



**January 2017**

## MONTHLY MEETING

**Monday, January 9th**

### **CHANGING CLIMATE: CHANGING BIRDS**

Terry Root, PhD will talk about the effect of rapid global temperature change on bird ranges, breeding and species extinction.



**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: 2016-17 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE](#)**

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### **Pre-Meeting Dinner - All Welcome!**

Board members and members meet for dinner with the guest speaker prior to the monthly general meeting. All Sarasota Audubon members are welcome. We meet at **5:00pm** at **Libby's Cafe** on South Osprey. If you want to join us, email Karen Jensen [karensarasota@yahoo.com](mailto:karensarasota@yahoo.com) the Saturday prior to the meeting.

## SAS NAME TAG ANYONE?



**Always wanted a Sarasota Audubon Name Tag of your own?  
Now is your chance!**

Michael Fox will be at the January Monthly Meeting (1/9/17) and will be taking orders

**Pin-on Name Tag = \$5.25\***

## SAS NATURE CENTER



**Open Daily: 9:00am-1:00pm**

### **Click Through This Issue!**

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### **A Message from Our President**

Happy New Year to Everyone!



I look forward to another wonderful Audubon year with you all. Visitor numbers are up, membership is up, and all of our programs are in full swing. The gardens are maturing, the bioswale is a haven for insects and butterflies, and our gazebo/bird blind will be installed in late January, bringing another feature into the gardens.

This year and beyond, we may be facing tougher environmental challenges than any of us can remember. What to do? For one thing, try to donate to as many conservation groups as you can, even in modest amounts. You pick: Sierra Club, World Wildlife Fund, the Nature Conservancy, National Audubon, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, and yes, your local

**Magnet Name Tag = \$7.25\***

Add \*\$2.50 if you want it shipped to you

\* They will only accept cash / checks



## SAS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE 2016 - 2017



[CLICK HERE](#)

## UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & ACTIVITIES

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

**Thursdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26**

### OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

**8:30am.** Meets every Thursday from October 20th through April 20th. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/Nature Center. Park opens 8:00am, park entrance fee applies. Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541)

**Tuesday, January 10th**

### CIRCLE B BAR PRESERVE

**7:00am.** Meet Lynn Jakubowicz and Mary Heinlen behind Starbucks (University and I-75). Bring Lunch. Contact Lynn Jakubowicz ([lynn234@verizon.net](mailto:lynn234@verizon.net))

**Tuesday, January 10th**

### CELERY FIELDS CLEANUP

**8:00am.** Meet in the Nature Center parking lot (999 Center Rd).

**Saturday, January 14th**

### 2nd SATURDAY CELERY FIELDS WALK

**8:00am.** NEW THIS SEASON! Join some of our best birders on the 2nd Saturday of each month from October through April as we explore the great variety of habitats and birds found in the Celery Fields. Meet at the Nature Center

**Tuesday, January 16th**

### MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK

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

**Monday, January 23rd**

### 4th MONDAY CELERY FIELDS WALK

**9:00am.** Join Joyce Leary on the 4th Monday of each month, October through March. Meet at the Nature Center. Contact: Joyce Leary (508-737-8954)

**Tuesday, January 24th**

### MORRIS BRIDGE & TROUT CREEK

**7:00am.** Two more great Hillsborough County parks. Meet Lynn Jakubowicz ([lynn234@verizon.net](mailto:lynn234@verizon.net)) and Mary Heinlen behind Starbucks (University and I-75). BRING LUNCH.

**Tuesday, January 31st**

### EAGLE WINE & CHEESE

**6:00pm.** Join Barry Gerber at the SAS Nature Center for an informative talk about Bald Eagles.

Audubon chapter too.

Since voters defeated the Florida amendment that prevented the power companies from controlling the solar industry, consider installing solar panels while you can. The power companies may well come back for another round in the next election, so go for it!

Watch what your county leaders, your state leaders and your national leaders are doing, and VOTE, VOTE, VOTE!!!!

And, BIRD. BIRD, BIRD!

**Jeanne Dubi**



A great time was had by all at the SAS annual Holiday luncheon held at the Palm Aire Country Club. Christine Johnson of the Gulf Coast provided a very interesting talk about the foundation's role in the purchase of the Triangle Ranch as well as other conservation efforts.



*Photograph by Frank Van Hullenaar*

Thanks to Julie Byrne for coordinating this great function every year!

