



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

JANUARY 2018



The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center

Open daily 9:00am-1:00pm

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, January 8th

CLIMATE SCIENCE AND SOLUTIONS



Dr. David Hastings, Professor of Marine Science and Chemistry at Eckerd College will attempt to answer the question:

Is it too late for Coastal Florida?

Social Hour: 6:30pm

Business Meeting: 7:00pm

Presentation: 7:30pm

Monthly meetings are held at the First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall, 1031 South Euclid Ave., Sarasota

[CLICK FOR SCHEDULE OF MONTHLY MEETINGS](#)

Pre-monthly Meeting Dinner

Gecko's Restaurant, 1900 Hillview Avenue at 5:00pm.

All members welcome!

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SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

PRESENTS:

WILD ABOUT ART SHOW

FEBRUARY 1 - 28 2018

SAS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

2017-2018



[CLICK HERE](#)

FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

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

Thursday, January 4: OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8am - park fee). This activity will meet every Thursday from October 19th through April 12th. Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Tuesday, January 9: CELERY FIELDS CLEANUP

8:00am. Meet in the SAS Nature Center parking lot (999 Center Road). Leader: Joanna Bear jbear0822@aol.com

Thursday, January 11: OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8am - park fee). This activity will meet every Thursday from October 19th through April 12th. Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Saturday, January 13: 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.

Monday, January 15: MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK

8:15am. Meet in the first parking lot on the right just inside the park (FEE) entrance (park opens at 8:00am). Leaders: Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Eileen Teel.

Wednesday, January 17: SAWGRASS LAKE PARK

7:30am. A combined trip with Venice Audubon. This St. Petersburg park (7400 25th Street North) has a boardwalk spanning wetlands and a large oak forest. Meet at 7:30am behind Starbucks (University & I-75 near Home Depot) or at the park at 8:30am. Leader: Susy d'Hont (942-697-1797) BRING LUNCH.

Thursday, January 18: OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8am - park fee). This activity will meet every Thursday from October 19th through April 12th. Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Saturday, January 20: CONSTELLATION WALK

6:00pm - 8:00pm. Join us as we welcome Deep Sky Observers' president, Jonathan Sabin who will present a 'Constellation Walk' outside the Nature Center. See full description and [required registration](#) listed under the WORKSHOP section below.

Monday, January 22: 4th MONDAY CF WALK

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

Tuesday, January 23: URFER FAMILY PARK

8:00am. This little county park is a real gem. There is a 1-mile nature trail, winding through pine flatwoods and a boardwalk overlooking forested wetlands. Meet in the Urfer parking lot (4000

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, February 2nd

4:00 - 6:00 pm

SAS Nature Center

** Raffles

** Vote for People's Choice Award

** Light Refreshments

Please join us as we celebrate the fine art talents of members in our First Annual Art

Event during the month of February

The event is free and open to the public during normal hours

[CLICK --> FOR EVENT FLYER](#)

CELERY FIELDS CLEANUP



Tuesday, January 9th

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

Honore Ave on the corner of Bee Ridge). Leaders: Lynn Jakubowicz (lynn234@verizon.net) and Martha Straub.

Thursday, January 25: OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/ Nature Center (park opens at 8am - park fee). This activity will meet every Thursday from October 19th through April 12th. Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Tuesday, January 30: FT. DESOTO BIRDS & DUCKS

7:30am. Meet behind Starbucks (University & I-75 near Home Depot). Leaders: Lynn Jakubowicz (lynn234@verizon.net) and Mary Heilen. BRING LUNCH.

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.

QUESTIONS? kathwren4@gmail.com

HOW TO ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS TO YOUR YARD

Saturday, January 6 - John Groskopf will give us information on resident and migrant hummingbirds in Sarasota and which nectar plants will attract them.

CONSTELLATION WALK (6:00pm-8:00pm)

Saturday, January 20 - Join us as we welcome Deep Sky Observers' president, Jonathan Sabin who will present a 'Constellation Walk' outside the Nature Center to learn what is visible in the winter evening sky. We encourage you to bring your binoculars and/or spotting scopes as Mr. Sabin will be pointing out objects during the tour that can best be seen with these observing tools. This walk is weather permitting. We will email you in case of cancellation. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Click to Register:** <http://www.sarasotaudubon.org/product/astronomy-workshop/>

SNAKE TALES

Saturday, February 3 - Lynda Becherelli, a Parks Naturalist, will explain the benefits of snakes to us, our environment, and other species. Learn about Florida's snakes, how to identify them and how to live with them. Children welcome! Be prepared to see live snakes!

