



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2019

MONTHLY MEETING Monday, November 11th



THE SECRET LIFE OF BATS

Explore the fascinating and mysterious life of bats
with Joshua Schulte, Associate Professor, Natural
Sciences State College of Florida

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
SCHEDULE](#)

SAS ACTIVITIES



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

Click Through This Issue!

- :: MONTHLY MEETING
- :: SAS 2019-20 SCHEDULE
- :: SAS ACTIVITIES
- :: CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS
- :: FOR THE BIRDS
- :: SAS COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS
- :: SUBMIT AN ARTICLE
- :: WRITE THE EDITOR
- :: BIRD RECORDER
- :: SAS GIFT SHOP
- :: SPOONBILL CLUB
- :: SAS WEB SITE

LOOK WHO SHOWED UP AT THE NC?



**Folks are flocking to see the Yellow-headed Blackbird at the SAS
Nature Center!**

**This is the third occurrence at the Celery Fields for this western
vagrant and first time at the Nature Center feeders.**

TRIP REPORT



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.

Wednesday, November 6th SIESTA KEY SHOREBIRDS

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

Sunday, Nov 10th LONGBOAT KEY SHOREBIRDS

8:00am. Meet at Broadway beach access north end of LBK. 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

Nov 25, 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

Nov 9, 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

BOARDWALKS

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

ROBINSON PRESERVE - October 29, 2019

Eleven participants joined John Ginaven and me for a walk at Manatee County's Robinson Preserve. Our rescheduling of the walk from mid- to late-October seemed to pay off as we enjoyed a 50% increase in the number of species on our bird list compared to last year. Another comparison: Ten warbler species on this walk compared to one on last year's walk.

Weather was clear and warm with very little breeze, mosquitoes an issue for us in the wooded areas. We concentrated on the 'central east' portion of the preserve, basically walking from the main entrance to the new NEST center, then back along 99th Street, i.e. not reaching the bay or bayou coastline. Activity level was high befitting the late October migratory bonanza which has delighted gulf coast birds.

The avian highlight was a very cooperative adult Sharp-shinned Hawk which perched high in a leafless tree for more than 10 minutes for scope views. SSHAs have become quite rare locally, seemingly run off by their larger Accipiter cousins, Cooper's Hawk. When our bird eventually flew off, it demonstrated the quick, wrist-flicking wingbeats that help separate it from COHA.

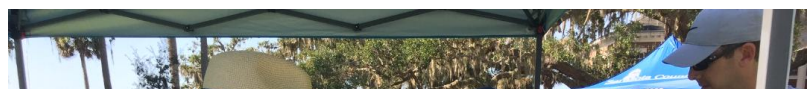
Herp enthusiasts were treated to killer views of a Black Racer resting on a low tree limb then, later in the morning, an adult Red-shouldered Hawk pouncing on a 15" snake (sp undetermined), carrying it to the top of a pole, and devouring it with a finishing slurp.

[CLICK --> TRIP BIRD LIST](#)

Stu Wilson



On November 2nd, Sarasota Audubon participated in the Wild About Nature event sponsored by the Conservation Foundation at Bay Preserve in Osprey.



from 8:30am - 10:30am.

CELERY FIELDS CLEANUPS

Help keep Palmer blvd and our area trash free!

Wednesdays at 9:00am: Nov 13, Jan 15, Mar 11 & Apr 15

SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY

Deep Sky Observers www.lgdso.com will set up telescopes at the Nature Center for star and planet gazing! Saturdays: December 7th, 5:30pm & February 29th, 6:30pm

VOLUNTEER FOR SAS

Saturdays, December 14th & February 8th, 10:00am-12:00pm at the Nature Center. Learn about volunteer opportunities with SAS and how to apply.

volunteer@sarasotaudubon.org

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

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

volunteer@sarasotaudubon.org

GARDEN WORKDAYS

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

volunteer@sarasotaudubon.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Saturday, January 4

SAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

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 birdsrq@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



Photograph by Karen Willey

Kids created a "Gift for the birds". They planted wildflower seeds in egg cups which they will take home and put in their own gardens.

