



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 2019



The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center

Open daily 9:00am-1:00pm

October 1st through May 31st

**MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, April 8th**

AFRICAN BIRD SPECIES



**Charles C. Reith of Reith Energy and
Environmental Development in Sarasota**

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will talk about his four years in West Africa observing African bird species and comparing them to their new world counterparts.

**Social Hour: 6:30pm
Business Meeting: 7:00pm
Presentation: 7:30pm**

First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
2031 S. Euclid, Sarasota

[CLICK --> MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS](#)

**Pre-monthly Meeting Dinner
All Members Welcome!**

Gecko's Restaurant, 1900 Hillview Avenue at
5:00pm. Reservations are not necessary.

**Contact Karen Jensen for more information:
941-400-6890**

2018-2019 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE



[CLICK --> COMPLETE SCHEDULE](#)

FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

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

Tuesday, APRIL 2nd

CELERY FIELDS WALK - 1st TUESDAY

8:00am. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader -
Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Thursday, APRIL 4th:

OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/
Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee).
Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954)
and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Wednesday, APRIL 10th

CELERY FIELDS CLEAN-UP

9:00am. Help keep our Celery Fields clean. Meet
at the SAS Nature Center. Contact: Joanna Bear
(jbear0822@aol.com)



2019 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27th
6:00pm-8:00pm
SAS Nature Center**

**All active SAS Volunteers
invited!**

RSVP Please: packmw@aol.com



Tautonyms



Troglodytes troglodytes
aka Eurasian Wren

This will be my last venture for a while on that

Thursday, APRIL 11th

OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey / Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee). Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Thursday, APRIL 11th

PINECRAFT PARK

Two scheduled walks (choose one):

Walk #1 - 8:00am or Walk #2 - 9:30am

Meet in the Pinecraft Parking lot. 1420 Gilbert Ave. Leaders: Lynn Jakubowicz (lynn234@verizon.net) & other leaders.

Saturday, APRIL 13th:

BEACH NESTING BIRD STEWARD TRAINING - LIDO BEACH

9:00AM. Meet at the Lido Room in the Holiday Inn at Lido Beach. 233 Ben Franklin Drive, Sarasota. Questions?

Contact: Kylie Wilson kwilson@audubon.org

Saturday, APRIL 13th:

CELERY FIELDS WALK - 2nd SATURDAY

8:00AM. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader - Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Tuesday, APRIL 16th:

FORT DE SOTO

8:00am. Meet at the first rest stop just after the tollbooths on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge (I-275). Leaders: Stu Wilson (512-897-8341) and John Ginaven. BRING LUNCH.

Saturday, APRIL 27th:

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

6:00pm - 8:00pm at the SAS Nature Center, 999 Center Road. If you are an active SAS Volunteer please join us and be APPRECIATED!

RSVP PLEASE to: packmw@aol.com

fascinating subject of bird names. Promise!

I have no idea why this topic enthalls me so much, but I've been thinking lately of those birds that have a repeated scientific name like *Apus apus* (common swift), *Cardinalis cardinalis* (northern cardinal), *Cygnus cygnus* (Mute Swan) and *Anhinga anhinga* (Anhinga). For many years I loved trotting out *Troglodytes troglodytes* (Eurasian Wren) at every opportunity. It amused and fascinated me that it is the Latin word for 'cave-dweller', but also it just rolls off the tongue in an easily-remembered fashion. Sometimes words are just nice to use.

At that point I had no idea why the same word was repeated. So let's back up a bit.

Every species of living thing has a two-part scientific name. The genus name, followed by the species name. If the same word is used for both genus and species, then that is called a tautonym.

So what is a genus? According to Merriam-Webster a genus is a class, kind, or group marked by common characteristics or by one common characteristic, specifically it is a category of biological classification ranking between the family and the species. Put simply think of a group having common characteristics.

Let's give an example. *Picoides villosus* is the Latin name for the Hairy Woodpecker. *Picoides* is the genus and *villosus* (hairy) is the name identifying the species within the genus. So a lot of woodpeckers' scientific names start with *Picoides* because that's the genus, but will have a second scientific name unique to that bird, so *Picoides pubescens* (Downy Woodpecker), *Picoides borealis* (Red-cockaded Woodpecker), *Picoides dorsalis* (Three-toed Woodpecker). There are others in this genus, and guess what? they all have that close family resemblance. They all look like cousins. Some are so alike they're even a little tricky to tell apart. If you compare them to the *Melanerpes* genus of woodpeckers - Golden-fronted, Red-bellied and Gila, or the *Dryocopus* - Pileated and Lineated, you'll see how the genus shows characteristics peculiar to that group.