Fields Cleanup

For questions email: jbear0822@aol.com

DECEMBER WAS THE TIME 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

For questions email: membership@sarasotaudubon.org



NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

Here are the December 2017 sightings:

- **American Redstart:** J. Ottinger, Myakka SP
- **Common Tern:** A. Capek, Siesta Beach; M. Dunson, Manasota Beach; C. Herzog, N. Lido
- **Bronzed Cowbird:** M. Ostrowski, Celery Fields
- **Snail Kite:** D. Hochadel, retention pond, I-75
- **Great Blue Heron (white form):** S. Wilcox, Myakka SP
- **Brown Nuthatch:** D. Lancaster, Deer Prairie Creek Preserve
- **Magnolia Warbler:** J. Groskopf, Crowley Nature Center
- **Short-tailed Hawk:** S. Wilcox, Crowley; A. Buck & B. Thomas, Myakka SP
- **American Pipit:** G. Gonzalez, Crowley; B. Perry, Myakka SP
- **American Oystercatcher:** M. Weisensee & D. Mann, Lemon Bay Park

Claire Herzog



Amazing Birds of Trinidad and Tobago Sarasota Audubon Society Trip December 6 - 15, 2017



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 for all classes. Online preferred at www.sarasotaudubon.org, or with sign-up forms available at the Nature Center.

EBIRD

January 15, 16, 17 & 18

Join Kathryn Young and Tom Jiamachello on 3 field trips to 3 different habitats, where you will learn how to enter a bird checklist in the ebird phone application. The last date will be in the classroom where we will explore the vast ebird database. This database will help you find birds and birding hot spots anywhere in the world. NO SMART PHONE REQUIRED. **COST \$25**

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**

BASIC BIRDING

This course is designed to make ID'ing birds easy and fun for beginning to advanced beginning birders. We will teach you how to find birds in different habitats, how to ID them and how to further advance your birding skills using the internet, field guide and various apps on your smart phone. **COST \$50 - RESERVATION REQUIRED.** Online reservations preferred www.sarasotaudubon.org. Sign-up forms available at the Nature Center.

SESSION I - Instructor Peter Brown

Introductory class: Feb 14 at 1:30pm Nature Center
Field Trips Feb 21, Feb 28, Mar 7 at 8am, locations TBA
Classroom: Mar 14 1:30pm Nature Center

SESSION II - Instructor Kathryn Young

Introductory Class: Feb 14 at 1:30pm Nature Center
Field Trips: Mar 26, Mar 27 Mar 28 at 8am locations TBA
Classroom: Mar 29 at 1:30pm Nature Center

Kathryn Young kathwren4@gmail.com

Peter Brown pbrown5541@gmail.com

CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION

TRIP REPORTS



T&T group at the Asa Wright Nature Centre

If six days spent at the world famous Asa Wright Centre, Trinidad, followed by four days at Blue Waters Inn, Tobago, sounds idyllic, then that's because it was! You could call it pretty much a birder's paradise. And even a must for serious, or not so serious, birders. We were lucky to have a great group of 14 who were all determined to have a good time and have fun together, as well as seeing loads of birds. Between us we clocked up 172 birds, many of them 'lifers'. The birding highlights included Cocoli Heron, Long-winged Harrier, Savanna Hawk, Aplomado Falcon, Blue-and-Yellow Macaw, Common Potoo, Green-backed, Guianan and Collared Trogon, Gray-throated Leaf-tosser, Bearded Bellbird, three species of manakin, Red-breasted Blackbird, White-headed Marsh Tyrant and Red-billed Tropicbird. We also saw the island's only two endemics, the Piping Guan and the Trinidad Motmot.



Bellbird - Photograph by Anne Brooks

Having said all that the two true stars of the trip were undoubtedly the Scarlet Ibis and the Oilbird. So let's pause a bit and say a bit more about both these iconic species.

First, the Scarlet Ibis. Probably most people know, and some have experienced the famous Scarlet Ibis roost at the Koroni swamp. This involves a boat trip through the mangroves. But before even boarding the boat we were treated to a great sighting of a superb male Masked Cardinal. On the trip through the mangroves we saw a Tropical Screech Owl followed shortly by a Boat-billed Heron, not to mention a Tree Boa curled up high on a branch. The boat then moored up opposite the roost site and while drinking rum punches we were treated to an amazing spectacle as first Snowy Egrets and Tricolored Herons, followed by Scarlet Ibises started coming in to the roost. Soon the tops of the trees were dotted in brilliant scarlet, looking all the world like decorated Christmas trees, while the lower parts of the trees were dotted in white as the tricolors and snowies settled at the bases. Birds kept coming and coming, in ones and twos, in small groups, in long trails and in 'v' formations until the trees were covered in scarlet. And so on until sunset. And another rum punch.

Incidentally, this species of ibis can only be found in tropical South America and islands of the Caribbean. The large quantity of shrimp and other red shellfish they feed on produces a surfeit of *astaxanthin*, a carotenoid, which is

the key component of the birds' red pigmentation, even the bill and feet being red. It is hard to describe the brilliance of the red plumage, even photographs do not do it justice, they just have to be seen to be believed.

