



THE BROWN PELICAN

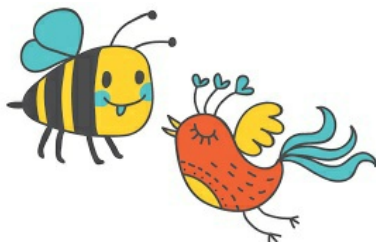
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 2018

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, April 9th

THE BIRDS AND THE BEES



Mark Browning will discuss BIRDS - the Florida Barn Owl and BEES - the impact of Africanized bees on Florida bird species

Social Hour: 6:30pm

Business Meeting: 7:00pm

Presentation: 7:30pm

Space will be limited, so get there early.

First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, 1031 S. Euclid, 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](#)



The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center

Open daily 9:00am-1:00pm

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SAS is phasing out our Post Office Box address in a few months.
Effective immediately, please update your address books:

Sarasota Audubon Society
999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240



FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

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

Thursday, April 5: OSCAR SCHERER PARK
8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8am - park fee). Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Saturday, April 7: VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION
***** MOVED TO APRIL 18th *****

Tuesday, April 10: CELERY FIELDS CLEANUP
8:00am. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot (999 Center Road). Coordinator: Joanna Bear, jbear0822@aol.com

Thursday, April 12: OSCAR SCHERER PARK
8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8am - park fee). Alternating leaders: Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Saturday, April 14: 2nd SATURDAY CF WALK
8:00am. Join some of our best birders on the 2nd Saturday of each month from November through April as we explore the great variety of habitats and birds found in the Celery Fields. Meet at the SAS Nature Center.

Tuesday, April 17: FORT DESOTO
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.**


Wednesday, April 18:
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION
6:00pm - 8:00pm. All SAS volunteers invited. In appreciation for all your contributions to Sarasota Audubon please join us as we celebrate another wonderful year.
PLEASE RSVP TO: Marcy Packer (packmw@aol.com)

Saturday, April 21: PINECRAFT PARK
8:00am. Meet in the parking lot of Pinecraft Park, 1420 Gilbert Ave, off Bahia Vista. Leaders: Edith Miller (941-364-3637), Soo and Flip Harrington.

Wednesday, April 25: CRITTER SURVEY AT THE NATURE CENTER
10:00am. We will do a bio-blitz to see what critters, from insects to birds, find a home in the gardens at the Nature Center. 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).

Saturday, May 19: SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY
8:15pm. The Deep-Sky Observers will once again set up their telescopes at the Nature Center parking lot for wonderful star gazing.

CELERY FIELDS CLEANUP



Tuesday, April 10th - 8:00am

Meet in the SAS Nature Center parking lot

Join our Coordinator, Joanna Bear and help keep our Celery Fields beautiful. Come be part of this team of dedicated volunteers who participate in our Celery Fields Cleanup

For questions email: jbear0822@aol.com

SAS CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS





VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

April 18th
6:00pm - 8:00pm
SAS Nature Center


We value all of our wonderful volunteers and want to show our thanks and appreciation for your tremendous contributions to the Sarasota Audubon Society.

Please join us for light fare and refreshments as we celebrate another wonderful year.

ALL SAS VOLUNTEERS ARE INVITED

PLEASE RSVP TO: packmw@aol.com


HONORING JEANNE DUBI



Commemorative Brick

A commemorative brick was created and donated by the Sarasota Audubon Society Board of Directors honoring Jeanne Dubi for her tireless work in creating our Celery Fields Nature Center.

The brick has a place of honor in our garden patio .



Award of Excellence

It turned out to be a week of well deserved honors for Jeanne as she also received the 'Award of Excellence' from the Caledonian Club of Florida West at their annual Thistle Ball.

SAVE THE DATE!

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

THE VALUE OF INSECTS - Saturday, April 7

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.

PURPLE MARTINS - Saturday, April 21

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

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**

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

TRIP REPORTS



CAREFREE LEARNER - ROBERTS BAY ROOKERY - MARCH 19, 2018

The Carefree Learner headed into Sarasota Bay to see the spring mating of so many wading birds and Cormorants on Roberts Bay Rookery Island with the commentary provided by Ann Paul, from the Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries of Florida Audubon.

It was a nesting convention out there. The Great Blue Heron appeared to be the furthest along with sizable young begging for more food to be delivered.

