd at Celery Field Preserve are being re-evaluated by the County BCC to determine what should be done with the three parcels currently available for sale. Last week Sarasota Audubon Society (SAS) joined with the Palmer East Group and other stakeholders in the county in sending a letter to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The letter requested they remove the parcels from the Surplus Lands list and begin public workshops on what the people of Sarasota County want at this site. We have already received one response from Commissioner Hines, which supported our position. We have also been informed that TST has released the contract on the SW parcel property allowing it to revert to Sarasota County.

Now is the time for SAS to continue working with Sarasota County and other stakeholders on suggesting ideas of compatible uses for the Quad properties that are in line with the "Central Park" Eco-tourism vision for the Celery Fields. One suggested plan is outlined below:

1. Allow "low impact" uses like the County History Center or Eco-businesses on the SW parcel
2. Move the proposed Sheriff Sub Station onto the NW parcel beside the new Fire Station
3. Create enhanced habitat on the NE pond parcel and forested park area on the SE parcel.
4. Sell the land west of I-75 that would be vacated by the existing History Center and proposed Sheriff Sub-station for multi-family affordable housing or other needed uses.

Have a great Fall season.

Rob Wright - Conservation Chair

SAS CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS



We are pleased to offer another season of educational and inspiring classes and workshops.

WORKSHOPS

These 2-hour workshops provide a wealth of information on a variety of topics. Meet at the Nature Center at 1:30pm. \$5.00 Donation. No reservations required; Pay at the door.

QUESTIONS? kathwren4@gmail.com

Saturday, Dec 2: NATIVE PLANTS AND SALE - Tom Heitzman (Sweet Bay Nursery) will bring a truck of native plants to sell, along with info on where to plant and how much sun and water each plant needs.

Saturday, Jan 6: HOW TO ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS TO YOUR YARD - John Groskopf will give us information on resident and migrant hummingbirds in Sarasota and which nectar plants will attract them.

Saturday, Feb 3: SNAKE TALES - Lynda Becherelli, a Parks Naturalist, will explain the benefits of snakes to us, our environment, and other species. Learn about Florida's snakes, how to identify them and how to live with them. Children welcome! Be prepared to see live snakes!

Saturday, Apr 7: THE VALUE OF INSECTS - Karen Finch will educate us on the vast and engrossing world of insects, followed by a walk in our gardens to find and watch different insects at work.

Saturday, April 21: PURPLE MARTINS - Sue Guarasci will provide a fascinating look at the largest American swallow. Opportunity to observe active nests, eggs and hatchlings from our Nature Center PM houses.

CLASSES

Reservations required for all classes. Online preferred at www.sarasotaudubon.org, or with sign-up forms available at the Nature Center.

EBIRD

January 15, 16, 17 & 18

Join Kathryn Young and Tom Jiamachello on 3 field trips to 3 different habitats, where you will learn how to enter a bird checklist in the ebird phone application. The last date will be in the classroom where we will explore the vast ebird database. This database will help you find birds and birding hot spots anywhere in the world. NO SMART PHONE REQUIRED. **COST \$25**

WARBLER IDENTIFICATION

Thursday, April 26 - 1:30pm SAS Nature Center

Friday, April 27 - 8:00am Field Trip (location tbd)



NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

Here are the September 2017 sightings:

- **White-rumped Sandpiper:** M. Ostrowski, Siesta Access 5,
- **Tropical Kingbird (2):** C. & D. Olson, Oscar Scherer
- **Savannah Sparrow:** M. Spangler, Celery Fields
- **Wilson's Phalarope:** S. Thompson, Celery Fields
- Solitary Sandpiper: P. Petrus, K. Doddridge, Celery Fields
- **Elegant Tern (orange-billed):** C. Gjergold, C. Herzog, Siesta Public Beach
- **Elegant Tern (yellow-billed):** K. Young, R. Greenspun, Siesta Public Beach, (*note: this bird has also been ID'd as Cayenne Tern*)
- **Chestnut-sided Warbler:** P. Petrus, K. Young, Pinecraft
- **Common Nighthawk:** M. Ostrowski, Celery Fields
- **Bronzed Cowbird:** M. Ostrowski, Celery Fields
- **Philadelphia Vireo:** R. Craft, at his home
- **Lincoln's Sparrow:** M. Dunson, Shamrock Park
- **Common Loon:** M. Ostrowski, Siesta Beach, Access 5,
- **Broad-winged Hawk:** S. Fears, Lake Osprey Blvd.
- **Philadelphia Vireo:** K. Doddridge, Leffis Key
- **Golden-crowned Kinglet:** K. Doddridge, Leffis Key

Claire Herzog



SAS CELERY FIELDS BIRD NATURALISTS BACK ON DUTY!



