



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 52132 | Sarasota, FL 34232-0337 | SarasotaAudubon.org

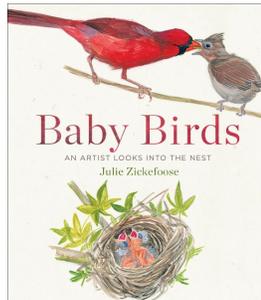
March 2017

MONTHLY MEETING

Monday, March 13th

Julie Zickefoose -
Author and Artist of Baby Birds:
An Artist Looks Into the Nest

Legendary author and artist Julie Zickefoose will talk about her deep connection to nature, birdwatching adventures and especially, her most recent book, "Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest."



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](#)

Pre-meeting Dinner - New Location!

The pre-monthly meeting dinner has been moved to Gecko's Restaurant, 1900 Hillview Avenue at 5:00pm. All members welcome!

Contact Karen Jensen (karensarasota@yahoo.com) for reservations



SAS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

2016 - 2017

[CLICK HERE](#)



SAS NATURE CENTER



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

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A Message from Our President

WHEW, WHAT A SCHEDULE!



During Jan, Feb and March, SAS always goes full tilt. The Nature Center and boardwalks have well over 150 visitors per day, keeping our marvelous volunteers and bird naturalists busy. It's not easy scheduling and keeping track of all those volunteers, but Marcy Packer does it, and without appearing even a bit ruffled. How does she do it?

Take a look at the calendar for February so you get a feel for what went on: in addition to the regular walks and day trips (Martha Straub coordinator), the Deep Sky Observers were in our parking lot on Saturday evening Feb 4; the ever popular Eagle Trolley was full to capacity, thanks Harma Nyhof for pitching in; Marcy Packer kicked off her series of Tai Chi classes which are a huge hit; Marci Haas gave a super talk and slide show

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & ACTIVITIES

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

March 2nd - 30th

BACKYARD BEAUTIES ART EXHIBIT

9:00am - 1:00pm daily. Specially commissioned artwork by the Florida Society of Botanical Artists' members. These beautiful images of Florida native plants will amaze you.

Thursdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30

OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey/Nature Center (park fee). Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541)

Wednesday, March 8th

CELERY FIELDS WALK

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

Saturday, March 11th

2nd SATURDAY CELERY FIELDS WALK

8:00am. 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, March 14th

FELTS PRESERVE

9:00am. Meet at 4200 24th Avenue East in Palmetto (corner of 24th Ave E & 49th St. E). Leader: Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Eileen Teel.

Saturday, March 18th

DONE IN A DAY PROJECT

9:00am-11:00am. Several loads of first class mulch have been donated and we need to get it spread around the gardens. If you are willing to help, please bring a shovel and/or a rake and garden gloves. We'd like a few light weight wheelbarrows too. We'll have iced water and snacks and lots of gratitude. Please RSVP to: packmw@aol.com.

Tuesday, March 21st

PERICO & NEAL PRESERVES

8:00am. Meet at Red Bug Slough, 5200 Beneva Road. Leaders Lynn Jakubowicz (lynn234@verizon.com) and Mary Heinlen. BRING LUNCH.

Friday, March 24th

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

5:30pm - 7:30pm. We value all of our wonderful volunteers and want to show our thanks and appreciation for your tremendous contributions to the Sarasota Audubon Society. Join us for refreshments as we celebrate another wonderful year. ALL SAS VOLUNTEERS ARE INVITED.

Monday, March 27th

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, March 28th

NORTH LONGBOAT KEY & LEFFIS KEY

8:00am. Look for resident and migrant shorebirds at the north end of Longboat Key then drive north one mile to Leffis Key to check for early spring migrant songbirds. Meet at Broadway beach access on the north end of Longboat Key. Leader: Stu Wilson (512-897-8341)

Thursday, March 30th

PINECRAFT PARK

Please Note: Due to the extreme popularity of our Pinecraft Park walks, we are changing the times of the walk as follows:

There will be three separate groups entering the park, one at 7:00 AM, a second at 8:00 AM, and a third at 9:00 AM. You are welcome to join any of the three groups, and there will be at least one leader for each group. We are hoping that each group will not be in the park for much more than one hour, thus avoiding the noisy chaos that we had last year with over 80 birders all entering the park at the same time!

Classes which are a huge hit, Margi Haas gave a super talk and slide show on Swallow-tailed Kites; Kathryn Young spearheaded the Road Scholar week of avid out-of-town birders; yours truly did a TV interview for Animal Outtakes; on the 19th, Glynnis Thomas hosted a Critter Survey in the gardens (it's amazing what the bug folks found!); and as if she didn't have enough to do, Kathryn Young juggled the Follow the Birds series with her Basic Birding classes. Whew, what a schedule!