Brown Pelicans, Cormorants and Snowy Egrets were sitting on nests, and the Roseate Spoonbills were collecting nesting material.

The newest to arrive was the Black-crowned Night-Heron, checking out where the best nesting spot should be. A lone Reddish Egret was waiting for a mate. A raft of Red Breasted Mergansers and Lesser Scaup were floating by the new construction on Siesta Key.



Photograph by Harma Nyhof

Florida Wildlife Commission has recently recognized Roberts Bay Rookery as an Important Bird Site and will be establishing greater boat boundaries with signage.

Cathy Davis

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SARASOTA COUNTY PRESENTS



Be The One

MAY 1st - MAY 2nd
Noon - Noon

Once again the Sarasota Audubon Society is honored to participate in the 2018 Giving Challenge.

Stay Tuned.....

More information to come on how you can participate and help Sarasota Audubon.



**YES, OUR BROWN PELICAN NEWSLETTER
IS GOING GREEN
ALL THE WAY!**

**BEGINNING WITH OUR SEPTEMBER 2018 ISSUE WE WILL
NO LONGER MAIL PAPER COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER.
THE BROWN PELICAN WILL BE AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC
FORMAT ONLY AND WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY TO YOUR EMAIL
ADDRESS.**

**IF YOU ARE RECEIVING ONLY THE PAPER COPY PLEASE LET US
KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO YOU WON'T MISS A COPY.
SEND EMAIL TO: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org**

WHY ARE WE MAKING THIS CHANGE?

The Sarasota Audubon Society strives to be a model conservation organization and a positive steward of the earth. That means that we want to make as small of a footprint on the earth as we can and utilize as little natural resources as possible. At the present time, we mail over 500 paper copies of the newsletter to some of our members. Think of how many trees it takes to make that happen on a yearly basis (10 issues x 500+ copies x 2 pages each plus 500+ envelopes!)

LONGBOAT KEY & LEFFIS KEY - March 27, 2018

On a clear but breezy day, at least thirty-two (32) enthusiasts joined John Ginaven and me for the North Longboat Key and Leffis Key Walk. We met at the Broadway Beach access on Longboat Key at 8:00am, spent 75 minutes exploring Whitney Beach, then transferred to Leffis Key and worked that patch before wrapping things up at 11:00am.

Highlights were almost entirely restricted to Whitney Beach: an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, a flock of 25 federally-endangered Red Knot, an adult American Oystercatcher, and a sub-adult Northern Gannet not too far out on the gulf. Leffis Key, sure to be buzzing in two weeks with migrant activity, was quiet today, the 20 mph east winds not helping any.

[CLICK FOR FULL BIRD LIST](#)

Stu Wilson

2018 AUDUBON FLORIDA

BEACH NESTING BIRD STEWARDSHIP AND TRAINING



It is that time again!

Please join Audubon Florida for the upcoming stewardship training and orientation!

This event is for new stewards, past stewards and those interested in learning more about the program in general. Topics covered will include: dogs on the beach, kites and other toys, wildlife violations, and how to strike up an educational conversation.

Our stewardship coordinator for this season is Kylie Wilson, and she will be attending the training session to meet everyone!

Lido Key Training: April 28th, 8:00am - 10:00 am

This training will focus on stewardship for the Black Skimmer colony. Meet at the public beach located in front of the Holiday Inn - this is the location of last year's colony.

You are strongly encouraged to attend! Stewards will be able to meet their coordinator, learn more about interacting with the public, and explore the educational materials we use. You will also be able to pick up your 2018 t-shirt, which are reserved for stewards that can commit to at least two shifts. You will also be able to ask questions and meet the regional FWC shorebird biologist, Morgan Parks.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may be interested in learning more about the bird stewardship program

You can also find the Facebook events on the Sarasota-Manatee Bird Stewards Facebook page.

Holley Short

Project Manager, Bird Monitoring & Stewardship, Audubon Florida
(352) 455-8993

If you have never seen our electronic Brown Pelican Newsletter it is a real step up. Not only does it have significantly more content, it is in glorious color and has direct links to other sites, photos, videos and documents.

Please send us your email address so we can convert you to our electronic newsletter NOW before the September 2018 issue.