If it is November it must be SAS Celery Fields Bird Naturalists time! Yes it is. Our dedicated and knowledgeable CF Bird Naturalists are on duty every day from 8:30am to 10:30am at both the Palmer blvd. and Raymond rd. boardwalks.

What do they do out there? Their main job is to welcome visitors and help identify the different birds that call the CF home. They also keep a running list of birds and visitors. They are happy to share their knowledge of plant life, history of the Celery Fields as well as pointing out the ever present alligators that call the CF home.

Want an interesting way to spend a few morning hours? Come and check out either boardwalk, or both, and experience first hand the wonders of our Celery Fields and the expertise and enthusiasm of our Bird Naturalists.

Or better yet, join the ranks of the CFBN team! Interested? Send an email to:

Join John Ginaven as he target teaches warblers and helps you make id's of breeding spring vs. confusing fall warblers. **COST \$20**

BASIC BIRDING

This course is designed to make ID'ing birds easy and fun for beginning to advanced beginning birders. We will teach you how to find birds in different habitats how to ID them and how to further advance your birding skills using the internet, field guide and various apps on your smart phone. **COST \$50 - RESERVATION REQUIRED.** Online reservations preferred www.sarasotaudubon.org. Sign-up forms available at the Nature Center.

SESSION I-Instructor Peter Brown

Introductory class: Feb 14 at 1:30pm Nature Center
Field Trips Feb 21, Feb 28, Mar 7 at 8am, locations TBA
Classroom: Mar 14 1:30pm Nature Center

SESSION II - Instructor Kathryn Young

Introductory Class: Feb 14 at 1:30pm Nature Center
Field Trips: Mar 26, Mar 27 Mar 28 at 8am locations TBA
Classroom: Mar 29 at 1:30pm Nature Center

Kathryn Young kathwren4@gmail.com

Peter Brown pbrown5541@gmail.com

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

SAS OVERNIGHT TRIPS



TOUR OF STA 2 - JANUARY 13-14, 2018

Please join SAS on a tour of Stormwater Treatment Area 2 (STA 2), a 9,195-acre constructed wetland located 25 miles west of Boca Raton that is managed by the South Florida Water Management District. They have teamed up with the [Audubon Society of the Everglades](#) to conduct weekend tours. STA 2 is otherwise closed to the public.

We need to be at the site by about 7:30 am as the tour starts promptly at 8 am on January 14. Once the tour starts, they lock the gates and you have to stay with the group until the end. It is a 3+ hour driving tour with stops along the way. That time of year there is a large variety of waterfowl.

SAS negotiated a rate of \$120/room/night at a hotel in Clewiston for the night of January 13. Details given at signup.

Please sign up online at <http://www.sarasotaudubon.org/two-night-florida-overnight-trips/>

Sign up deadline is November 12, 2017. Cost of the tour: \$10.

ST. MARK'S WILDLIFE REFUGE / TALL TIMBERS - APRIL 13-15, 2018

Join SAS as we explore St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge the morning of Saturday, April 14, 2018, with an experienced local guide. Lunch will be at a cafe nearby, after which we join our guide to Apalachicola NF to look for Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow and migrating Warblers. You are free to return to St. Marks instead if you like.

At the end of the day, we will drive to Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy (about an hour drive from St Marks) where we will spend the night at their facilities (basic amenities). Limited availability, so please let us know right away if you want to stay there. It is \$35.00/per person, 2 single beds per room. There are hotels within a 20-30 minute

HAWAII LATEST ADDITION TO THE ABA AREA



The ABA was founded in January 1969. The initial objectives were (1) the identification of birds, particularly in the field, (2) the finding of these birds throughout the world, and (3), the maintenance of a central clearinghouse for the numerous lists of birds identified by the membership.

Throughout the ABA's history, there have been changes from time to time in the way various geographic areas have been defined. The most sacrosanct list has always been the ABA area list, which most recently included North America north of Mexico, plus Canada and the state of Alaska.

In November of 2016, the membership voted overwhelmingly to add the state of Hawaii to the reconfigured ABA area list. There were many reasons for the change, not least of which was the hope that more funds would now be available for the conservation of the Hawaiian avifauna; many of these birds are currently severely threatened.

The annotated list that follows (click) includes the majority of birds that one might hope to see on a visit to this tropical paradise. Not included are widespread birds (most are easily seen in Florida), vagrants, and most unfortunately, a long list of extinctions.

Terry Witt

[CLICK FOR BIRD LIST](#)

67th ANNUAL SARASOTA AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



Saturday, December 30, 2017

Keen birders are encouraged to join us as we count all the birds within our circle. New volunteers will be assigned to an experienced team. Previous volunteers should make contact with their Area Leaders. Expect to spend at least a half-day in the field. Alternately, spend a couple hours monitoring your backyard feeder and report your results.

