

#### **NOVEMBER 2018**

### MONTHLY MEETING Monday, November 12th

#### **Our Nation's Ancient Forests**



Dr. Melissa Abdo, Managing Director of the Old-Growth Forest Network, will provide insights into our nation's ancient forests

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

First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall 2031 S. Euclid, Sarasota \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **CLICK --> MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS**

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## **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



**The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center** 

Open daily 9:00am-1:00pm

October 1st through May 31st

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OUR BROWN PELICAN NEWSLETTER IS NOW ONLY AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT.

# FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

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

## Wenesday, NOVEMBER 7th: SIESTA KEY BEACH SHOREBIRDS

8:00am. Meet at north end of the main Siesta Key parking lot. Mary Heinlen (346-3335) and Claire Herzog.

## Thursday, NOVEMBER 8th: 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).

#### Saturday, NOVEMBER 10th: 2ND SATURDAY CELERY FIELDS WALK

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

#### Sunday, NOVEMBER 11th: LONGBOAT KEY SHOREBIRDS

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

## Wednesday, NOVEMBER 14th: CELERY FIELDS CLEAN-UP

9:00am. Help keep the Nature Center and Palmer Blvd clean. Meet at the Nature Center.

### Thursday, NOVEMBER 15th: 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, NOVEMBER 22nd: 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).

#### Monday, NOVEMBER 26th:

4TH MONDAY CELERY FIELDS WALK

9:00am. Meet at the SAS Nature Center, Leader: Joyce Leary (508-737-8954).

## Thursday, NOVEMBER 29th: OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee). PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO YOU WON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE EMAIL: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

#### 2018-2019 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE



# CLICK FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE

#### Reminder.....

Starting this season, REGISTRATION FOR ALL trips, classes and other SAS Special Events (i.e. Holiday lunch etc.) must be completed ON-LINE at the SAS web site.

#### Here are links to register:

REGISTER - CLASSES -----> CLICK REGISTER - TRIPS ----> CLICK REGISTER - HOLIDAY LUNCH --> CLICK

You can also register by signing up on-line in person at the Nature Center.

For questions or help with on-line registration feel free to stop by or call (941-312-6533) the Nature Center during our normal hours of operation (Daily 9:00am-1:00pm)



#### **BIG SIT RESULTS - October 14, 2018**

On a warm to hot, mostly clear, and occasionally breezy fall day, about 20 volunteer "sitters" helped "Celery Fields Forever," Sarasota Audubon Society's Big Sit team, count birds for 13 hours (6:30am to 7:30pm) from the confines of our 17-ft diameter circle at the end of the Palmer Blvd Boardwalk at Celery Fields. The result was a whopping sixty-six (66) species, smashing our previous record of 64 set in 2015.

Even though we couldn't count the Barred Owl that I

Alternating Leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).



#### **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**

DECEMBER 17th - MYAKKA STATE PARK

Contact: Belinda Perry bperry51@verizon.net

**JANUARY 5th - SARASOTA AUDUBON** 

Contact: Stu Wilson stuwilson@comcast.net



# 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.

**Dec 15th - SNAKE TALES** 

Jan 18th - BIRDS OF PARADISE

Feb 9th - TALES FROM PELICAN COVE

Feb 15th - SAVING LOCAL LANDS

Mar 23rd - ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS

**Apr 20th - PURPLE MARTINS** 

**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE** 

#### **CLASSES**

From Yoga to Photography. Check out this season's interesting selection of classes.

**ON-LINE (only) REGISTRATION REQUIRED** 

January - EBIRD February - PHOTOGRAPHY heard when I got out of my car pre-dawn (since I wasn't in the circle), ensuing highlights were many:

- \* A wading Black-crowned Night-Heron at first light
- \* A surprise Virginia Rail, calling (and seen) just off the boardwalk (a first for Palmer?)
- \* A pair of calling American Crows
- \* Not a single European Starling until 6pm, when about 1,000 came in
- \* An American Redstart tailing a small line of Palm Warbler across the marsh
- \* An Eastern Meadowlark which stopped for a quick rest on the utility pole crossbar
- \* Just after sunset (7:02am), our one and only American Bittern for the day flew past the boardwalk and settled in the marsh



Photograph by Betty Neupert

The first shift (dawn-11am) turned in 53 species, the second (11am-3pm) 44 species, and the third (3pm-sunset) 58 species. This compares with last year's distribution of 45, 32, and 48 (for a total of 58 species).