## OOPS DID YOU FORGET? DECEMBER WAS THE TIME TO RENEW FOR 2017



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

**Or mail a check - \$25.00 per member**

**Payable to: Sarasota Audubon Society**

**Address: SAS, PO BOX 52132, Sarasota, FL 34232**

For questions email: [membership@sarasotaudubon.org](mailto:membership@sarasotaudubon.org)

## Birds of the Month

### Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Don't you just love the Latin name of this bird?

Actually the word 'anhinga' comes from the Brazilian Tupi



## WORKSHOPS

These 2-hour workshops provide a wealth of information on a variety of topics. No reservations required. Meet at the Nature Center 1:30pm (\**Bird Scavenger Hunt starts at 10:00am*). Adults - \$8.00, Children - \$5.00

**JAN 11 - EDIBLE/MEDICINAL PLANTS SW FLORIDA-**

**FEB 10 - SUMMER WITH A SWALLOW-TAILED KITE**

**MAR 3 - RAISING MONARCHS**

**APR 5 - BUTTERFLY I.D. BASICS**

**APR 22 - PURPLE MARTINS**

## CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

**MAR 11 - BIRD BEHAVIOR SCAVENGER HUNT (10am)**

[CLICK FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION](#)

**Questions?** Contact Harma Nyhof, [birdsqr@gmail.com](mailto:birdsqr@gmail.com)

## CLASSES

These classes target specific families of birds and includes a photography class. All classes meet at the Nature Center except field trips. Check times and locations for field work.

**DUCKS AND GREBES - January 21**

**RAPTORS - January 22**

**SPRING WARBLERS - April 19, 20**

[CLICK FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION](#)

**Questions?** Contact Kathryn Young, [kathwren4@gmail.com](mailto:kathwren4@gmail.com)

## BIRDING SERIES CLASSES

Two separate series of classes; the first is field trip oriented, the other for beginning birders which includes more classroom time.

**BIRDING SRQ AREA HOT SPOTS \*\* FULL \*\***

**BASIC BIRDING - 6 sessions**

[CLICK FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION](#)

**Questions?** Contact Kathryn Young, [kathwren4@gmail.com](mailto:kathwren4@gmail.com)

language meaning 'devil bird' or 'snake bird'. And we must admit that when swimming with only its head and neck above the water it does look a lot like a water



snake, particularly as its small, elongated head appears almost as an extension of its neck. It certainly is a very odd looking bird. In Florida it is most often seen perched on a snag, drying its wings, much in the manner of a cormorant, or you might see it soaring high on thermals (they can reach altitudes of several thousand feet), or in direct flight with its flap, flap, flap, glide and unmistakable profile - pointed front end, broad wings and fanned out tail.

The Anhinga is placed in the Darter family and is closely related to Indian, African and Australian darters. This species is found all over the world in warm shallow waters and in the U.S. is usually confined to the southern states. Like all darters the Anhinga hunts by spearing fish and other prey using its sharp, pointed bill. This bill, resembling a dagger, is about twice the length of the bird's head, almost straight with serrations pointing backwards on the distal or cutting edges. It is a formidable weapon. The bird's neck is very long and slender and its feet very short and stout with webbed toes. Anhinga sexes are easily distinguished: males are black with silvery to white streaks and spots on the upper back, scapulars and wing-coverts, whereas females are duller with head, neck and breast buffy; juveniles of both sexes are similar to adult females, but browner overall and lack most of the white marks on upper-parts. During the breeding season the eyes are surrounded by a bright blue patch of skin on mature adults.

The Anhinga lives in shallow, slow-moving, sheltered waters such as ponds, lagoons, swamps, sluggish streams and mangroves, and uses nearby perches and banks for drying and sunning. It never plunges or dives from a perch to catch its prey but swims slowly underwater stalking fish around submerged vegetation. The Anhinga swims lower in the water than many other birds due to a reduced buoyancy, a result of saturated plumage and dense bones. It doesn't have oil glands for waterproofing its feathers like most water birds, so when it swims, its feathers become wet. This allows it to move more efficiently through the water, but when it leaves the water it must spread its wings and dry out its feathers again.

Not usually a fast swimmer the Anhinga will wait for a fish to come near, then impale it through its side with a lightning fast thrust of its long pointed bill. The structure of its neck is specially adapted for this kind of rapid thrust, having strongly developed muscles about a kink at the 8th /9th vertebra that allows it to be flexed and darted forward with rapid force. Prey is released from the serrated bill with vigorous horizontal shaking of the head, sometimes accompanied by opening and closing the bill. After release the fish is flipped in the air and swallowed.