The Oilbird was quite another story. From the Koroni swamp to Dunston Cave, a grotto located in a deep river gorge, quite a contrast. We heard their demonic shrieking long before we arrived at the cavern. The bird's local name is 'guacharos', literally 'one who cries and laments'. Another name is 'diablotin' or devil bird. Their scientific name however, *Steatornis*, means

MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK - DECEMBER 5, 2017

A whopping thirty-one participants joined John Ginaven and me for the Myakka River State Park field trip on December 5, 2017. Under sparkling skies and pleasant temperatures, we spent three hours covering such hot spots as the Alligator Bridge, the Bird Walk, and the Weir Area. Bird of the Day was undoubtedly the Horned Grebe spotted on open water from the Bird Walk. This species winters in our area in small numbers but we expect them on the coast; they're almost never seen on fresh water. A quick review of eBird suggests perhaps only one previous record of Horned Grebe for the park. The full bird list, to the best of my recollection and with highlights noted, follows (61 spp). [CLICK --->](#)

[FULL BIRD LIST](#)

N. LIDO BEACH & WOODS - DECEMBER 28, 2017

About eighteen aficionados joined John Ginaven and me for the North Lido Beach and Woods Walk. Under sunny skies and cool but pleasant temperatures, we spent 3.0 hours covering North Lido Beach and then finishing up the loop through the North Lido Beach woodland. We had some good sightings including Common Loon, Northern Gannet, Bald Eagle, Snowy Plover, Red Knot, and Lesser Black-backed Gull. See the full bird list, to the best of my recollection and with highlights noted below (40 spp). [CLICK ---> FULL BIRD LIST](#)

Stu Wilson

SAS OVERNIGHT TRIPS



[ST. MARK'S WILDLIFE REFUGE / TALL TIMBERS - APRIL 13-15, 2018](#)

Join SAS as we explore St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge the morning of Saturday, April 14, 2018, with an experienced local guide. Lunch will be at a cafe nearby, after which we join our guide to Apalachicola NF to look for Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow and migrating Warblers. You are free to return to St. Marks instead if you like.

At the end of the day, we will drive to Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy (about an hour drive from St Marks) where we will spend the night at their facilities (basic amenities). Limited availability, so please let us know right away if you want to stay there. It is \$35.00/per person, 2 single beds per room. There are hotels within a 20-30 minute drive.

After a continental breakfast at Tall Timbers, prepared by the trip leaders, we will go on a guided birding tour of the grounds via open wagon. There will be a banding demonstration as part of the tour. The tour will end around 1 pm.

Included in the \$40 registration fee are both guides and Sunday breakfast.

Please sign up online at <http://www.sarasotaudubon.org/two-night-florida-overnight-trips/>

For more information contact:

Cathy - cathydavis11@hotmail.com

Harma - birdsrq@gmail.com

Sarasota Audubon would like to thank:

oilbird and refers to the fact that in the past their very fatty chicks, larger than the adult birds, were rendered down for oil which was used in cooking.

Around 200 birds roost in Dunston Cave. They are quite extraordinary in appearance, something like a nightjar to which they are related, but much larger, at 18" long larger than a Potoo, and with a wingspan of just over three feet. They have huge dark eyes; twelve long bristles sweeping down from each corner of the mouth; an enormous hawk-like bill; and perhaps most striking of all, rows of brilliant white spots decorating their entire russet plumage, like a scattering of stardust.

The Oilbird is one of just a handful of birds that relies, like many bats, on hearing the echoes of its own voice to navigate in total darkness. This nocturnal fructivore does this by emitting a steady stream of the sharpest imaginable low-frequency clicks to navigate by echo-location. It is also extraordinarily sensitive to light, the bird's huge eyes enabling them to maximise any available light, and having millions of densely packed rods, the photoreceptor cells.

To get to the cavern where the Oilbirds roost we had to descend several hundred rough-hewn, steep and slippery steps and then descend into the stream and wade in pairs into the cave. Elizabeth, our Asa Wright Centre Guide, pointed out several birds with a flashlight, and we all got great views of this extraordinary and iconic bird.

If I'd had more space I would have talked more about the brilliant Blue-and-yellow Macaw, and the amazing Bellbird, whose 'bonking' territorial call was heard every day from the Asa Wright verandah, or even the incredible hummingbirds and other delights such as honeycreepers which were regular visitors at the feeding station, not to mention the awesome numbers of Red-billed Tropicbirds on Little Tobago. Alas, space does not permit. All I can say is if you haven't been to Asa Wright, then you really should put it on your bucket list. You certainly will not be disappointed.