I'll be submitting our results to Big Sit Central, and will report back on how we did compared to other circles in Florida and nationwide. My thanks to all the sharp-eyed and heat-tolerant folks who helped out today!

The full compiled list of 66 species can be found in the link below, highlights in blue. Numbers following indicate the shifts on which the bird was recorded, i.e. "(1+2)" means shifts 1 and 2 only.

#### **CLICK----> COMPLETE BIG SIT LIST**

Stu Wilson

Feb->March - BRING ART OUTSIDE Feb->March - EVERYTHING BIRDS March - YOGA IN NATURE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE CLASS REGISTRATION

Questions? Contact: Kathryn Young

kathwren4@gmail.com

#### TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **HOLIDAY LUNCH**

Friday, December 14, 2018 11:45am
Mission Valley Country Club; 1851 Mission Valley Blvd;
Nokomis. SAS MEMBERS AND GUESTS ONLY.
RESERVATION REQUIRED.
RESERVATION - HOLIDAY LUNCH

## ST MARK'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

January 18 - 20, 2019
Overnight birding trip to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. RESERVATION REQUIRED
REGISTER OVERNIGHT TRIP

#### **EAGLE TROLLEY**

February 2, 2019 or February 9, 2019

Visit active bald eagle nests with eagle expert Dale Nauman. Two trips available: February 2 or February 9, 2019. **RESERVATION REQUIRED.** 

REGISTER EAGLE TROLLEY - FEB. 2, 2019 REGISTER EAGLE TROLLEY - FEB. 9, 2019

## CAREFREE LEARNER BOAT TOUR March 26, 2019 or April 8, 2019

1:00-3:00pm. Boat tour to Roberts Bay Rookery. Two trips available: March 26 or April 8, 2019 **RESERVATION REQUIRED** 

REGISTER BOAT TOUR - MARCH 26, 2019
REGISTER BOAT TOUR - APRIL 8, 2019

#### TRIP REPORTS

#### PINECRAFT - Oct. 6, 2018

Twenty-five birders arrived at Pinecraft Park on a sultry Saturday morning to look for migrating birds. Migrants were present, but in low



numbers. The unusually hot weather, both here and up north, definitely reduced the numbers and species.

American Redstarts were the most numerous, with at least three or four flitting through the trees. Many in the group saw a Red-eyed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak(female), Prairie Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blackburnian Warbler, and Yellow-



# SAS HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Friday, December 14th 11:30am - 1:45pm

Mission Valley Country Club 1851 Mission Valley Blvd; Nokomis, FL

Join SAS Members and Guests For a Fun-filled Holiday Celebration!

- \*\* Enjoy beautiful photography of Oscar Scherer State Park by our own Daniel and Cindy Olson
  - \*\* Have fun bidding on a silent auction
    - \*\* Play a short game of bird trivia
- \*\* Hear about American women who have shaped bird watching and the Audubon Society

\$30 Per Person

\*\*Registration Required\*\*
Registration deadline is December 7th

Register online at the SAS web site: <u>CLICK --> TO REGISTER</u>

**Need Directions? CLICK --> Directions** 

**QUESTIONS?** 

Contact Anne Brooks: abrooks70@gmail.com

throated Warbler. One of the resident Barred Owls was roosting openly in a cabbage palm. One of our members also spotted several Swainson's Thushes in the marlberry bushes. The usual resident herons and egrets were wading in Philippi Creek.

Perhaps some cooler weather will bring in more migrants, so Pinecraft is a good park to scout. **Lynn Jakubowicz and Edith Miller** 

#### **ROBINSON PRESERVE - Oct. 16, 2018**

Nine participants joined John Ginaven and me for a walk at Manatee County's Robinson Preserve. On a clear and quite warm day, there was not too much evidence of fall migration, given the low level of passerine activity, but it was fun to observe the expansive new southern section of the preserve as well as stroll the grounds and boardwalks of the new NEST (environmental science) facility.

