

DECEMBER 2019

MONTHLY MEETING Monday, December 9th



THE MYSTERY AND MAGIC OF SARASTOA'S SWALLOW-TAILED KITES - PART TWO

Margi Haas, Citizen Scientist and Kite Fanatic will continue her discussions about Swallow-tailed Kites.

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 Ave

5:00pm

Contact Karen Jensen (karensarasota@yahoo.com)

2019-2020 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE



CLICK FOR COMPLETE



The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center Open daily 9:00am-1:00pm

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SCHEDULE

SAS ACTIVITIES

CLICK --> COMPLETE SCHEDULE

GUIDED WALKS

Our SAS guided walks are led by some of our most knowledgeable and experienced birders. Come along with us!

Suggested donation for walks and tours: \$2 members, \$4 non-members. No reservations are necessary unless noted.

Tuesday, December 3rd MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK

8:15am. Meet at the first parking lot on the right after the main entrance (off SR 72). Park opens 8am, fee. BRING LUNCH or TRY THE PARK's CAFE. Leaders are Stu Wilson (512-897-8341) and John Ginaven

OSCAR SCHERER PARK WALKS

8:30am. Every Thursday, Nov 7-Mar 26: Meet inside park at Lake Osprey/Nature Center (opens 8:00am, fee). On the 1st and 2nd Thursday walks the leader is Peter Brown (508-2415541). On the 3rd, 4th and 5th Thursday walks the leader is Joyce Leary (508-737-8954).

CELERY FIELDS WALKS

First Mondays - "PM Birding"

Jan 6, Feb 3 and Mar 2. 3:00pm-5:00pm. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader is Margi Haas mhaas@pipeline.com

Third Mondays

Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 16: 8-10am: Meet at Raymond Rd Boardwalk. Leader is Peter Brown (508-241-5541)

Fourth Mondays

Dec 23, Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 23. 9:00am- 11:00am. Leader is Joyce Leary (508-737-8954)

Third Thursdays

Jan 16, Feb 20, March 19. 8:00am. Leader is the SAS Survey Team lynn234@verizon.net

Second Saturdays

Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 14, Apr 11: 8-10am. Meet at Nature Center. Leader is Peter Brown (508-241-5541)

NATURE CENTER GARDEN TOURS

Fourth Saturdays

Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 28, Apr 25, 9:30am-11:30am. With Master Gardener Jan McLaughlin, enjoy our evolving subtropical garden, designed to attract migratory & resident birds, butterflies and moths.

CELERY FIELDS ACTIVITIES

December

An Astounding Outcome!

On November 6, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners of Sarasota County approved a conservation easement for 3 of the 4 Quad parcels at the corners of Palmer Blvd and Apex/Coburn Roads in the Celery Fields. We were thrilled and amazed. Thanks to Fresh Start for all of their efforts towards this combined and important step for the environment.

In partnership with the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, Sarasota Audubon will work to, in effect, extend the Celery Fields another 30+ acres, creating a buffer zone for birds and wildlife to thrive, and setting aside areas for low impact public use.

Next Steps?

Well, this is going to entail working with multiple county departments over many months, possibly even a year. The departments include:

- Planning and Development Services Department (includes Property Management Division, Environmental Protection Division, and Planning and Zoning Division)
- Public Works Department (includes Transportation and Stormwater)
- Public Utilities Department
- Parks Recreation and Natural Resources Department
- Office of the County Attorney and County Administration.

How will this be paid for?

In exchange for the conservation easement (which is forever!), Sarasota Audubon and the Conservation Foundation have pledged to raise funds for the restoration and for a future maintenance fund. It will certainly be worth it if we can protect the existing Celery Fields with this buffer and extend habitat for woodland birds.

We have already set up a fund for this purpose. You can contribute to this once in our lifetime environmental milestone at www.sarasotaaudubon.org/product/donate-sas-quad-fund/

Many thanks for helping to keep the shrinking natural environment alive and viable right here in Sarasota County. The time is now!