Send to: editor@sarasotaudubon.org



**Goodbye Paper,
Hello Green!**



Birds of the Month



In Praise of Pumpers and Rumpers!

The other day I was having breakfast at that wonderful Gulf Drive Cafe on Anna Maria Island, when I saw a single bright yellowish bird with a rusty head and a broad eyebrow hopping around in the sand under the tables. It was of course a Palm Warbler, a bird we see more-or-less everywhere we go during the winter months in Florida. The difference was that this little guy was getting into its breeding plumage and a more attractive bird it would be difficult to find. Its lines were crisp, its throat and under tail coverts were bright yellow, and its wide, prominent super cilium gave it a most handsome look.

This extremely common winter visitor throughout Florida, present from September/October to May, can be found in almost any habitat, from open hardwood and pine forests, marshes, prairies, coastal strands, cultivated fields, roadsides, parks and yards. However, I believe this was the first time I'd seen a Palm Warbler stealing crumbs, sparrow-style, from under cafe tables!

In winter any dull-colored brownish bird that bobs its tail continually, foraging on the ground, is likely to be a Palm Warbler (Pumper). This can be confirmed by its most familiar call, a weak 'tsip'. In winter it tends to associate with other species of warbler, most often, the Yellow-rumped. These two warblers are so frequently seen that it is easy to take them for granted. However when they arrive in September, it's always a joy to see them. On winter days when not much is around, they enliven our birding walks. And when we see them, there is always the hope that other warblers may be keeping company, maybe a Yellow-throated Warbler, a Prairie or even a Pine.

The Yellow-rumped Warbler, alias, Rumper or Butterbutt, also brightens things up for us during a Florida winter. Its name is wholly appropriate as under the right circumstances its bright yellow rump stands out like a beacon. Although often seen in the same habitat as the Palm Warbler, the Yellow-rumped Warbler usually feeds in trees and bushes, where its call notes (louder and crisper than the Pumpers') can be clearly heard even when the birds are tantalizingly hard to see.

The species' departure date is generally the first week in June and they will not return until October, and according to 'The Birdlife of Florida' by Anderson and Stevenson this bird makes up 85-95% of all wintering warblers. And of course the bird we most frequently see is the sub-species 'Myrtle', *Dendroica coronata*.

For a long time the debate about whether the Yellow-rumped Warbler would be split again raged on. For most of the last century it was considered to be two species, the Myrtle Warbler of the east, and the Audubon's Warbler of the west. But in 1973 they were lumped together on the basis that the two species hybridized in a narrow zone in western Canada. Since then extensive DNA evidence emerged suggesting that Myrtle's and Audubon's are indeed separate species, and so is a third, isolated form known as Goldman's Warbler that is almost entirely restricted to Guatemala. A fourth form known as the Black-fronted Warbler lives in the mountains of Mexico but its species status was more debatable. The birding world held its breath for a long time while the debate raged but finally the American Ornithological Society (AOS) in 2017 voted against the proposal to split by a vote of 7-4 until further genetic analysis and determination of the extent of interbreeding in the subspecies' contact zones. However if I go to Guatemala or Mexico I might just try to see these subspecies in anticipation of a possible 'armchair twitch' in years to come.

Meanwhile let's enjoy and appreciate our Pumpers and Rumpers for the next few months and watch them change into their beautiful breeding plumage. They'll soon be gone till the Autumn!

Glynnis Thomas

Kylie Wilson

Shorebird Monitoring & Stewardship, Audubon Florida

Sarasota Program Coordinator

(941) 266 - 5407

kwilson@audubon.org



NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

Here are the March 2018 sightings:

- **Bronzed Cowbird:** Celery Fields
- **American Redstart:** Crowley Nature Center, walk with S. Wilcox
- **Blue Grosbeak:** Oscar Scherer State Park
- **Western Tanager:** J. Hooch, Selby Gardens & A. Hull, Burke St.
- **Chimney Swift:** M. Grochowski, Colonial Oaks Park & R. Greenspun, home
- **Brown Booby:** A. Yoder, Phillipi Estate Park
- **Cliff Swallow:** R. Greenspun & K. Young, Laurel Oaks Country Club
- **Nashville Warbler:** N. & A. Kearns, Oscar Scherer State Park
- **Swainson's Warbler:** Perry, Pinecraft Park

Claire Herzog



SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

JEANNE DUBI SCHOLARSHIP



The Jeanne Dubi Scholarship is available for Sarasota High School students who plan on pursuing a college education in the area of environmental sciences.