Click ---> FULL TRIP BIRD LIST
Stu Wilson and John Ginaven



## NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

#### **October Rarities 2018**

• Broad-winged Hawk: Scherer Thaxton Preserve

• Wilson's Phalarope: Palmer Lake

• Orange-crowned Warbler: Celery Fields, N.Lido Park

Common Nighthawk: Celery Fields
Orchard Oriole: Celery Fields
Black Tern: Siesta Beach, Access 5
Elegant Tern: Siesta Beach, Access 7

• Western Tanager: Pinecraft Park

• Cape May Warbler: Leffis Key, Venice Island

Common Loon: Venice Fishing PierCerulean Warbler: Pinecraft Park

• Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Red Bug Slough Park

• Eastern Whip-poor-will: Urfer Family Park, Myakka Park

• Snail Kite: Myakka River State Park

American Wigeon: Myakka River Sate Park
 Solitary Sandpiper: Myakka River State Park

Gadwall: Myakka River State ParkBronzed Cowbird: Celery Fields

We generally don't report on Manatee County (other than Leffis Key) but I wanted to note a special sighting of **Hudsonian Godwit** first found by Kathy Doddridge at Bean Point, Anna Maria.

Claire Herzog

#### CELERY FIELDS EXPLORERS AT WORK



On October 24th, 82 kids from McIntosh Middle School came to the nature center to work and learn. With Karen Willey of Around the Bend Nature Tours leading, 4 groups of 20 went through 3 activities: Water quality testing, a hike to look for birds (all with binoculars), and then work in the gardens. SAS just purchased 4 bee houses, and volunteers from each group helped to install them around the gardens (encouraged by Andy Schneider, Glynnis Thomas, and Jeanne Dubi), while the rotating groups pulled weeds along the pathways.



After all the learning and working, they all sat down to enjoy their lunch.

Jeanne Dubi

#### **CELERY FIELDS CLEAN UP**

#### ORIENTATION

As we began our new season 45 SAS Volunteers attended the 2018 Orientation



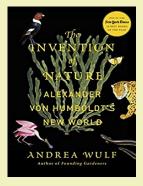
Nature Center Docents



Celery Fields Bird Naturalists

Photographs by Sara King





## The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World

Over the summer, I read many books ranging from near-pulp to highbrow. Here's a book review on that reading spectrum!

I first heard an interview with Andrea Wulf on NPR which led me to buy The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World. During his lifetime, Humboldt (1769 - 1859) was celebrated as the greatest scientist of his day. He was a friend to Goethe and Schiller, met Thomas Jefferson at the White House and befriended Simon Bolivar, the liberator of much of South America. He was a member



# Wednesday, NOV. 14th 9:00am

Meet at the Nature Center

Join us and help keep the CF clean
Meet at the Nature Center

#### **2019 SAS Photography Show**

"Celebrating the Celery Fields"



## Call for SAS Members for our February 2019 Photography Show

If you are a member of Sarasota Audubon who is a photographer and are interested in participating in our February 2019 Photography Show at the Nature Center, we invite you to print out, complete, and send us the "Show Entry/Prospectus Form".

**CLICK --> Show Entry/Prospectus Form** 

## The deadline to participate is December 1, 2018

All photographs should be originals and they must be framed, gallery wrapped, or aluminum printed and able to be hung on hooks. Information regarding our frame and hanging specifications is on the entry/prospectus (see link above).

For questions or additional information, please contact us at: **SAS.Art.Committee@gmail.com** 

Sue Herring, Chair - SAS Art Committee

of the Royal Society in London and the Académie des Sciences in Paris. As Wulf writes, "In North America, his name still graces four counties, thirteen towns, a river, parks, bays, lakes, and mountains". And of course, the Humboldt Current which he discovered by constantly taking the water temperature on a voyage from Guayaquil in Ecuador to Acapulco, Mexico. Wulf's book has reinstated Humboldt to his rightful place in the world of environmental science.