Jeanne Dubi, Acting President, Sarasota Audubon Society



IT'S TIME....



TO RENEW YOUR ANNUAL SAS MEMBERSHIP!

Click Here to Join or Renew Online

\$30.00 per member/family

SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY - December 7th

5:30pm. Deep Sky Observers www.lgdso.com will set up telescopes at the SAS Nature Center for star and planet gazing!

VOLUNTEER FOR SAS - December 14th

10:00am-12:00pm at the Nature Center. Learn about volunteer opportunities with SAS and how to apply. volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org

Other

BOARDWALKS

At Palmer Blvd and Raymond Rd boardwalks, a SAS Celery Fields Bird Naturalist is on duty every day, Nov 1-Apr 30 from 8:30am - 10:30am.

CELERY FIELDS CLEANUPS

Help keep Palmer blvd and our area trash free! Wednesdays at 9:00am: Jan 15, Mar 11 & Apr 15

SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY

Deep Sky Observers <u>www.lgdso.com</u> will set up telescopes at the Nature Center for star and planet gazing! Saturday: February 29th, 6:30pm

VOLUNTEER FOR SAS

Saturday, February 8th, 10:00am-12:00pm at the Nature Center. Learn about volunteer opportunities with SAS and how to apply. *volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org*

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Saturday, April 4th, 5:00pm-7:00pm, Nature Center. All SAS volunteers invited!

volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org

GARDEN WORKDAYS

Sunday, February 9th: 8:30am-11:00am. Help the Temple Emanuel garden volunteers at our mid-winter spruce-up. volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

December

Thursday, December 5 WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL THAT TOILET WATER?

9:00am. Join us as we visit a Sarasota County Wastewater Treatment facility including a tour of the operational lab. RESERVATION REQUIRED-SPACE IS LIMITED. Contact Kathryn Young kathwren4@gmail.com

Meet at McDonald's, Bee Ridge/Cattlemen

Saturday, December 7 MEMBER CRAFT EVENT

9:00am-1:00pm Nature Center picnic area. SAS members will display and sell nature-related crafts.

SAS. Art. Committee@gmail.com

Monday, December 16 MYAKKA PARK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Belinda Perry - bperry51@verizon.net

Other

Saturday, January 4

Mail a check payable to: Sarasota Audubon Society Address: SAS, 999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Don't Know if You Renewed?

Check with Lynn Jakubowicz membership@sarasotaaudubon.org



SNAKE TALES WORKSHOP



Saturday December 14 1:30 PM

Sarasota Audubon Nature Center 999 Center Rd, Sarasota, FL 34240

Snakes perform valuable environmental services that benefit other species and even the human population.

Join Park Naturalist Lynda Becherelli to learn about Florida's variety of snakes, how to identify common snake species and to live with snakes in your home landscape.

Children welcome!

Be prepared to see live snakes!

\$5 donation - No Reservations - pay at the door

For more information contact: Doug Janson doug.jj@gmail.com Stu Wilson - stuwilson@comcast.net

Saturdays, January 11 & 18 'WINGSPAN' THE BOARD GAME

3:30pm - 5:30pm."WINGSPAN" Learn to play this wildly popular birdy board game! Space is limited. REGISTER ONLINE. \$5 per person, per session. Nature Center. Harma Nyhof birdsrg@gmail.com

Saturday, February 1 MEMBER ART AND PHOTO SHOW

A month long exhibit of our members' art and photography. Opening Reception 4:00pm-6:00pm at the Nature Center. SAS.Art.Committee@gmail.com

Saturdays, February 1 & 8 EAGLE NEST TOURS

8:00am - 12:00pm. Visit active nests with Dale Nauman, Cost \$30. REGISTER ONLINE. February 1st trip leader, Harma Nyhof birdsrq@gmail.com. February 8th trip leader, Barry Gerber blgerber@comcast.net.

