



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

September 2017

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, October 9th

Florida's Magnificent Frigatebirds

Dr. Ken Meyer of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute will share results of GPS tracking of their travels and breeding areas.



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](#)



A NEW SEASON BEGINS!

The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center will re-open for the season on Sunday, October 1st

Building hours: Daily 9:00am-1:00pm

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CONSERVATION



THE CELERY FIELDS WON!

WE WON - NOW THE HARD WORK BEGINS!

FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

No reservations necessary for field trips unless noted.

Suggested donation: \$2 members, \$4 non-members.

Tuesday, Oct 3: ROBINSON PRESERVE

8:00am. Join leader, John Ginaven (941-383-5133) for a walk around the preserve. Meet in the Robinson Preserve parking lot, 1704 99th St NW, Bradenton.

Thursdays, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 and Nov 2:

BIRD DRAWING CLASS

Join experienced art instructor and nature artist Diane Harm as she guides you in putting on paper images of the birds you love. A step by step approach to capturing the posture, form, major feather groups, basic anatomy and details like beaks, eyes and feet of various birds. All levels of drawing experience are welcome. A materials list will be provided to registered students prior to the first class. COST \$90. Reservations required for all classes. Online registration preferred at www.sarasotaudubon.org, or with sign-up forms available at the Nature Center

Saturday, Oct 7: PINECRAFT PARK

9:00am. Join leader, Edith Miller (941-364-3637) to look for fall migrants in Pinecraft Park located at 1420 Gilbert Ave. off Bahia Vista. Meet in the Pinecraft parking lot.

Sunday, Oct 8: BIG SIT

Join Audubon members to see how many birds can be counted in one day from a 17-foot circle! For more details contact Stephanie Green (eppie00@hotmail.com).

Friday-Sunday, Oct 13-15 FLORIDA BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL

Hillsborough Community College, Ruskin. Field trips, workshops and more. Details at: fbnfestival.org

Thursday, Oct 19: 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).

Friday-Saturday, October 20-21 AUDUBON ASSEMBLY

World Golf Village Renaissance, St. Augustine. Details at: fl.audubon.org/Assembly

Sat, Oct 21: VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION FOR NEW / VETERAN CELERY FIELDS BIRD NATURALISTS AND NATURE CENTER DOCENTS

9:00am-11:00am Celery Fields Bird Naturalist Orientation
11:00am-1:00pm Nature Center Docent Orientation
Meet at the SAS Nature Center.

Monday, Oct 23: 4th MONDAY CELERY FIELDS 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.

Wednesday, Oct 25: NATURE CENTER CRITTER SURVEY

10:00am. We will do a bio-blitz to see what critters, from insects to birds, find a home in the SAS Nature Center gardens. Bring your cameras, binoculars and powers of observation as we try to document every living thing. Invited experts, too. Leader: Glynnis Thomas (glynnis65@gmail.com).

Thursday, Oct 26: 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

Hello everyone, as I'm sure most of you know, on August 23, 2017 a historic event took place. By a vote of 3 to 2 Sarasota County Commissioners (BCC) voted to deny the proposed TST construction demolition/yard debris processing center on the SW parcel of "The Quad" at the intersection of Apex Rd. and Palmer Blvd at Celery Field Preserve. This was accomplished through the efforts of a united front of local environmental, neighborhood, civic and citizen groups from all over the area working in a bi-partisan manner.

Sarasota Audubon Society was at the forefront in providing education and guidance on the issues to Commissioners and the media. At this time TST has 60-90 days to decide whether to continue the purchase of the property with its existing land use zoning of "Open Use Rural" which would allow one home to be built on the 10 acre site. If TST releases the contract the property reverts to Sarasota County. That is where the hard work will begin.

Now is the time to stay involved with Sarasota County and other stakeholders to help push compatible uses for the Quad properties that are in line with the "Central Park" Eco-tourism vision for the Celery Fields. As we look around our county, we can see that "Green Space" is increasingly important in maintaining the value of habitat for the future.

The way forward is often uphill but the view is worth the climb.

Rob Wright, Conservation Chair

A BIG WIN FOR SARASOTA AND THE ENVIRONMENT!