From the time he was born to wealthy, ennobled parents, Alexander von Humboldt exhibited a restless and inquisitive nature. After attending university, he was compelled by his mother to take up a respectable profession. Although he loathed the idea, he subsequently became an inspector of mines which enabled him to study geology. During that time in Europe, wealthy gentlemen (mostly), pursued their passion of studying the natural sciences. Humboldt was no exception. He was interested in botany, astronomy, geology, climate, volcanoes, earthquakes, tides, currents-you name it. He went from one to the other with dizzying speed and competence, often studying several different branches of science at once and reading several tomes and books at the same time.

After the death of his mother (his father had already died), and due to a substantial inheritance, he was able to follow his dream of exploration and immediately began to plan a voyage of discovery. He hit upon South America with the plan of finding out whether the great Orinoco River in Venezuela was connected in some way to the Amazon. After his many adventures on the Orinoco expedition, he journeyed over the Andes determined to climb Chimborazo in Ecuador, the peak believed to be the highest in the world at that time. He recorded the height he reached at 19,413 feet, just 1,000 feet below the summit. Why did this intrepid and fearless explorer stop there? A gigantic crevasse of hundreds of feet stopped him and his two companions!

Humboldt observed everything around him: agricultural practices, indigenous cultures, regional economies, populations, the interaction of humans, plants, and animals, shipping timetables, and the impact of Spanish colonialization. He had a deep and abiding detestation of slavery after seeing how slaves were treated. Upon observing the destruction of forests to provide timber for Spain, and Spain's endless exploitation of natural resources, he came to the realization that humans were destroying the environment and that colonialization was evil. The thinking at that time was that forests and rivers had to be tamed and existed just for human use. He was the first person to describe the cause of humaninduced climate change. Humboldt was one of the very earliest environmentalists!

One of Humboldt's greatest contributions to knowledge of the natural world was "connection". He found plants on the slopes of the Andes that were similar to those in the Alps, he noted others at certain

#### Call for SAS Members to Display and Sell Their Artwork / Photography at the Nature Center



If you are a member of Sarasota Audubon who is an artist or photographer and might be interested in displaying and selling your artwork at the Nature Center, we invite you to print out, complete, and send the "Artist Request to Display and Sell" form.

#### CLICK --> Artist Request to Display and Sell

We are looking to showcase one or two members' artworks or photographs for up to 8 weeks in the months of November, December, January, April, and May.

For questions or additional information, please contact us at: <u>SAS.Art.Committee@gmail.com</u>

Sue Herring, Chair - SAS Art Committee



#### New Artist - Jill Mudge

Jill Mudge is a newer member of SAS and an active photographer who has recently relocated from New Hampshire where she had a photo business teaching workshops to children and adults. She also partnered with Hospice to work with teens who'd lost parents in "expressing grief through the lens". Jill's framed photos will be on display in November and December.

altitudes that were similar to those in Canada or England and observed similarities of geological formations across continents. There were connections everywhere. No longer were countries and continents just isolated land masses. In Humboldt's mind the beginnings of evolutionary theory were stirring.

Another contribution (there were so many) was his invention of the isotherm-"the lines on weather maps that connect geographical points around the globe that are experiencing the same temperature".

Humboldt also debunked the myth of the "noble savage". In his observations, he could see that native people had the same intelligence as Europeans. They had the same understanding of sophisticated concepts, such as the future; they simply applied their intellect and knowledge in different ways.

On his way back to Europe, Humboldt visited Jefferson. They immediately hit it off. Jefferson was particularly interested in the statistics that Humboldt had accumulated about South America. Jefferson's fear was that if ever the Spanish colonies effected a successful revolution and united, it would not bode well for America's trading economy.

Humboldt was also lyrical in his writing. In addition to providing all sorts of scientific data, he wrote about the beauty of nature, the power of earthquakes and volcanoes, the majesty of peaks and rivers. This was a way of feeling and sensing nature, an antidote, if you like, to the way that Carl Linnaeus and René Descartes had reduced their observations of nature to "classification or mathematical abstractions". His writings inspired Darwin, Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Goethe, among others.