Thanks to all the SAS volunteers who staffed our table!

Florida Birding and Nature Festival



This year the Florida Birding and Nature Festival was organized by Tampa Audubon Society and held in Brandon, Hillsborough County.

As keynote speaker, Ken Kaufman, author of 'Kingbird Highway' and several excellent Field Guides, requested to lead a trip to the Celery Fields. This trip took place on October 20th and was for subscribed participants of the Festival.

SAS members, Jeanne Dubi, Kathryn Young and Glynnis Thomas co-lead the trip, which was a great success. Following this, the indications are that Ken will come back next year and lead a trip for SAS members.



Photograph by Betty Neupert

SAS WORKSHOP

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**

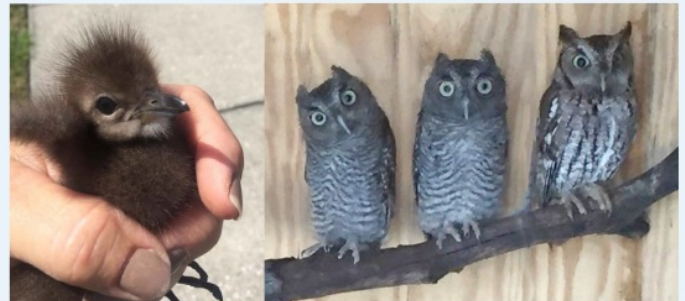
[CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE](#)

[CLASS REGISTRATION](#)

Questions? Contact: Kathryn Young
kathwren4@gmail.com



WILDLIFE RESCUE



**Saturday, Nov 16
1:30 PM**

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

Pam Defouw will present the important work the Wildlife Center of Venice does in rescuing, healing and rehabilitating injured wildlife. The center includes a wildlife hospital, hutches, barns, habitats, an aviary and a pond. Pam and her team will have examples of rescue stations set up to demonstrate how rescues are performed. Children welcome!

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

For more information contact:
Doug Janson
doug.jj@gmail.com



**Registration for all SAS classes and events must be completed
ONLINE at the SAS web site.**

Here are links to register:

[REGISTER CLASSES -----> CLICK](#)
[REGISTER SPECIAL EVENTS --> CLICK](#)

SONS OF EINSTEIN - Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)



It was with such deep regret that I, along with everyone else, I guess, learned of the recent dismantling of the barn on Center Road on the east side of Celery Hill, that has been the home of generations of Barn Owls, for as long as many of us can remember.

The Center Rd Barn Owl was first sighted by Jeff Palmer in 2001, and was known to, and named Einstein, by former residents (now long gone), before that.

My own memories of this bird are as long as my association with Sarasota. In fact my life Barn Owl was at that very barn, a dusky evening in August 2002. We watched the ghostly white silhouette emerge from the side of the barn and float over the area where the hill now is. Since then I've had many better views of Barn Owls, both in the UK and in the USA, but nothing quite matches the memory of that first sighting.

My acquaintance with Einstein did not end there. On Christmas bird count days we would be up at 4 a.m., Celery Fields being the first port of call, trying to get the Barn Owl on our list for the day. One year, when I was dropped off at the old gazebo, on an elevated mound to the west of where the Nature Center now stands, while Jeanne Dubi patrolled the surrounding roads, I heard that piercing screech before I saw the ghostly form flying by. And what an eerie, unearthly sound it is. No wonder that it evoked in folk in more superstitious times, thoughts of ghosts and vampires. On another occasion, standing outside the barn, we heard the clearly audible hissing of hungry chicks, presumably at the arrival of an adult bird.

In 2018, still at the 4 a.m. CBC early shift, I had tramped down Center Rd, along Palmer near the Big Cat Habitat, where one had been reported several days earlier and finally up the eastern side of Celery Hill. Going uphill in the dark was interesting. I had no flashlight. Half way up I saw a tall shape silhouetted against the skyline. Was it a tree or post....or even a human being? It was perfectly still. As I got closer I could discern it was the latter, a tall male figure. I felt a little frisson of fear. What was this person doing there? As I got closer I noticed the man, still not moving, was gazing intently at the Barn Owl barn. So another CBC counter! Well, that was the first year we didn't see the Barn Owl on the CBC count, although it was seen on subsequent days.