Contact Stu Wilson, compiler, at stuwilson@comcast.net or 512-897-8341.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



drive.

After a continental breakfast at Tall Timbers, prepared by the trip leaders, we will go on a guided birding tour of the grounds via open wagon. There will be a banding demonstration as part of the tour. The tour will end around 1 pm.

Included in the \$40 registration fee are both guides and Sunday breakfast.

Please sign up online at <http://www.sarasotaudubon.org/two-night-florida-overnight-trips/>

For more information contact:

Cathy - cathydavis11@hotmail.com

Harma - birdsrg@gmail.com



FEATHER OF A BIRD

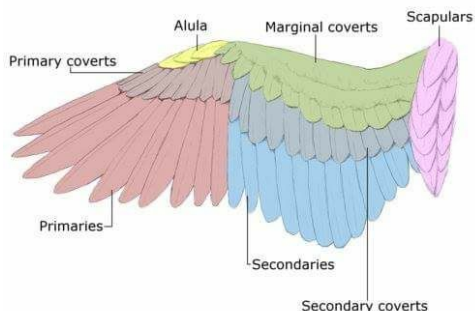
I only recently started paying serious attention to birds' feathers by attending the Bird Drawing Class at the Nature Center. We used and followed pretty closely 'The Laws Guide to Drawing Birds', written and illustrated by John Muir Laws, which is a fantastic resource if you want to accomplish bird drawing at any level, from simple 'in the field' quick i.d. sketches to works of art.

I was given a picture of a Blue Jay to copy as one of my drawing exercises and this opened up a whole area of feather complexity that I still haven't mastered. I became a whole-hearted admirer of Blue Jays, and for a while it became my new favourite bird, as I struggled to translate the wing topography described diagrammatically in our handouts into a decent drawing of it. I worked hard at trying to understand the different values of blue, which looked different in different lights, and how the different feather groups contrived themselves into such



a neat blue and white checker board on its back. And during this period I developed a new sense of awe for how this all works. I went out into the field and attempted to photograph a bird that rarely sits still, is usually half hidden by leaves and branches and spends a lot of time chasing other Blue Jays. It seemed almost impossible to get a decent shot. When I eventually did and tried to draw then paint it I found it almost impossible to understand and visually represent the configuration.

There are various topographies used to describe the different feather groups on a bird's wing, the main ones being the primaries, secondaries and tertials. The primaries are the long flight feathers attached to the 'hand', the secondaries and tertials lie along the 'arm' closer to the body. The part of the wing that looks like a shoulder is actually the wrist. (The Red-shouldered Hawk should properly be the Red-Wristed Hawk). Added to this there is a plethora of other feather groups including primary coverts, greater coverts, median coverts and lesser coverts, not to mention scapulars, mantle, nape, upper tail coverts, undertail coverts etc etc. And believe me, I have barely started.



SAS continues to be a volunteer run organization. Every position and task is done by one of our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

Do you have a special talent and some extra time? We are always looking to increase our volunteer team.

Here are a few areas where we need some help:

FACEBOOK/SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR -

Are you familiar with Facebook/ Twitter? We are looking for someone to keep our social media pages current and respond to inquiries that come in through these communication sources.

HOSPITALITY - our Hospitality Chair needs help at our monthly meetings. It is a fun way to meet, greet and feed the folks that attend our meetings.

Other areas that can always use more volunteers:

- SAS Nature Center Docent
- Celery Fields Bird Naturalist
- Garden Maintenance
- Nature Center (Building) Maintenance

INTERESTED????

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator:

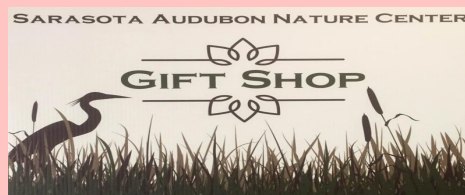
[CLICK HERE TO SEND AN EMAIL](#)

FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The fall meeting of the Florida Ornithological Society will take place in Gainesville November 10th - 12th. The meeting features student research presentations, great field trips and keynote addresses.



[CLICK HERE](#) for the full slate of activities/registration



NEWS FROM THE GIFT SHOP

We Have Two New Artists displaying and selling their artwork at the SAS Nature Center and we invite you to come in and take a look around.

Diane Harm is a certified botanical artist and a founding member of the Florida Society of Botanical Artists. She is also a decorative painter and, more recently, began using colored pencils as her medium. Diane has a number of beautiful colored pencil drawings of



To look at a diagram it is possible to identify these feather groups and feel pretty smug about knowing them. And in a photograph taken in good light of a resting bird it is also possible to identify some of them, as it is of an actual bird, especially if the bird helpfully has wing bars which separate differing sets of wing coverts. But usually, for the purposes of drawing or painting these feathers in a resting bird, they tend to merge into an indistinguishable feather mass.