So what about if the genus name and the species name are identical. Why is that?

Well to tell you the truth we're not really sure. One explanation is that the species so named is the first member of a genus to be identified. However since there are only 25 species of birds in North America whose names are tautonyms and only a total of 82 in the world, that leaves many newly discovered birds not named this way. Another theory is that the discoverer was either unimaginative and/or didn't know sufficient Greek/Latin to find a second word!

Anyway we've now learned a new word - tautonym, from the Greek word *tautos*, which means 'identical' and *-onymos*, meaning 'named'. And by the way, the plural of genus isn't genii, but genera.



SAS 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.

'PURPLE MARTINS' APRIL 20th

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE

Questions? Contact: Kathryn Young
kathwren4@gmail.com

SAS ACTIVITIES

CELERY FIELDS CLEAN UP



Photograph by Glynnis Thomas

Here is Joanna Bear at the conclusion of our Celery Fields Palmer Boulevard clean-up on Wednesday, March 13th.

I just wanted to sing her praises! She comes along with bags, spare gloves, reflective jackets and specially designed T-shirts. Even though the team of volunteers is small, maybe 4- 6 people every few months, we get the job done, thanks to Joanna's encouragement, engagement and presence. Palmer Blvd is looking clean once again!

Thanks Joanna!

PS We can always do with another pair of hands. The next CF Palmer Blvd Clean Up is on Wednesday, April 10th.

Glynnis Thomas

A final amusing and entertaining thought about Latin names (which has nothing to do with tautonyms) :-

Larus melanocephalus is applied to the bird in English known as the Mediterranean Gull, but actually means black-headed gull. The scientific name for the Black-headed Gull is *Larus ridibundus*, which means laughing gull. The scientific name for Laughing Gull is *Larus atricilla*, which means black-tailed gull. The scientific name for the Black-tailed Gull is *Larus crassirostris*, which means large-billed gull. The scientific name for the Large-billed Gull is *Larus pacificus*, which means (of course) Pacific Gull. At this point a disappointing touch of sanity prevails, because Pacific Gull is another name for *Larus pacificus*.

So the moral is, don't rely on the scientific name to identify the bird's characteristic features! That doesn't mean we still can't use these fascinating names and enjoy them.

Glynnis Thomas



NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

March 2019 Rarities/Highlights

Bay Street Park: Nokomis

- Black-throated Blue Warbler
- Black-throated Green Warbler

Celery Fields:

- American Bittern
- Least Bittern
- Cinnamon Teal
- Bronzed Cowbird
- King Rail
- White-crowned Sparrow

Crowley Museum & Nature Center

- Red-Headed Woodpecker
- Bald Eagle (nest with young)

Myakka River State Park

- American Avocet
- American Wigeon
- Gull-billed Tern
- Northern Waterthrush
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Virginia Rail

OLD MIAKKA PRESERVE

On Thursday, March 14th I had the pleasure of leading a walk to the Old Miakka Preserve at the end of Fruitville Rd. Over two dozen birders enjoyed crystal clear blue skies, moderate temperatures and an enjoyable two hour walk .

Old Miakka is 172 acres of primarily scrub oak(Chapman's, Live Sand and Myrtle) palmetto and longleaf pine with paths of sandy soil. Before entering the preserve and while there, we saw three large flocks of White Pelicans in a tight vee formation heading north. Once in the preserve White-eyed Vireos and N. Parula Warblers along with Pine Warblers were vocalizing just about everywhere.

Old Miakka is a great place to see Swallow-tailed Kites both roosting early in the morning and soaring just above the tree tops hunting tree frogs,snakes and grasshoppers. We were not disappointed and were entertained by their ballet against the blue sky. Other birds of note were Downy Woodpecker, Pileated(heard) and a first for me, a Red-bellied Woodpecker eating a tree frog. Unfortunately, one of our target birds, the Red-headed Woodpecker was not to be seen. Possibly the more aggressive Red-bellies have taken over and we saw them in big numbers.

Lucky for all of us, Jeff Webber, the preserve manager, was able to join us and discussed the genesis of the preserve(purchased with ESLAP money), management practices, and gave us a tutorial on how to identify the three varieties of scrub oak and some other flora.

Its a seldom visited preserve and well worth it if you are looking for a quiet place for a walk and some excellent birding and photo opportunities.