Did you know that SAS has tallied visitors from 28 countries and 46 states and DC (*thanks Sue Herring for that analysis*).

Jeanne Dubi

CONSERVATION



REZONING UPDATE

Here's an update on the rezoning of land at the corner of Apex and Palmer. You probably know by now that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) tabled the item in March because the commissioners were uncomfortable not knowing exactly who is bidding on the property. Several LLCs, trusts and foreign government entities were in the mix making the application murky.

The rezoning issue is now on the agenda for April 26. Besides Sarasota Audubon, several other groups are involved, including several HOAs surrounding the Celery Fields. SAS is urging the County to reconsider the zoning. We also want to be involved in future discussions about that parcel and the several other parcels at the corner of Apex and Palmer. It would be better to annex them to the Celery Fields as a habitat buffer or for additional low impact recreational use, rather than heavy industrial for sure.

Please keep contacting the BCC by letter, phone call or email telling the not to rezone and to add the parcels to the Celery Fields.

Jeanne Dubi and Rob Wright

WHAT'S NEW AT THE NATURE CENTER?



A BRAND NEW GAZEBO!

We now have a brand new beautiful Gazebo in the gardens at our Nature Center which was generously donated by the Ginaven family.

New plantings were added around the structure and our bird feeders were moved northwest of the gazebo so it can be used as a bird blind.

Done In A Day

You're Invited!



Backyard Beauties: Native Plants of the Celery Fields and Florida

Exhibition open to the public March 2 - 31
Daily 9am - 1pm
Sarasota Audubon Nature Center

Specially commissioned artwork by the Florida Society of Botanical Artists' members is being exhibited at the SAS Nature Center during the month of March. More than 20 works of botanical art created in graphite, watercolor, oil, colored pencil and other media are on display, celebrating the native plants of the Celery Fields and Florida.

This exhibit is a must visit-not to be missed-make time to go. The detailed work is incredible, the colors vibrant, the images charming.

The Florida Society of Botanical Artists is a local chapter of the American Society of Botanical Artists.

Mark Your Calendars

March 13th

Special Guest Speaker:
Julie Zickefoose

Author and Artist of *Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest*



Please join us for our special guest speaker for the March monthly meeting: Legendary author and artist Julie Zickefoose will talk about her deep connection to nature, birdwatching adventures and especially, her most recent book, "Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest." Julie is known for giving presentations that inspire her audiences to enjoy the natural world around them. Julie was a guest on NPR's All Things Considered for six years. She leads birding and natural history excursions around the world when she isn't at home on her 80-acre sanctuary in Ohio.

Monday, March 13, 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
1031 South Euclid, Sarasota, FL 34237

Celery Fields Walk - Wednesday, March 15th

7:30 - 9:30am. Julie will lead a Celery Fields walk. Meet at the Nature Center picnic benches. \$10.00.



Saturday, March 18th
9:00am - 11:00am
SAS Nature Center

Several loads of first class mulch have been donated to the SAS Nature Center and we need to get it spread around the gardens. If we have enough folks to help, we can get this '**DONE IN A DAY**' ...in a few hours in fact.

If you are willing to help, please bring a shovel and/or a rake and garden gloves. We'd like a few light weight wheelbarrows too.

We'll have iced water and snacks and lots of gratitude.

Please RSVP to:
packmw@aol.com

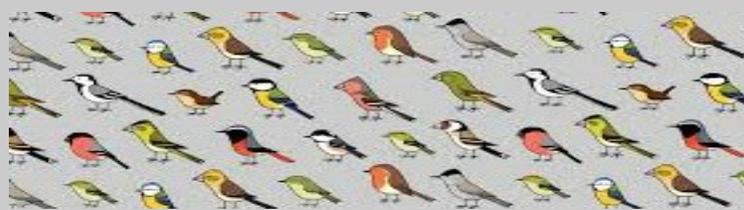
Sarasota Audubon Honored by Sister Cities

On February 11th, at the annual banquet hosted by the Sister Cities of Sarasota, SAS had the distinct honor of receiving the One World Award for an organization.



We were recognized for being instrumental in developing an international destination for birders (and non-birders) and for sharing the natural marvels of Sarasota. Also, one of our long time members, Dr Mary Elmendorf, received the individual One World Award for her lifetime's work in anthropology.

Thank you Sister Cities.



NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

Here are the February sightings:

- **Broad-winged Hawk:** J. Boyce, Siesta Key, A. Lamoreaux, Longboat Key Golf Club
- **Greater Scaup:** C. Olson, Myakka State Park at the weir
- **Bronzed Cowbird:** M. Ostrowski, Celery Fields
- **Common Tern:** M. Ostrowski, Siesta Beach, M. Haas, Centennial Park
- **Glaucous Gull:** J. & S. Lewis, Casperson Beach
- **Solitary Sandpiper:** B. Julius, S. Wicox, J. Fisher, Commerce & Toledo Blade
- **Barn Swallow:** M. Ostrowski, E. Lewandowski, Celery Fields
- **Chuck-Will's-Widow:** B. Torvund, Myakka State Park
- **Wilson's Warbler:** M. Ostrowski, Pinecraft Park

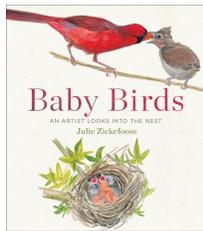
Please remember to share your eBird lists to SASbirds or email me with any rare sightings at ceherzog@gmail.com.

Book Signing - Wednesday, March 15th

9:30am. Then stay for the book signing, "Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest". Julie will hold a second book signing with a 20-minute talk. Free.

Be inspired! Learn how to look at the natural world around you through the eyes of a natural history artist, author and scientist.

Contact Harma Nyhof at birdsrq@gmail.com to register for either of these events.



We now have 2166 shared lists with 278 species found.

Thank you for making the effort eBirders!

Claire Herzog



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 - \$5.00, Children - \$3.00

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, birdsrq@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.

SPRING WARBLERS - April 19, 20

[CLICK FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION](#)

Questions? Contact Kathryn Young, kathwren4@gmail.com



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

**March 24th
5:30pm - 7:30pm
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 refreshments as we celebrate another wonderful year.

ALL SAS VOLUNTEERS ARE INVITED

FT. DESOTO BIRDS AND DUCKS - FEBRUARY 7th

Seventeen birders enjoyed the beauty of Ft. Desoto on our annual Ducks and Shorebirds walk. Ducks were sparse at the usually full Terra Ceia duck ponds: notably only one Lesser Scaup and a couple of Redheads. A lone Caspian Tern also flew over.

In the park itself, at the far eastern end, hundreds of Redheads and Scaup floated in the bay, but quite far out. Red-breasted Mergansers were abundant, and one Horned Grebe made an appearance.

Shorebirds were in short supply, although we had a huge flock of gulls and terns at North Beach. It was great to be able to compare Sandwich, Royal, and Forster's Terns side by side. Mixed in were Black Skimmers, Laughing Gulls (some already getting their black hoods), Ringed-billed Gulls, and a single Herring Gull. A pair of American Oystercatchers were nearby. The northernmost end of the beach had a Reddish Egret.

The Bald Eagles who nest on the cell tower were busily feeding at least two chicks., and a lot of Ospreys were nesting or courting. American Kestrels hunted from the power lines. We were buzzed quite a few times by squawking Nanday Parakeets.

[CLICK FOR A LIST OF SPECIES](#)

Lynn Jakubowicz and Mary Heinlen

CELERY FIELDS WALK - FEBRUARY 8th

On a warm and lovely winter day, about a dozen participants joined Kathryn Young and me for today's Celery Fields Walk. We met at the Nature Center at 0800, then made our way to the Palmer Blvd Boardwalk. After that, it was on to the Raymond Rd Boardwalk before finishing up at the Walker Tract (southern portion of south cell). We had great looks at Purple Gallinule on Palmer but unfortunately the American Bittern at Raymond only offered brief and unsatisfying glimpses. [CLICK FOR A LIST OF SPECIES](#)

Stu Wilson

CRITTER SURVEY - FEBRUARY 19th

On a beautiful Sunday morning seven bug enthusiasts scoured the SAS Nature Center garden for anything that crawled, slid, buzzed or flew. Jeanne, Glynnis and Marcy hosted our very knowledgeable visitors, Karen Finch (Butterfly Club), Nancy West, John Lampkin and Jean Evoy.

We saw (and photographed) 22 critter species altogether, apart from birds, which we also counted. Critters included Butterflies, Moths, Caterpillars, Spiders, Bugs, Damselflies, Wasps and Flies. But the 'creature', if I can call it that, that caused the most excitement neither crawled, slid, buzzed or flew, it just sat there. This was none other than, wait for it slime mold! This does look a bit, at first glance, like, well.... dog vomit, but the bug experts were all aglow with excitement with the find. But no, not dog vomit, but slime mold! Slime mold is an informal name given to several different kinds of unrelated Eukaryota organisms



"Poor Richard"

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Otus will answer your questions about our amazing wildlife, but only if you Ask Otus®.
 Click to send your questions to: [Ask Otus®](#)

FOLLOW THE BIRDS!



Jeanne Dubi and Kathryn Young lead this group of eager birders in one of the Birding Series classes offered by SAS.

OOPS DID YOU FORGET?