Unfortunately the Anhinga's method of stabbing its prey can make it vulnerable to environmental waste such as plastic cups, rope etc. Recently an Audubon member came across a bird with rope tangled in its bill, lean and half starved and obviously weak and in distress. Despite a rescue by Save Our Seabirds (SOS) the bird did not survive. However, many rescued birds do well, so if you see a bird in distress you can call Save Our Seabirds or Wildlife Center of Venice (who will come the same day) on 484-9657.

Another thing we can do is to remove environmental waste when we see it, and when it's practical, particularly fisherman's line and rope, cloth products, plastic bags and plastic cups. An interesting piece of research was carried out in an urban park in Brazil, reported in 'Revista Brasileira de Ornithologia' July 2016, which observed the impact of 'anthropogenic inedible debris' (human generated garbage) on Anhingas living and breeding around the pond. The records were made between 2010 and 2015.

Twenty-one examples of anthropogenic objects were noted, including plastic, cloth and rope, impaled on the bills of 10 adult females, 3 adult males, and 8 juveniles. Birds with small pieces of material stuck in their bills were still able to fish, but their hunting success decreased. When the debris was large and stuck on the bill for long, the birds possibly starved and some of them died. The time spent to clean up the bill was related to the material, and ranged from 1 to 17 days.

eBird

Workshop with Matthew Press



January 28th, 2017

1:30pm

## Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center

**eBird** is a program developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society that allows users to submit bird sightings. Sightings, videos and photos can be uploaded. You can also search for specific bird species, and the best part: it's worldwide!

Bring your laptop, phone, tablet, or any other electronic device, and you can learn how to use eBird! It's easy, the app is free and a great tool for any birders!

\$5.00 at the door

Questions? Email Matthew Press [thezooexpert@yahoo.com](mailto:thezooexpert@yahoo.com)



## NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

### Here are the December sightings:

- **Greater Scaup:** M. Ostrowski, Myakka River State Park
- **Surf Scoter:** C. Herzog, Siesta Public Beach
- **Song Sparrow:** S. Wilcox, Myakka Birdwalk
- **Grasshopper Sparrow:** N. Edmondson, Laurel Landfill
- **Clapper Rail:** Venice CBC Team, Myakka Island Point
- **Stilt Sandpiper:** Mike Ostrowski, Palmer Lake
- **Sedge Wren:** S. Wilcox, Celery Fields
- **Short-tailed Hawk:** R. Greenspun, Myakka CBC
- **Hairy Woodpecker:** M. Heinlen, S. Guarasci, Urfer Park
- **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** J. Ginaven, N. Longboat Key
- **Hermit Thrush:** E. Miller, Pinecraft Park
- **Magnolia Warbler:** M. Ostrowski, Urfer Family Park

Please remember to share any eBird checklists with SASbirds. Call 941-780-0545 or email [ceherzog@gmail.com](mailto:ceherzog@gmail.com) with unusual sightings.

Thank you for making the effort eBirders!

**Claire Herzog**



## HAPPENINGS

### Myakka State Park - December 6th

John Ginaven and I were joined by fourteen participants for the Myakka field trip, conducted in memory of Owen Comora. Passerines (i.e. dickybirds) were hard to come by - not a single vireo and only 2 warblers - but we had good looks at many members of the top half of the checklist.

Most of us were surprised to find the viewing platform at The Weir off limits due to recent flooding.

and ranged from 1 to 17 days.

Since hearing about the plight of our local Anhinga I have started to pick up any plastic cups or other objects that may cause harm to wildlife on my morning walk around the ponds in our development.

**Glynnis Thomas**



## "The Early Bird "

[CLICK TO READ - ASK OTUS®](#)

Otus will answer your questions about our amazing wildlife, but only if you Ask Otus®.

Click to send your questions to: [Ask Otus®](#)

## MEMBER'S TRAVELS....



### Trekking and Rafting in Nepal and Tibet

My husband, Conrad, and I recently enjoyed a trekking and rafting trip in Nepal and Tibet. This was not a birding trip per se, but we always had our eyes out for the birds. The guide for the trekking part of our trip was very helpful during our stay at the Sanctuary Lodge near the Anna Purna Mountains. When we walked out of our cabin in the morning, we had a beautiful view of Fish Tail Mountain. A rushing stream below our lodge revealed several birds flitting among the rocks: Plumbeous Redstart, White-capped Redstart, and Blue Whistling Thrush. During treks to various nearby villages, we saw many striking birds including Red-vented Bulbul, White-cheeked Bulbul, House Crow, Dark Kite, Himalayan Tree Pie, Common Myna, and Black Drongo. While in the Chitwan National Park, we were fortunate to see the Indian Tree Pie, Lesser Adjutant Stork, the colorful White-breasted Kingfisher, White Stork, and Spotted Munia. We also saw several rhinos during an elephant ride in the park.