Glynnis Thomas

[CLICK FOR FULL BIRD LIST](#)

SARASOTA AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - PRELIMINARY REPORT



The 67th annual Sarasota Christmas Bird Count, part of a National Audubon program that's now been running for 118 years, took place under comfortably cool and sunny conditions on Saturday, December 30, 2017. With results from 21 different circle areas to tabulate, it's too early at the time of this writing to offer a summary, but early indications suggest a reasonably decent count for diversity (i.e. number of species) if not numbers of individuals. Four or five normally-reliable species at Celery Fields were hard to come by this time, but on the other hand there have been multiple reports of rare wintering warblers from various parts of the circle. At least one species we missed last count- Northern Bobwhite- will grace the list this time

Stay tuned to the February issue of the Brown Pelican for the final results.

Stu Wilson

ON DISPLAY AT THE NC



Total Landscape Supply Company

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

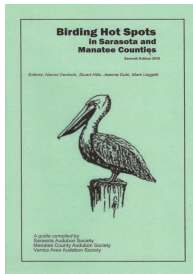
THANK YOU!

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 \$7.75 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.



Save SAS some GREEN \$\$\$

We mail 600+ paper copies to some of our members. The cost of printing and postage could be put toward our new nature center and other Sarasota Audubon projects. Plus our e-Brown Pelican Newsletter (which can be

emailed right to your in-box) has direct links to other sites, videos and color photos.

If you currently receive a paper copy in the mail please consider a switch to the e-Brown Pelican.

Contact: editor@sarasotaudubon.org

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) 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!

BECOME A SPOONBILL CLUB MEMBER



Panama Birds - Photography by Claire Herzog

Claire Herzog has traveled to several countries to observe plants and birds. She volunteers with Sarasota Audubon as a field trip leader, teacher, bird recorder, CBC team leader and Bird Naturalist at the Celery Fields. Claire's exhibit of 'Panama Birds' displays her beautiful photographs from a trip to Panama.

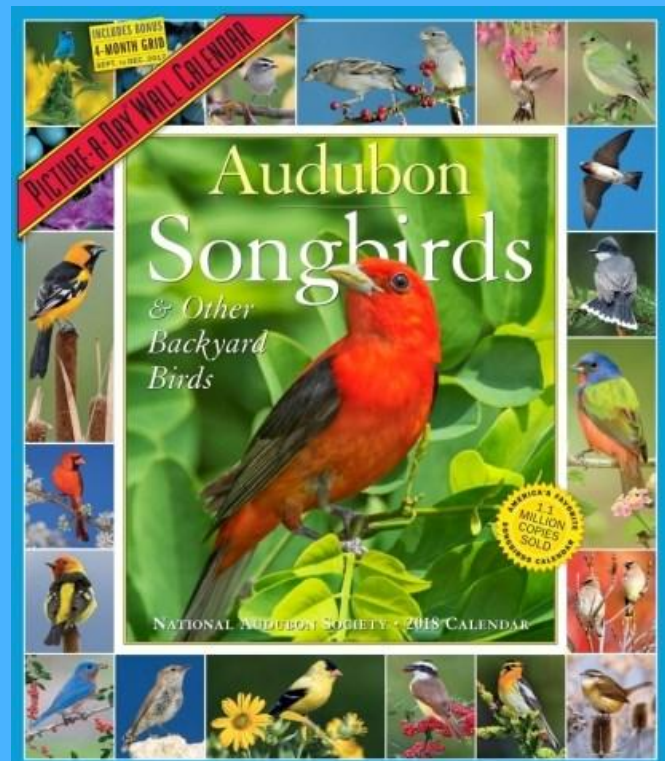
Birds of Brazil - Photography by Rick Greenspun

Rick Greenspun served as vice president, program chairman and day trip coordinator of Sarasota Audubon. Recently, he has led tours throughout North, South and Central America as well as Africa and Asia. Rick's photographs of the 'Birds of Brazil', feature the State of Mato Grosso, include the Pantanal, the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest.

Sara King, Chairperson, Nature Center Displays



2018 AUDUBON CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE!



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 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](#)



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

[CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site](#)

SAS Name Badges

Pin Badge - \$5.25, Magnet Badge - \$7.25

Add \$2.50 for shipping. Send name and address to:

Michael Fox, 2749 Ringling Ave. Sarasota, FL 34237

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.



**Submissions, comments and questions
always welcome**

Send to: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@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!

**We are looking forward to seeing you
in 2018!**

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:

FACEBOOK/SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR -

Are you familiar with Facebook/ Twitter? We are looking for someone to keep our social media pages current and respond to inquiries that come in through these communication sources.

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

Other areas that can always use more volunteers:

- SAS Nature Center Docent
- Celery Fields Bird Naturalist

INTERESTED????

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator:

[CLICK HERE TO SEND AN EMAIL](#)



[Click here](#)