Monday, March 23, Tuesday, April 7: ROBERTS BAY ROOKERY BOAT TOURS

1:00pm-3:00pm. REGISTER ONLINE. Cost \$30. Harma Nyhof - birdsrq@gmail.com

CLICK ---> REGISTER ONLINE



SAS CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

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

WORKSHOPS

These 1.5 hour workshops provide a wealth of information on a variety of topics. Meet at the Nature Center at 1:30pm. \$5.00 Donation. No registration required; Pay at the door.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE

CLASSES

Check out this season's interesting selection of classes; eBird, Everything About Birds and Tai Chi. **Online Registration Required**

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE

CLASS REGISTRATION

Questions? Contact: Kathryn Young kathwren4@gmail.com

CONSERVATION

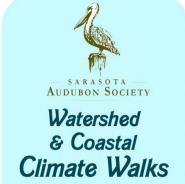


Article from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:

Gov. DeSantis' Bolder, Brighter, Better Future budget recommendations continue to support conservation initiatives

CLICK --> TO READ MORE





Let's talk about it!
Actions for Protection

FRIDAYS
Winter 2020
9:30am - Noon



Karen Willey has been named the Climate Change point person for the Sarasota Audubon Society. As such, she will field queries related to climate change, educate members with information and articles, and foster hope for local solutions.

In this role, Karen will be leading a series of Climate Walks starting in January. Each walk will be at a different park in Manatee or Sarasota County and highlight a particular local aspect of climate change.

CLICK ---> DESCRIPTION & LOCATION OF CLIMATE WALKS

The purpose of the walks is to get folks talking about this issue that we are all aware of, and in making the conversations normal, creating a wave of support for local solutions.

Join one or more of the walks and you just might learn something!

REGISTER --> CLIMATE WALKS





MYAKKA RIVER PARK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT December 16th

Contact: Belinda Perry (bperry51@verizon.net)

SAS CHRISTMAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT January 4th

Contact: Stu Wilson (stuwilson@comcast.net)

TRIP REPORT



LONGBOAT KEY SHOREBIRDS November 10, 2019

Seven enthusiasts joined John Ginaven and me for the Longboat Key Shorebirds walk, gathering at the Broadway Beach access in Manatee County, on a sunny and quite pleasant fall morning.

Whitney Beach seemed rather devoid of activity at first glance, but as we made our way south toward "the wall" we encountered several seabird flocks and gradually increasing activity. In the end there were a number of highlights, including Red Knot, Dunlin, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Magnificent Frigatebird, Northern Gannet, and Reddish Egret.

CLICK --> TRIP BIRD LIST

Stu Wilson



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VOLUNTEER FOR SAS - DECEMBER 14, 2019

10:00am-12:00pm. Learn about volunteering for the many interesting activities at SAS and how to apply. SAS Nature Center. Email: *volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org*

FLORIDA SCRUB JAY FESTIVAL - JANUARY 11, 2020



SAS plans to participate in the Florida Scrub Jay Festival sponsored by Oscar Scherer Park on January 11, 2020. Volunteers needed to staff our booth. Register now on Volgistics or Email: *volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org*

SAS CELERY FIELDS BIRD NATURALISTS ON THE JOB



Our SAS Celery Fields Bird Naturalists (CFBNs) have been valiantly staffing the boardwalks every morning since November 1st, in sometimes cold, rainy and windy weather. Here is some interesting data that should warm their hearts. Their efforts have not been in vain, even though they sometimes report that not many visitors appeared on their shift, the data, overall, shows a different picture.

In just over two weeks (17 days) there have been a total of 694 visits to the boardwalks, with 174 visits representing 24 States, the furthest states being Utah, Colorado and Texas. There have been 63 international visits, most being from the UK and Canada. And of course we have had many from folks in our own state of Florida as well as locals.

What about the birds? Our CFBNs report anywhere from 20 to over 50 different species sighted from the Raymond Road or Palmer Boulevard boardwalk during a given shift.