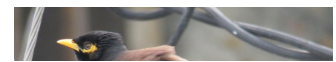


**Egyptian Vulture**

At the Forest Resort, we saw a lovely Black-headed Shrike, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Scarlet Minivet and Pied Wagtail. We also surprised a leopard attacking a deer and pulled back when cautioned by our guide. It was quite an exciting story to tell when we returned. In Nepal we visited a vulture rehab center where they train the vultures to fly with para-gliders who are proficient in working with these birds. Many of these birds were sickened by eating the meat of

dead cows which had been treated with Diclofenac causing death or sickness to the vultures due to liver and kidney failure. Reportedly 99% of Nepal's vultures are close to extinction due to use of this drug which is being debated by their government.

In Tibet, our trekking was mainly up the many steps to the beautiful monasteries



We exited the north gate of Myakka and about half of the contingent followed us to Palmer Lake. We had a Crested Caracara en route at Founders Club, unfortunately seen by just a few of us, and at Palmer Lake were able to add several species to our list: Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Cattle Egret, Laughing Gull, Forster's Tern, and European Starling come to mind. At 1:30pm, just as we were beginning a full scan of Palmer Lake, the skies opened up and that was that. Forty-seven bird species were sighted.

[CLICK FOR FULL BIRD LIST](#)

**Stu Wilson**

## 2nd Saturday Celery Fields Walk - December 10th

Long before there was a building, or bathrooms, or any boardwalks, or a hill, Sarasota Audubon held bird walks at Celery Fields once a month. There was one structure: a gazebo, and on one Saturday each month birders and a leader gathered in the gazebo, signed their names, made a donation, and began walking. We walked in tall grass, encountered many fire ant nests, sometimes got wet and muddy, and saw lots of birds. Eventually those walks were discontinued, since there was so much going on at the Celery Fields. The area across the street was being dredged and a hill was emerging on our familiar side. And then the gazebo was gone, and there were lots of trucks and building materials and very little parking. And you all know what came next: boardwalks, bathrooms, a beautiful new building, and even more birds!

This year we have revived the monthly Celery Fields walks. We meet on the second Saturday of each month at the Nature Center, and we have different leaders each time. In addition, our leaders take us to different areas of the Celery Fields on each walk. In October and November we visited the boardwalks and one of the berms. In December we walked along the sidewalk and then onto the trail that goes between the ponds to the north of Palmer and west of the hill. Our leader was Lynn Jakubowicz assisted by Martha Straub and several other experienced birders. We identified 41 species, most notable being the Bald Eagle, Roseate Spoonbill, and Green-winged Teal. One of the ponds had both mature and immature Little Blue Herons as well as Spoonbills, Dowitchers, Yellowlegs and Tricolored Herons.

Join us in January for another exploration of a part of Celery Fields you may not be familiar with!

**Martha Straub**

## Myakka Christmas Bird Count - December 19th

Forty participants (including one at a feeder) tallied 119 species despite low water, high temperature and morning fog. Covering a total of 150 miles, ten groups birded for almost 70 hours on December 19th. Notable species at Myakka River State Park included a Song Sparrow in the brush adjacent to the bird boardwalk in the state park, a Short-tailed Hawk flying overhead at the western end of the power line and the river, and a Hermit thrush and Carolina Chickadee north of the Upper Lake. Old Myakka area provided our first Christmas count ever of a White-winged Dove and even an uncommon Orange-crowned Warbler.

[CLICK FOR FULL BIRD LIST](#)

**Belinda Perry**

## North Lido Beach and Woods - December 29th

John Ginaven and I were joined by nineteen participants for the N. Lido Beach & Woods walk. Weather conditions were sublime... it even got a little warm toward late morning. On the beach portion of the walk, shorebirds were in short supply (i.e. there were none) but an offshore shoal that has recently formed held heaps of gulls and terns.

In the woods, it was a struggle to pick out the dickey-birds in the tops of the Australian Pines, but all had good looks at Red-shouldered Hawk and American Kestrel. The single Common Ground-Dove, bird of the day for the woods, represented only my third visit to N Lido ever where I've found this species.

[CLICK FOR FULL BIRD LIST](#)

**Stu Wilson**

we visited. However during bus rides between the cities visited, we stopped to see the elegant Black-necked Cranes in their preserve before we continued on to Lhasa, former home of the Dalai Lama and the gorgeous Potala Palace. It was a memorable trip with views of mountains, monasteries, and beautiful birds.