When he returned to Europe, he was feted and revered, receiving visits from luminaries of the European scientific community (including the geologist, Charles Lyell, a colleague of Darwin), nobility and the great and good. He began to write up the findings of his Latin American journeys ultimately publishing them in a 34-volume work: Voyage to the Equinoctial Regions of the New Continent-whew! With having to pay engravers, researchers, printers and publishers, most of his fortune had dwindled. Nevertheless, for the next twenty years, he lived and worked in Paris, paying attention to his publications and petitioning the East India Company in London to visit India. He wanted desperately to see and measure aspects of the Himalayas. However, due to his wellknown views on colonialization, the Company refused to give him permission. In 1827, he returned to Berlin where he was obliged to become a courtier to Friedrich Wilhelm III. In spite of his distaste for court life, he was able to secure funds from Friedrich to establish departments and laboratories in the University of Berlin (founded incidentally by his brother Wilhelm in 1810) and to give wildly popular lectures. He also organized some of the first scientific conventions, inviting scientists from all over Germany to share their knowledge.

We invite you to come in and take a look.

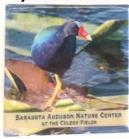
#### \* NEW GIFT SHOP PRODUCTS \*



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SAS Frig Magnets

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# YOUR ANNUAL 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

#### Don't Know if You Renewed?

Check with Lynn Jakubowicz, our Membership Chairperson, email:

membership@sarasotaaudubon.org

Humboldt's desire to visit the Himalayas was so that he could compare them to the Andes and make the connection that he felt existed. Because he was denied access to India, he was overjoyed to receive an all expenses paid invitation from Tsar Nicholas I to explore the Asian part of Russia to evaluate platinum and gold deposits. This was Humboldt's last great expedition and he made the most of it. The Tsar was interested in exploiting the newly-found minerals in Siberia; Humboldt was less interested in the mining of minerals for commerce, but he predicted and discovered diamonds in the Urals. He returned to St. Petersburg with numerous specimens of plants and rocks, and countless readings on temperature, altitude (of the Altai Mountains), water levels, and seismic motions.

Upon his return to Berlin, where he spent the rest of his life, his theories of global climates and vegetation zones became more keenly formulated and laid the foundation for the momentous work of Darwin and other evolutionary theorists. On Darwin's voyage in the Beagle, his copy of Humboldt's Personal Narrative (part of the 34-volume opus) was consulted constantly and annotated avidly. Humboldt showed Darwin how to investigate the natural world and how to record it, both scientifically and from a personal point of view by describing his sensations. When Darwin's Voyage of the Beagle was published in 1839, he sent a copy to Humboldt who read every single word and responded in detail and with great praise. Humboldt recognized a kindred spirit and could see the future.

After the Russian expedition, at the age of 61, Humboldt returned to Berlin. With various forays to Paris and London, and through prodigious correspondence, he was able to keep up with scientists and collectors from all over the world. And now he was ready for his final opus, Cosmos. He wanted to collect all the knowledge of the natural world into multi volumes. "....he sought to unify diverse branches of scientific knowledge and culture. This important work also motivated a holistic perception of the universe as one interacting entity" (Wikipedia). As they were published (1845-1847), the volumes became instant best sellers. At that time, Humboldt was a rock star. It is hard to understand how he faded into the background. In The Invention of Nature, Wulf has helped to resurrect Humboldt's genius and stature.

Jeanne Dubi, October 2018



Help support our Sarasota Audubon Society when you shop at Amazon:

**CLICK FOR DETAILS** 

## 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



At the Sarasota Audubon Society 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

\*\*\*\*\*\*

## CAN VOLUNTEERING FIGHT DEMENTIA?

## INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM?

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator:
Marcy Packer packmw@aol.com

SARASOTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS



#### **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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**CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site** 

Marcy Packer, editor editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

### 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** 

## **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, FI 34240.



#### 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!



Submissions, comments and questions always welcome

Send to: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