And actually, this is the whole point, and the whole miracle of feathers. Each one knows its own place. Each one folds back exactly where it is supposed to be.

And think about it. The average songbird has between 1,500 and 2,500 feathers. An eagle has between 5,000 and 8,000 and a swan has around 25,000. (Incidentally the Ruby-throated Hummingbird has a mere 940 feathers, the least of any bird). Admittedly an awful lot of these feathers are the small close to the body feathers such as down, filoplume and semiplume. But that still leaves a lot of flight and contour feathers, which are the ones we see.

This is why my meticulous, detailed, as per the Bird Drawing class, drawing of a Blue Jay was so difficult. Once the wings were folded it created a neat, controlled, interlocking pattern that made it almost impossible to distinguish between wing covert, primaries, secondaries, tertials and even upper tail coverts. Everything folded so perfectly into place that it was not clear where one feather group ended and another began. If you don't believe me, try drawing a Blue Jay.

But really, the only correct response to all this wonderful complexity is to admire it.

Glynnis Thomas



Help support our Sarasota Audubon Society when you shop at Amazon:
[CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

Birding Hot Spots in Sarasota and Manatee Counties

Can be purchased for just \$6.00 at the Nature Center, monthly meetings and field trips or \$7.75 by mail. Send a check to: SAS, PO Box 52132, Sarasota, FL 34232-0337. Hot Spots is also available at Environeers, Book Store 1, Selby Gardens, Historic Spanish Point, Oscar Scherer State Park and Myakka River State Park.



Save SAS some GREEN \$\$\$

We mail **600+ paper copies** to some of our members. The cost of printing and postage could be put toward our new nature center and other Sarasota Audubon projects. Plus our e-Brown Pelican Newsletter (which can be

emailed right to your in-box) has direct links to other sites, videos and color photos.

If you currently receive a paper copy in the mail please consider a switch to the e-Brown Pelican.

Contact: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

Sarasota County Butterfly Club



Sarasota County Butterfly Club Programs, 1131 Blvd of The Arts, are open to the public (\$5.00 fee for non-members) are held most 4th Thursdays of each month Sept-May with topics appealing to all ages and levels of knowledge. Visit www.sarasotabutterfly.com to learn more!

Subscribe to SRQ Bird Alerts!

Need the latest birding info for our area?

To subscribe: [Click here to send an email.](#)

Thanks to: [Peter Rice](#) for providing this service

birds on display at the Nature Center.

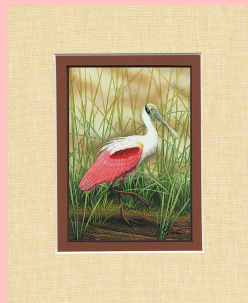


Diane has been teaching a course

there on "Bird Drawing" and the artworks she is displaying serve as samples for the class. Diane's large, framed colored pencil drawings, which are for sale, are also available as giclée prints.

John Costin is an accomplished artist with a background in contemporary art who creates hand-colored etchings of birds. Per his bio, "Etching is a complex process combining skills of painting, sculpture, printmaking and engineering."

John has visited the Celery Fields to view the birds in their native habitat and has become familiar with the native plants that he incorporates into his etchings of birds. We have a number of John's large framed etchings, medium framed etching reproductions, and small matted and wrapped reproductions that fit a standard 8"x10" frame.



DECEMBER IS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR SAS MEMBERSHIP!



[Click Here to Join or Renew Online](#)

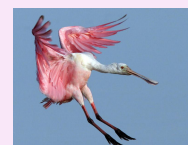
Or mail a check - \$30.00 per member / family

Payable to: Sarasota Audubon Society

Address: SAS, 999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

For questions email: membership@sarasotaaudubon.org

BECOME A SPOONBILL CLUB MEMBER



If you have named Sarasota Audubon in your will or beneficiary in any way, you are eligible to become a member of our legacy group,

The Spoonbill Club

[CLICK TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

Photograph by Rick Greenspun

SARASOTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

Help build a path to the future

Thanks to Peter Rice for providing this service.

SAS Name Badges

Pin Badge - \$5.25, Magnet Badge - \$7.25

Add \$2.50 for shipping. Send name and address to:

Michael Fox, 2749 Ringling Ave. Sarasota, FL 34237



999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240
941-312-6533

[CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site](#)

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

Purchase a commemorative brick!



Engrave a loved one's name, or a short quote on a brick to commemorate a lasting tribute, or mark a special occasion. Ask us about other naming opportunities. Truly a gift that gives back.

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**Submissions, comments and questions
always welcome**

Send to: **editor@sarasotaaudubon.org**



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