**Lenée Owens**



**Common Myna**

## CONSERVATION

### Happy New Year!

I wanted to take this opportunity to share some good news. Two new Critical Wildlife Areas were approved for our area by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on November 16, 2016. They are the Roberts Bay Islands located just south of the southernmost Siesta Key bridge in Sarasota County and the Dot-Dash-Dit islands in Manatee County. These islands are home or breeding grounds for a myriad of State or Federally listed bird species such as Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Roseate Spoonbill and Wood Storks as well as many other local bird species. Funding for the signs and supervisory staff should be approved by the State of Florida in January and installed in May or April 2017.



We will also be watching another existing Critical Wildlife Area in 2017 which is a wood stork nesting area on the lower Myakka River just south of where US Highway 41 crosses the river. We have concerns over the noise and disturbance that will be associated with a proposal by Sarasota County to allow a section of this Wild and Scenic designated river to be used as the Senator Bob Johnson Landing Rowing Pilot Project. This pilot project would allow up to 80 participants/day as singles or rowing teams to use this narrow section of river for rowing practice. Each rowing practice would also require a motorized spotter boat for each run. The Pilot Project is still in the evaluation for feasibility stage and both Sarasota and Venice Audubon have already provided feedback to the county that this area of the Myakka is not suitable for the proposed rowing project. I will provide updates on this project as they become available. I also encourage all members if you feel compelled to contact our Sarasota County Commissioners directly through email or by telephone to provide your own thoughts and input.

**Rob Wright, Conservation Chair**

## SAS & SAS MEMBERS



[CLICK HERE FOR HERALD TRIBUNE ARTICLE](#)

**SARASOTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER  
COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS**



# Tai Chi

## Tai Chi Classes at the Nature Center

Learn Yang style Tai Chi during 6 - one hour sessions at the Nature Center, Tuesdays 10:00am -11:00am. February 7, 2017 (through March 14). Cost: \$3.00 per session or \$15.00 for all 6. For more information contact: Marcy Packer, [packmw@aol.com](mailto:packmw@aol.com)

## 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

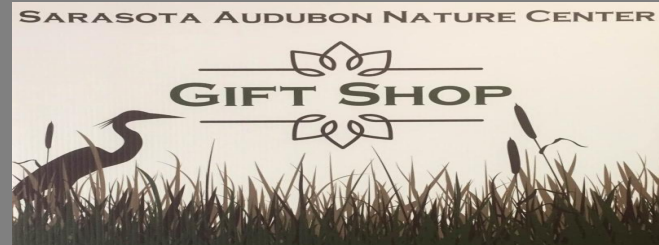


*If you have named Sarasota Audubon in your will or beneficiary in any way, you are eligible to become a member of our legacy group,*

*The Spoonbill Club*

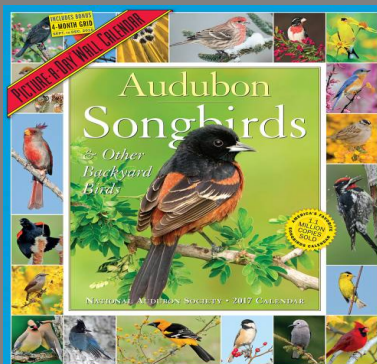
[CLICK TO FIND OUT MORE](#)

*Photograph by Rick Greenspun*



## What's new at the SAS Gift Shop at the Nature Center?

- The tan Least Bittern t-shirts are back!
- Check out Lou Newman's stunning framed bird photographs on display and for sale



## 2017 Audubon Calendars (only \$12)

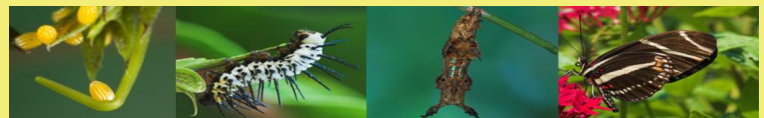
*All proceeds support our Nature Center*

## 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 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) are held most 4th Thursdays of each month Sept-May with topics appealing to all ages and levels of knowledge. Visit [www.sarasotabutterfly.com](http://www.sarasotabutterfly.com) to learn more!

## 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?

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*Thanks to Peter Rice for providing this service.*



## 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 strongly consider a switch to the e-Brown Pelican. Contact: [editor@sarasotaaudubon.org](mailto:editor@sarasotaaudubon.org)



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**Submissions, comments and questions  
always welcome**

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