So back in 2000 or earlier, the Barn Owl, known as Einstein, lived in the barn at Center Rd. Even then the barn was in a very dilapidated condition perfect actually for this bird. As the years



MEMBER CRAFT FAIR AND SALE

CALLING SAS MEMBER CRAFTERS - We will be holding our first member Craft Fair & Sale on Saturday morning, December 7, 2019, from 9 AM to 1 PM. An official announcement will be sent out again in the next week or so with details and sign-up information.

2020 MEMBER FINE ARTS & PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

This season we will be holding a combined Fine Arts & Photo Show in February 2020 with a theme to be announced. A request for artists and photographers will be sent out in early November with details and sign-up information.



CELERY FIELDS CLEANUP

November 13th

9:00am

Meet at the Nature Center

Contact: Joanna Bear jbear0822@aol.com



NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

October Rarities 2019

Thanks to Tropical Storm Hestor we experienced a good fallout of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Eastern Wood-Pewees & Acadian Flycatchers. These species have been seen in many locations.

Siesta Beach

- Philadelphia Vireo
- Whimbrel
- Elegant/ Cayenne Tern
- Black Tern
- Yellow Warbler
- Least Flycatcher

unimpaired condition, perfect actually, for this bird as the years went by all the subsequent generations of Barn Owls at that site seemed to merge into one, as though it was the same bird getting older and older. I subsequently found that, according to a British study based on 8,000 band recoveries, a typical life span for a wild Barn Owl that reaches maturity, is only about 4 years old. This means that following first sightings from around 2000 there have been at least 5 or 6 generations of Barn Owls at that site, the current bird being son of, son of, son of, son of, son of Einstein.

We hope and pray that the Barn Owls will find another home, preferably in the vicinity and even more preferably in one of the barn owl boxes SAS has erected at the Celery Fields site.

But whichever way we look at it, it is the end of an era.

Glynnis Thomas

2019 BIG SIT RESULTS October 13, 2019



Photograph by Jerry Barrack

On a warm to hot, mostly clear, and occasionally breezy fall day, 18 volunteer "sitters" spread over three shifts helped "Celery Fields Forever," Sarasota Audubon Society's Big Sit team, observe birds for nearly 13 hours (6:45am to 7:15pm) from the confines of our 17-ft diameter circle at the end of the Palmer Blvd Boardwalk at Celery Fields. The result was an even sixty species, a bit off our record-setting 66 species pace from last year, and a hair below our 7-year running average of 61 species.

The first shift (dawn to 11:00am) started with a bang with 55 species (a first-shift record) including several feeding Indigo Buntings (see below), but we were unable to maintain that momentum through the second (11:00am to 3:00pm) and third (3:00pm to dusk) shifts, with the second shift added just two new species (Northern Harrier and American Kestrel) and the third shift three (White-winged Dove, Chimney Swift, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow). Although it was an enjoyable day, the late burst we were hoping for never fully materialized.

Shift stats:

First: 55 spp (53 spp last year)

Second: 35 spp (44 spp last year)

Third: 46 spp (58 spp last year)

I've submitted our results to Big Sit Central and, despite a rather average showing (for us), at press time with about one-third of the 156 registered nationwide circles reporting in, Celery Fields Forever stands as the top Sit in Florida and fourth nationwide!

My thanks to all who participated, including co-captain Nancy Edmondson, the reliable Chase Bonanno, and Rick "Anchorman" Greenspun- the White-winged Dove Whisperer.