It has been a great season so far! Congratulations to you all, our Sarasota Audubon and Celery Fields ambassadors. And as always, the membership and SAS Board thank you for all your hard work.

Interested in becoming a SAS CFBN?
Contact: Marcy Packer (packmw@aol.com)



Unpredictability) OF BIRDS



I know this sounds like a contradiction but isn't this one of the elements of birding that make it so addictive? The fact that at any given time you could take a visitor to Sarasota and show them with 95%-100% certainty, a Limpkin, a Black-bellied Whistling Duck, a Monk Parakeet or a Willet. And at the same time, something else, totally amazing and unpredictable could show up, like an Ash-throated Flycatcher, a Yellow-headed Blackbird, a Cinnamon Teal or perhaps even a Snow Goose. And by unpredictability I don't mean that the bird isn't common somewhere. Just not here, just not now. I'm not even talking about true rarities, just the unexpected, the surprise.

So how about an Orchard Oriole at the Celery Fields? Not just the general area but deep in the marshy swampy bit, feeding off insects in the alligator flag flowers.

So, here's what happened the other day. Around 4 pm at Raymond Road, just going for a walk basically, not particularly birding - there's Kevin Griffioen (BN par excellence), hanging around on the boardwalk gazebo, taking pictures. The sun is low, so looking west, directly into an almost horizontal dazzling sun (who would even be looking, let alone photographing) he sees a bird. It doesn't look right. It's got a thinnish pointy beak (an icterid beak), it's very dark and underneath there's a deep chestnutty tone to the darkness. Kevin takes a photo, he's looking at the picture he's taken, trying to bring it up to the maximum magnification he can on his camera, and it is a little too dark, a little too small to be sure what it is. But it looks like an oriole, maybe even an Orchard Oriole. Then we come along, scrutinize the photo with him, engage in the delightful puzzle. Where did you see it? Oh, over there (directly into sun). And then we see the bird again, all three of us. It's smallish, an icterid beak, slim, longish tail, and yes - two tone, chestnutty underneath and darkish head with a clear but subtle difference in the shading between the throat and chest areas. It's definitely a good candidate for an Orchard Oriole. Then a couple of indigo buntings show up right next to it, and the size is right too. Discernibly bigger and the beak, of course, totally different.

Later Kevin uploaded and edited the photo on his computer and sent a picture and that's it, a male Orchard Oriole, at the Celery Fields, in the Fall. Just travelling from somewhere north easternish down to Central America, a bit off its beaten track for this time of year, but a sheer delight to see, and wish it well on its way.

So these moments are not highly dramatic, but to me they're the essence of birding, the surprise, the delightful little shared puzzle, the right bird in the wrong (or unexpected) place, the warmth you feel for a bird being on its own in a strange place (will it make it back to where it needs to be?), and the joy of the bird itself. A lovely moment that makes the day complete.



What Is It?

It is a new kind of board game, designed by Elizabeth Hargrave, a birder. The game is all about birds, their habitats, their food and nest preferences.

For a different kind of birding, come for a fun afternoon of playing **Wingspan** at the SAS Nature Center. We will have several instructors to help you along.

Register online for one or both Seating is limited

CLICK ---> REGISTER FOR WINGSPAN

ON DISPLAY

NEW PHOTOGRAPHY DISPLAY AT THE NATURE CENTER

We Have a New Photography Display by Lou Newman at the SAS Nature Center during the months of December and January. We invite you to come take a look. Lou Newman is a lifelong photographer and retired large animal veterinarian. Photography was a significant activity throughout his years as a rancher and veterinarian in Montana, and then later as a veterinary college faculty member.

Large animal medicine/surgery and wildlife studies were always major interests and progressed to wildlife photography. Lou's passion is photographing birds in flight.

Lou has volunteered at Mote Marine Laboratory, the former Pelican Man Bird Sanctuary, and overseas. He taught photography and digital imaging classes on cruise ships. Lou's career has taken him to every state, 73 countries and all seven continents.