Any eligible student can apply.

If you would like more information please contact:
Jeanne Dubi dubi@comcast.net

DEEP HOLE



Photograph by Marcy Packer

Just four of us took this wonderful trip into a place called 'Deep Hole' in the heart of Myakka River State Park. It was a perfect morning, a little chilly to start but we were well prepared. You can only get to Deep Hole by special arrangement as the park only allows 35 visitors per day. Because we were only four we not only got to ride in Ranger, Mike Stanfield's truck but we got to ride in the truck versus in the back - a real bonus.

We saw a lot of nice birds (36 species)

including 20 Black-necked Stilt, 16 American Avocet, a Peregrine Falcon, both species of Yellowlegs, 3 Meadowlarks, two Caspian Terns and 43 soaring White Pelicans. Needless to say we saw lots and lots of alligators up close and personal, as well as a number of wild pigs.

Ranger Mike was a great guide and pointed out many of the native plants as well as birds.

Many thanks to Marilyn Schmal for helping to did Ranger Mike's truck out of the sand and especially to Harma Nyhof for arranging such a lovely trip.

Glynnis Thomas



Photograph by Marcy Packer

ARTISTS ON DISPLAY AT THE NC

We have two artists displaying and selling their artwork and photographs at the SAS Nature Center during the months of April and May.

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 had lost parents in "expressing grief through the lens".

Diane Wallace is a fine artist and active SAS member who enjoys creating beautiful watercolors of the local flora and fauna. Diane previously exhibited two of her artworks in our SAS member Wild About Art Show in February.

Sue Herring

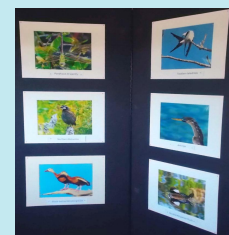
On Display

Dan and Cindy Olson began birding with Jeanne Dubi and became wonderful photographers of Sarasota birds. Their photographs in "SRQ Bird Alerts" of early morning flora and fauna at Oscar Scherer Park are breathtaking. The show of their photography at the Celery Fields Nature Center will run until the end of May, 2018.

Sara King



Diane Wallace



Photograph by Sara King

SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY



Our annual appeal is in full swing. If you have not already sent your contribution please consider doing it now.

CLICK ---> MAKE YOUR DONATION

You can also mail a check (made out to SAS) and please specify that it is for the 'Annual Appeal' ...send to:

Sarasota Audubon Society, 999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Thank you for your generous donations!

Sarasota Audubon would like to thank:

Total Landscape Supply Company

for their donation of garden rocks that are used to identify all the Florida friendly plants in our beautiful gardens

Total Landscape Supply Company

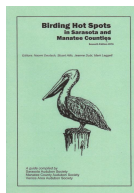
2165 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34234
941-955-4737



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



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) and 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!

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 HERE TO ORDER ONLINE - BRICK ORDER FORM](#)

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



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

NAME BADGES

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

RENEW

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



We have a wonderful assortment of birding
and nature gifts:

- *Bird books*
- *Folding Bird Guides*
- *Binocular Harnesses*
- *Tote Bags*
- *Water Bottles*
- *T-shirts*
- *Hat / Vest Pins*
- *Charley Harper Puzzles*
- *Earrings*
- *Note Cards*
- *Educational and Fun Items for Kids*

...and much much more!

Please visit us for all things pertaining to birding and
nature at our beloved Celery Fields. All profits benefit our
SAS Nature Center

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



SAS continues to be a volunteer run organization. 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.

Here are a few areas where we need some help:

WORKSHOP MANAGER - lead the Workshop team
coordinating 4-5 workshops per year held at the
SAS Nature Center. Email Kathryn Young for more
information: kathwren4@gmail.com

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.



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

[CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site](#)

Marcy Packer, editor

editor@sarasotaudubon.org

Other areas that can always use more volunteers:

- SAS Nature Center Docent
- Celery Fields Bird Naturalist
- Garden Maintenance

INTERESTED????

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



**Submissions, comments and questions always
welcome**

Send to: editor@sarasotaudubon.org



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facebook®

[Click here](#)