DECEMBER WAS THE TIME TO RENEW YOUR SAS MEMBERSHIP 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@sarasotaaudubon.org

that can live freely as single cells, but come together to form multicellular structures with intelligence. These slimy masses can then move around like giant amoeba and hunt for food. They can solve mazes to find their food, and when I got home I watched this very process on Youtube. Look it up, it's amazing. In fact their whole life cycle is like something out of a sci-fi novel.

Among the other interesting critters were some Citrine Forktails, which are the smallest damselflies in the U.S.A., a Saltmarsh Caterpillar, a Green Lynx Spider, a Hawaiian Beetle Webworm and some cool butterflies. These included Barred Yellow, Southern Skipperling, Fiery Skipper, Red Admiral and Tropical Checkered Skipper.



Slime Mold

Photograph by Marcy Packer

And by the way, the bioswale is turning out to be such a haven for bugs and other critters, and the unmown section of the hillside is becoming great for butterflies. We had a great morning. I can't wait for the next critter survey. Moving into Spring, it can only get better.

[CLICK FOR MORE CRITTERS AND PHOTOS](#)

Glynnis Thomas

RED BUG SLOUGH - FEBRUARY 21st

One of our local parks, Red Bug Slough, was the site of our walk on February 21st. Sixteen birders were treated to thirty-eight species, including several large flocks of American Robins, Bald Eagle, a beautiful pair of Wood Ducks, a nesting Red-Shouldered Hawk, Black and White Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, and several singing Northern Parula Warblers. We walked about a two-mile loop: another mile loop awaits those who will return to this lovely urban park.

Lynn Jakubowicz and Martha Straub

Birds of the Month

Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*)

Another winter treat for SRQ birders showed up this week on Siesta Key, just as we thought winter was over and beginning to dream of spring migration. Kathryn Young and Rick Greenspun first ID'd the immature Glaucous Gull and since then it has hung around, giving a number of us close views and good photo opportunities!



Glaucous Gull on Siesta Key Beach 3/4/17

It's still hanging around between access 10 and access 8, with a large group of Herring Gulls. For those who despair of gull i.d. forget about every other field mark and concentrate on a large pale gull with NO black at all in the primaries. Focus on the primaries and you'll get the bird. You'll know it when you see it.

The Glaucous Gull is a large and powerful gull, the second largest gull in

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COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS**

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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.

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

- * Note cards with birds, butterflies and honey bees
- * Sturdy "birdy" plant stakes
- * Butterfly garden stakes
- * Ladies Nature Center blue crew neck tees (with Purple Gallinule design) are here

All proceeds support our Nature Center

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!

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To subscribe: [Click here to send an email.](#)
Thanks to Peter Rice for providing this service.

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

The Glaucous Gull is a large and powerful gull, the second largest gull in the world, (the largest being the Great Black-backed). It is around 27" in length, with a massive wingspan of 60". In reality, on the ground with the Herring Gulls it looks a bit larger, so don't rely on something towering over the other gulls. After all a Herring gull is 25", a pretty big bird too. The Glaucous Gull also has a flat forehead making its bill look even bigger than it is, a veritable ski slope from forehead to bill tip.

The genus name *Larus hyperboreus* means a gull-species (*larus*) from the far north (*hyperboreus*). Its common name, Glaucous Gull, is from the Latin word *glaucus* meaning bluish-green or grey color, but it is in fact very pale in all its plumages, with no black on either the wings or the tail. Adults are pale gray above, with a thick yellow bill. Juveniles, like the one on Siesta, are very pale, creamy white and 'smudgy'.



Can you spot the Glaucous Gull?

The Glaucous Gull is migratory, breeding in Arctic regions and wintering in the North Atlantic and North Pacific as far south as the British Isles and northernmost states of the U.S. It is therefore unusual to find it as far south as Sarasota. White winged gulls include Glaucous, Iceland and Ivory, but the Glaucous, although rare, is the most commonly seen further south. They tend to appear at the latter end of winter along with a large influx of Herring Gulls. Its habitat and habits are

similar to those of a Herring Gull, and its call is a 'laughing' cry similar to the Herring Gull's but deeper.

Glaucous Gulls are omnivores like most *Larus* gulls, and they will eat fish, insects, molluscs, starfish, offal, scraps, eggs, small birds, small mammals and carrion as well as seeds, berries and grains.

If you haven't seen it yet, go out and find it. For those lacking i.d. confidence, look for a group of birders with telescopes, bins and/or cameras.

Glynnis Thomas

Photographs by Glynnis Thomas

Audubon Advocate



Everglade Snail Kite by RJ Wiley

The Audubon Advocate is the best place to get news about Florida's leading environmental issues while legislators convene in Tallahassee

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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

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
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

[CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site](#)



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



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**Submissions, comments and questions
always welcome**

Send to: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

Marcy Packer, editor

editor@sarasotaaudubon.org