A Message from the SAS Board of Directors

Wow! A new season is ready to start which will be our third at the Celery Fields Nature Center. Once again we have a great line up of activities. The SAS board of directors and volunteers have been working hard over the summer to put together a very interesting and varied schedule of events and activities that we are sure you will enjoy.

Summer has found us busy at the center maintaining the building and gardens. Our building received a power-wash to get us ready for our season opening. On October 1st our Nature Center Docent team will be opening the doors and welcoming the thousands of visitors that come to see us each year.

We are excited to announce that the SAS Donor Tree has been completed. Board member and resident artist, Sara King created a beautiful mural tree on the exterior northern wall. This tree contains almost 1,000 leaves each one containing the name of a donor that contributed to the building fund for our Nature Center. It is beautiful, and a wonderful way to thank all that made it possible. Thanks also to Diane Wallace who hand printed all the names. Next time you are at the Nature Center, check it out!

As you know our organization is totally volunteer based and so every task and activity is done by one of our dedicated volunteers. We are always in need of more, and so if you have the time and interest we sure can use you. Just contact our Volunteer Coordinator ([Click - Volunteer Coordinator](#)) as we would love to add you to our fantastic team of SAS volunteers.

Thanks to each of you for continuing to make SAS a great organization. See you at our first General Meeting on October 9th!

SAS Board of Directors; Marcy Packer, Acting President, Naomi Deutsch, Jeanne Dubi, Mary Heinlen, Lynn Jakubowicz, Sara King, Mikaela Michalik, Betty Neupert, Martha Straub, Jim Wallace, Rob Wright, Kathryn Young

IN MEMORIAM



from October 19th through April 12th. Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Saturday, Oct 28: SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY

6:45pm. The Deep-Sky Observers (www.lgdsso.com) will set up their telescopes in the Nature Center parking lot for some star-gazing. Come see the planets and stars.

Thursday, Nov 2: 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).



STAR GAZING

Saturday, October 28th

6:45pm

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

All are welcome to come and see the planets and stars

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

Wilma Hills

We were sad to hear that Wilma Hills, wife of Stu Hills passed away on August 14, 2017 at the age of 84. A memorial service will be held at a later date in Canton, New York. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Stu and his family.

Rusty Blackwell

Olive "Rusty" Blackwell died in Sarasota on June 12, 2017 at the age of 94. Rusty, was a long time member and supporter of Sarasota Audubon, and served as president in the late 1990s. Rusty was a gracious, sunny lady, with a beaming smile. Enjoy the birds wherever you are Rusty - we'll miss you.



Evolution of the Sarasota Audubon's Nature Center "Giving Tree".

In the Fall of 2016, Jeanne Dubi approached me with the idea of creating a "recognition tree" on the north side of the SAS Nature Center. It would have the names of all the donors who supported the creation and building of the Center. There were almost 1,000 names!

I suggested a Live Oak tree and the SAS Board of Directors accepted the proposal.

Dividing the 10' x 21' board wall into five areas I sketched in the tree. As it was not a flat wall, I used tape to connect the boards, making flowing lines. Using the idea of blocks of six leaves, I cut seven sets of 3" leaves from clear plastic and painted in 1,342 leaves!

A few blank leaves were left between each group of the alphabet so it would be easy to find a name. Diane Wallace and I painted a little more than 960 names on the wall and I varnished it twice, to seal it from the weather, etc.

Many Thanks to ALL who donated time and funds to build our Nature Center!

Sara Koenig King

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.sarasotaaudubon.org, or with sign-up forms available at the Nature Center.

BIRD DRAWING:

Thursdays, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 & Nov 2

Join experienced art instructor and nature artist Diane Harm as she guides you in putting on paper images of the birds you love. A step by step approach to capturing the posture, form, major feather groups, basic anatomy and details like beaks, eyes and feet of various birds. All levels of drawing experience are welcome. A materials list will be provided to registered students prior to the first class. **COST \$90**

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. Smart phone required. **COST \$25**

WARBLER IDENTIFICATION:

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

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

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.sarasotaaudubon.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](#)



Otus has flown

The Brown Pelican would like to thank Tatiana Staats for bringing wonderful Otus articles to us each month for the past three years.

We wish Otus well - he will be missed!



NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

Here are the 2017 Summer sightings:

May

- **Snail Kite:** S. Nichols, Myakka River State Park
- **Hermit Thrush:** V. Roumi, Pinecraft Park; S. Green, Venice
- **Tropical Kingbird:** et al., St. Armand's
- **Bronzed Cowbird:** M. Ostrowski, Celery Fields
- **Black-throated Green Warbler:** M. Ostrowski, Red Bug Slough
- **White-rumped Sandpiper:** B. Torvund, Myakka River State Park, Lower Lake; K. Young et al., Upper Lake
- **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** M. Ostrowski, Pinecraft Park
- **Sharp-shinned Hawk:** S. Dingman & J. Whitehead, Pinecraft
- **Mississippi Kite:** M. Press, Gulf Gate East
- **Blue Grosbeak:** R. Kraft, Manasota Scrub
- **Orchard & Baltimore Oriole:** R. Kraft, Venice
- **Northern Harrier:** G. Gonzalez, North Port
- **Burrowing Owl:** N. Edmondson et al., Venice Airport
- **Surf Scoter:** J. Whitehead et al., Siesta Key, Turtle Beach

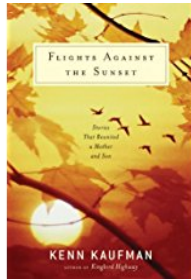
June

- **Red-breasted Merganser:** A. Chamberlin, Sarasota Bayfront; B. Torvund et al., Myakka River State Park, Upper Lake
- **Common Tern:** C. Herzog et al., Siesta Key Access 5; R. Kraft,

Book Review

'Flights Against the Sunset' by Kenn Kaufman

This book written by renowned ornithologist Kenn Kaufman brings together nineteen essays, mostly adapted from the author's long-running column in Bird Watcher's Digest. Kaufman is a birding celebrity and is well known not only for his field guides but also for his Big Year, described autobiographically in 'Kingbird Highway'.



This slim book, subtitled, 'Stories that Reunited a Mother and Son', is set against the backdrop of the author's visits to his aging mother, in a nursing home, in the declining months of her life. This gives the book a perspective, poignancy and a unity which it may otherwise have lacked, given the diversity of the subject matter. In other words these are not merely birding tales but in a wider sense they are Kaufman's attempt to communicate his life and his passions to those who may not share the same interests, and in doing so he is able to find the common ground in which his tales can be understood. In addition, the book is a tribute to Kaufman's mother. If you have read Kingbird Highway you will know that Kaufman left home at the age of sixteen and hitch hiked around the US in search of birds. Only later in life did he realise the sleepless nights and anxiety this had caused his mother, who supported him in his passion and never stood in the way of his dreams.

Kaufman's knowledge of birds and his passion for birding come through strongly in the book. His birding adventures are engaging and highly readable. My favourite story was entitled, 'The Ghost in The Station' which describes one of Kaufman's early bird guiding trips with co-leader Victor Emmanuel to Venezuela. At one point the group is searching for the Plain-backed Antpitta, an easy bird to hear due to its haunting, pervasive and ghostly whistles, but almost impossible to find. It would spoil the tale to say more, but any birder who has felt the tension and anticipation of such an experience will certainly enjoy this as much as I did.

The book is a light read and short in length. Birders will enjoy it, but it might also make a nice gift for someone who just wants an entertaining and engaging read or has a passing interest in birds.

Glynnis Thomas



RENEW YOUR SAS MEMBERSHIP

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

Or mail a check - \$30.00 per member

Payable to: Sarasota Audubon Society

Address: SAS, PO BOX 52132, Sarasota, FL 34232

For questions email: membership@sarasotaudubon.org

SARASOTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

Help build a path to the future
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.

- **White-rumped Sandpiper:** M. Ostrowski, Siesta Bch, Access 5
- **Sandwich Tern (Cayenne):** C. Herzog & N. Edmondson, Siesta Beach, Access 7
- **Stilt Sandpiper:** C. Herzog et al., Siesta Beach, Access 5

July

- **Tropical Kingbird x Gray Kingbird fledglings (3):** S. Wilson, St. Armand's
- **Sabine's Gull:** M. Ostrowski, N. Edmondson, C. Herzog, S. Daughtry, Siesta Beach, Access 5
- **Piping Plover:** M. Ostrowski et al., Siesta Beach, Access 7
- **Whimbrel:** M. Ostrowski & M. Press, Siesta Beach
- **Stilt Sandpiper:** M. Ostrowski, Palmer Lake
- **Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** M. Ostrowski et al., Benderson Park
- **Black Tern:** K. Abbot, Nokomis Beach