[CLICK ----> COMPLETE BIG SIT LIST](#)

- Franklin's Gull
- Broad-winged Hawk (Glebe Park)
- Short-tailed Hawk (Glebe Park) also Red Bug Slough

Pinecraft Park

- Broad-winged Hawk
- Least Flycatcher
- Black-whiskered Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Prothonotary Warbler

Leffis Key (Manatee)

- Cape May Warbler
- Philadelphia Vireo
- Yellow-throated Vireo
- Least Flycatcher

Celery Fields

- Bronzed Cowbird
- Yellow Warbler
- Solitary Sandpiper

Crowley Nature Center

- Hermit Thrush (also seen at Lido)
- Dickcissel

Bay Street Park, Osprey

- Solitary Sandpiper

Palmer Lake

- Wilson's Phalarope
- American Wigeon
- White-rumped Sandpiper

Bee Ridge & Beneva

- Golden-winged Warbler
- Dickcissel

Claire Herzog



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](#)

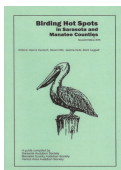




Help support our Sarasota Audubon Society when you shop at Amazon:
[CLICK FOR DETAILS](#)

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, FL 34232-0337. Hot Spots is also available at Environers, Book Store 1, Selby Gardens, Historic Spanish Point, Oscar Scherer State Park and Myakka River State Park.



Our Friends at Birds of Paradise Need Our Help



Good morning from Birds of Paradise. 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, even with a cash offer at their asking price. We were in negotiations with the property owners for three months, arrived at an agreed upon price, but they refuse to sell. They also refuse to extend our lease, so that leaves us trying to find a new home for these precious birds. This leaves 350 birds without a home come December. Needless to say we are devastated.

Thanks to our generous donors, volunteers and friends, we have made thousands of dollars of improvements and a beautiful sanctuary for these birds. We intend to move the aviaries to a new location, but this will take much manpower as well as a lot of money. I am asking, begging all of you to 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>

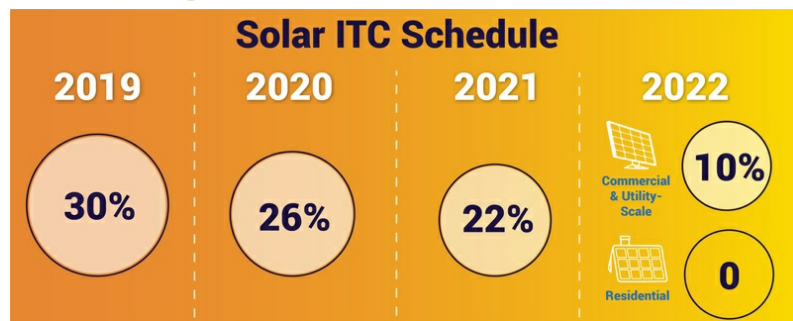
SARASOTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

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

Help defend the Solar ITC!



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. We've been told by numerous clients that the ITC has made the difference, financially, in their ability to move forward on their solar projects.

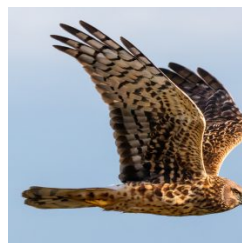
Despite this, the ITC is currently scheduled to begin stepping down at the end of 2019, with the tax credit completely eliminated for residential solar customers by 2022. The good news is bipartisan legislation has been introduced that calls for a five-year extension of the solar ITC.

WE NEED YOU to urge your federal representatives to co-sponsor this bill and ensure the solar ITC is extended before the end of the year.

[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.

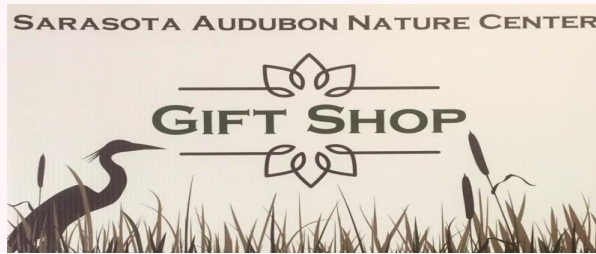
Contact us at:
info@brillantharvest.com (941) 359-3700



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](#)



that gives back.

[CLICK TO ORDER - BRICK ORDER FORM](#)

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!

YOUR ANNUAL SAS MEMBERSHIP!



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

\$30.00 per member/family

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



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

Write An Article!



**Submissions, comments and questions
always welcome**

Send to: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

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



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](#)

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.



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

[CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site](#)



Like us on
facebook®

[Click here](#)