Rick Greenspun

ROBERTS BAY ROOKERY ABOARD THE CAREFREE LEARNER

Palmer Lake:

- Stilt Sandpiper
- Blue Grosbeak

Pinecraft Park:

- Broad-winged Hawk
- Eastern Kingbird
- Louisiana Waterthrush
- Hermit Thrush
- Swainson's Thrush
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Magnolia Warbler
- Prothonotary Warbler

First of Season: Several Locations

- Red-eyed Vireo
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow
- Least Tern
- Summer Tanager

Claire Herzog



**JOIN OR RENEW YOUR SAS
MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

CLICK --> SAS MEMBERSHIP

Don't Know if You Renewed?

Email: membership@sarasotaaudubon.org





Photograph by Pam Koepf

On Tuesday, March 26th Sarasota Audubon had another wonderful boat tour aboard the Carefree Learner to the Roberts Bay Rookery, a small group of islands in the Intracoastal Waterway. The weather was great and the birds were plentiful. On our way we saw a couple of, rather elusive, Common Loons. At the Rookery there were Brown Pelicans, Double Crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Tricolored Herons, Cattle Egrets, a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and a few Roseate Spoonbills.

Most birds were strutting their gorgeous breeding suits. On the return trip, near Selby Gardens, we were treated to a Green Heron catching one fish after another in plain sight.

Expert narration was provided by Mark Rachal, Sanctuary manager of Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries. (They were instrumental in making the Rookery a designated Critical Wildlife Area).

There is another sold out trip in April. If you would like to join us next year, please sign up on our website in the Fall, as these tours sell out fast.

Harma Nyhof

N. LONGBOAT / LEFFIS KEY

On a pristine March day, twenty-four enthusiasts



The birding world lost a tireless supporter and great friend on Monday, March 25 when Bill Thompson III passed away. BT3, as he was affectionately known, was 57 years old. Bill was the Editor/Publisher of Bird Watcher's Digest, a well known birding magazine, started by his parents 40 years ago. (The Magazine will continue to be run by the Thompson family.) He authored several birding books. He had a fun and always informative podcast: This Birding Life where he talked with birders and naturalists. Bill organized the very popular Reader Rendezvous birding trips for subscribers to BWD magazine and would always regale the participants to any birding event by singing and playing his guitar. Bill came to the Celery Fields in March 2016. He went on a walk with Jeanne Dubi and a few others and fell in love with the place and has since recommended it to many of his friends and followers.

With great energy and enthusiasm he organized the American Bird Expo (the famous British Bird Fair was his inspiration). His proudest achievements, however, were his children Phoebe and Liam and he expressed being devastated that he had to leave them "before they were fully fledged." Bill will have a 'green' burial on the eighty acres in SE Ohio he shared with his wife, Julie Zickefoose.

We all will miss him terribly.

Harma Nyhof

Jeanne Dubi Scholarship



The scholarship committee will award scholarships to two eligible high school students planning to study the environmental sciences in college.

If you know of any students who would like to apply email: info@sarasotaudubon.org

joined John Ginaven and me for the North Longboat Key and Leffis Key Walk. We met at the Broadway Street beach access on Longboat Key at 8am, spent 75 minutes exploring Whitney Beach, then transferred to Leffis Key and worked that patch before wrapping things up at 11am sharp.

The loafing flock of seabirds at Whitney Beach held five species of tern, four species of gull, and four species of shorebird... until the flock of 25 American Avocets wheeled through adding a new shorebird species for the day's list. The avocets noted the large congregation of seabirds and thought about touching down, but ultimately continued on their migratory journey north.

Leffis Key, sure to be buzzing in two weeks with migration activity, was somewhat quiet today producing a migrant that will likely stay, Great Crested Flycatcher, as well as one that will likely leave, Blue-headed Vireo.

[CLICK ---> Full Bird List 38 species](#)

Stu Wilson



BIRD STEWARD TRAINING

**April 13th at 9:00am
Lido Key Holiday Inn**



Come join us at the steward training session for Lido Key's 2019 nesting season!

Lido Key has hosted Sarasota's nesting Black Skimmer colony for five consecutive years. This colony is one of the largest and most productive in the state. It has endured the increasing numbers of visitors with the help of monitoring efforts and bird stewards like you! Stewards are stationed near the roped off nesting colony to provide outreach and ensure the birds, eggs, and chicks remain undisturbed. This bird stewardship training will be specific to the needs at Lido Beach.