August

- **Barn & Tree Swallows:** G. Deterra, Venice
- **Long-billed Dowitcher:** R. Greenspun, D. Janes, Palmer Lakes Agricultural Fields
- **Wood Thrush:** D. Davis, Fruitville Park
- **Prothonotary Warbler:** N. Edmondson, Jackson Rd., Venice
- **American Avocet:** P. Petrus, Siesta Beach, Access 5
- **Peregrine Falcon:** S. Dingman & M. Haas, Venice Airport
- **Louisiana Waterthrush:** J. Ginaven, Leffis Key
- **Yellow Warbler:** J. Ginaven, Leffis Key
- **Cerulean Warbler:** M. Ostrowski, Pinecraft Park & Urfer Park
- **Palm Warbler:** C. Olson, Oscar Scherer State Park
- **Black-throated Blue Warbler:** N. Edmondson, Pinecraft Park

Claire Herzog



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



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

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

Here are a few areas that we need some help:

WEB MASTER - This might be a great opportunity for you if you have computer skills and some knowledge of web editor programs like WordPress. All SAS web work can be done at home on your own computer.

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.

Other areas that can always use more volunteers:

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



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 Enviro-neers, Book Store 1, Selby Gardens, Historic Spanish Point, Oscar Scherer State Park and Myakka River State Park.



If you are interested in any of these or other volunteer positions please contact our Volunteer Coordinator:

[CLICK HERE TO SEND AN EMAIL](#)

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

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



**SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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

[CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site](#)

FLORIDA WATERS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
Working With Water, Working With People

Learn more and register at: <http://bit.ly/WaterStewardsSarasota> Cost \$80

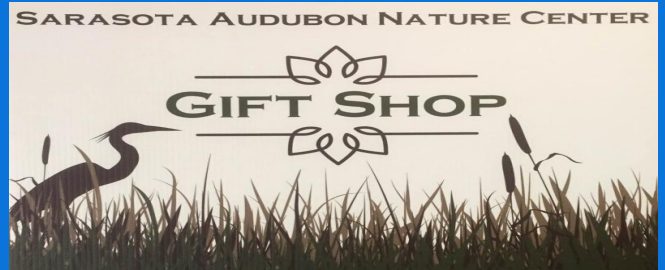
- Session 1:** Watershed Basics and Stewardship
Tuesday, September 12, 5:40-8:40 p.m.
UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County
- Session 2:** Water Flow, Then and Now
Tuesday, September 26, 5:40-8:40 p.m.
South Gate Center
- Session 3:** Managing Stormwater in Sarasota County
Tuesday, October 3, 5:40-8:40 p.m.
TBD
- Session 4:** Water Supply and Demand
Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m. - noon
Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply
- Session 5:** Wastewater Management
Saturday, November 4, 9:00 a.m. - noon
Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility
- Session 6:** Conservation in Action
Tuesday, November 14, 5:40-8:40 p.m.
TBD
- Session 7:** Communicating Water Stewardship
Tuesday, November 28, 5:40-8:40 p.m.
South Venice Civic Association
- Session 8:** Graduation and Guided Kayak Tour
Saturday, December 9, 9:00 a.m. - noon
Historic Spanish Point

UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County
invites you to...

BECOME A WATER STEWARD

Participants will travel around the county to learn about emerging water issues, meet with local experts and explore the natural beauty of Sarasota County. Participants will also create a class stewardship project that involves either increasing actual water conservation and infiltration or awareness of these issues.

FLORIDA WATERS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



Our SAS Gift Shop will have some new items this season!

Along with our regular bird, butterfly and nature related products, we have tote bags imprinted with our Least Bittern logo as well as 24 oz Purple Gallinule imprinted stainless water bottles with carabiners.

New Sarasota Audubon Nature Center greeting cards offer a variety of lovely bird drawings. We have restocked our popular birdy pot perchers, Jabebo earrings, t-shirts, books, binocular harnesses and much more.

The sales table at our general meetings will no longer be available, so stop in and check us out.

We look forward to seeing you!

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO / REGISTER](#)

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.

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

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org



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



**Submissions, comments and questions
always welcome**

Send to: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org



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