Lou is an active member of the North American Nature Photography Association, National Association of Photoshop Professionals, Local Photography Clubs,

Sarasota Audubon Society, and Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Citizens Advisory Committee.



CRAFT FAIR

You are Invited to our Craft Fair on Saturday, December 7,

Giynnis Inomas



2019. This event will be held in the covered picnic area of our Nature Center at the Celery Fields. Please come check out the beautiful hand-made offerings of our creative members. Perhaps you'll find the perfect holiday or personal gift while you're there.

2020 MEMBER FINE ARTS & PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

This season we will be holding a combined Fine Arts & Photo Show in February 2020 with the theme "Fabulous Florida Flora & Fauna". A request for artists and photographers will be sent out in a few days with details and a sign-up application. Participation will be on a first-come basis.

Sue Herring



Kite Tales

The monthly newsletter of the Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail CLICK ---> SUBSCRIBE



Our Favorite Local Hot Spots

The Sarasota Audubon Society is pleased to include this interactive component to our newly redesigned web site. It is called "Favorite Local Birding Hot Spots." These Hot Spots in Sarasota and Manatee Counties were selected because of the substantial number of bird species counted at the site and because they are located within approximately 30 minutes from downtown Sarasota.

CLICK --> SAS WEB SITE



We have something for everyone. Stop in and see us....





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 \$8.50 by mail. Send a check to: SAS, PO Box 52132, Sarasota, FI 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.



Birds of Paradise Needs Our Help



We have some unfortunate news to share. Most of you know, we leased this 6.6 acre tract almost 5 years ago with the understanding it would be a permanent home to the birds that live here. Our lease is up December 5, and the property owners have refused to sell to us. This leaves 350 birds without a home come December. Needless to say we are devastated.

Please help us in any way you can. If you know someone with a

small parcel of property that would consider donating or selling to us.

Thanks always, Debbie Huckaby, Executive Director 727-366-9997

http://birdsofparadise.org/index.html



Help defend the Solar ITC!

Solar ITC Schedule			
2019	2020	2021	2022
30%	26%	22%	Commercial 8 Utility Scale 0

The solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) is one of the most successful clean energy policies ever passed and has helped support a robust solar industry in the United States. The ITC currently allows homeowners and businesses to deduct 30% of the cost of installing a solar energy system from their federal taxes. Thanks to the ITC, people have saved thousands of dollars on their solar and home battery installations.

Despite this, the ITC is currently scheduled to begin stepping down at the end of 2019, with the tax credit completely eliminated for residential solar customers by 2022. The good news is bipartisan legislation has been introduced that calls for a five-year extension of the solar ITC.

CLICK HERE to send a message through the Solar Energy Industries Association website. You will be asked to input just a few bits of personal information, including your zip code, so that the form can pull up the federal representatives in your area.

An extension of the solar investment tax credit will enable the industry to continue to create new careers for Americans, deliver clean electricity across the nation, and bolster reliable and affordable energy options.

Contact us at: info@brilliantharvest.com(941) 359-3700

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.

Marcy Packer, editor editor@sarasotaaudubon.org



All proceeds support our SAS Nature Center

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 County Butterfly Club



Sarasota County Butterfly Club Programs are open to the public and are held most 4th Thursdays of each month Sept-May.

Visit www.sarasotabutterfly.com to learn more!

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.

CLICK TO ORDER - BRICK ORDER FORM



Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center

Since 1970, bird populations in the U.S. and Canada have declined by 29%, or almost 3 billion birds, signaling a widespread ecological crisis. The results show tremendous losses across diverse groups of birds and habitats - from iconic songsters such as meadowlarks to long-distance migrants such as swallows and backyard birds including sparrows.

Learn more about the 3 Billion Birds campaign and Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds.

CLICK ---> SMITHSONIAN MIGRATORY BIRD CENTER





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



Submissions, comments and questions always welcome

Send to: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org



CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site



Click here