The Jeanne Dubi Scholarship is donor funded and is another way the Sarasota Audubon Society is furthering the cause of helping the environment.



FLORIDA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING APRIL 27-28, 2019

[CLICK --> FOS SPRING MEETING](#)



GIFT SHOP NEWS...

More Charley Harper jigsaw puzzles, enameled bird measuring spoons, small bird wind chimes, and Jabebo bird earrings are here.

Also, Beautiful Sarasota Audubon Nature Center blank greeting cards with our local birds featured.

Local author Janet Hasselbring's Pelican Cove book series for children.

**Birdy bottle openers.
Decorative hanging ceramic bird feeders.**

And lots more...

You can find something for everyone on your shopping list and each purchase helps support our Nature Center at the Celery Fields.

NOW SHOWING

WHAT BIRDS EAT

A new display assembled by Kathryn Young is now showing at the SAS NC. The photographs depict birds as they dine and what they are dining on. A fun and interesting exhibit.

Kylie Wilson, the local Shorebird Stewardship & Nesting Coordinator for Audubon Florida, will be leading the training along with Audubon Florida's Shorebird Program Manager, Holley Short, and FWC's Regional Shorebird Biologist, Morgan Parks. We will cover important topics for stewardship and then move out onto the beach for a short bird walk to see the Black Skimmers. The following topics include, but are not limited to,

- proactively educating & engaging the public
- potential disturbances to nesting
- important contacts
- monitoring & data collection

This year, the Holiday Inn on Lido (233 Ben Franklin Drive) across the street from where the colony nested last year) has kindly offered us an indoor space to hold the training. We will be meeting on the main floor in the 'Lido Room'.

During this training, 2018 stewards will be able to collect their 2019 shirts, and new stewards will be able to sign up for their first shift. For those interested in attending or have questions, please contact Kylie Wilson at kwilson@audubon.org for more information on bird stewardship and our program.

There will be free parking along the main road (Benjamin Franklin Drive) and at the North Lido Public Beach parking lot (a short walk down from the hotel).

We hope to see you there!

Kylie Wilson

Program Coordinator, Bird Monitoring & Stewardship

Interested in going:
Click --> [SIGN ME UP](#)

BLUE BIRD UPDATE



We have babies!

Photograph by Mary Heinlen

Photographers include; Chuck Berhmann, Mark Davis, Rick Greenspun Mike Kaplan, Betty Neupert, Lou Newman, Dan Olson, Paul Petrus, Steve Simnett, Sharon Wilcox and Kathryn Young.



Photograph by Sara King

NEW PHOTOGRAPHS ON DISPLAY

Two new photographers are displaying and selling their work at the SAS Nature Center during the months of April and May. We invite you to come in and take a look.

Gary McClellan is a new member of SAS who began his photography career in 1971. He has contributed over 1,500 images to BugGuide.net, a number of which have been published for educational purposes. Gary's inspiration comes from his passion for photography, a love of nature, and fascination with flight.



*Photograph by
Gary McClellan*

Michael Simeone is a newer member and award-winning macro photographer, who has become "moonstruck" with bird photography. He is lucky enough to have a lake in his backyard, allowing his subjects to come to him. Besides having a framed photograph on display, Michael has a selection of matted prints available for sale in our gift shop.



We've Gone
GREEN

OUR BROWN PELICAN NEWSLETTER IS NOW
ONLY AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.
PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO
YOU WON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE
EMAIL: editor@sarasotaudubon.org



Photograph by Michael Simeone

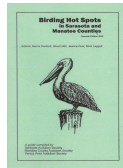
Sue Herring



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Birding Hot Spots in Sarasota and Manatee Counties

Can be purchased for just \$6.00 at the
Nature Center or by mail for \$8.50. Send a
check to: SAS, 999 Center Rd, Sarasota,
FL 34240.



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](#)



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

NAME BADGES

Pin Badge - \$5.25, Magnet Badge - \$7.25
Add \$4.50 for shipping.
Send name and address to:

Michael Fox
2749 Ringling Ave. Sarasota, FL 34237

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special occasion. Ask us
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opportunities. Truly a gift
that gives back.

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Sarasota County Butterfly Club



Sarasota County Butterfly Club Programs are open to
the public and are held most 4th Thursdays of each



Submissions and comments always welcome
Send to: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

month Sept-May.

Visit www.sarasotabutterfly.com to learn more!



[CLICK](#)