



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

JANUARY 2019

MONTHLY MEETING **Monday, January 14th**

BIRDING BIG YEAR



Yve Morrell from Naples, Florida will describe her 2017 ABA Birding Big Year (including Hawaii) and the 817 species that ranked her 3rd all-time for Big Year efforts

Social Hour: 6:30pm
Business Meeting: 7:00pm
Presentation: 7:30pm

First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
2031 S. Euclid, Sarasota

[CLICK --> MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS](#)

Pre-monthly Meeting Dinner
All Members Welcome!

Gecko's Restaurant, 1900 Hillview Avenue at
5:00pm. Reservations are not necessary.

Contact Karen Jensen for more information:

941-400-6890



The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center

Open daily 9:00am-1:00pm

October 1st through May 31st

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FIELD TRIPS AND

ACTIVITIES

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

Thursday, JANUARY 3rd:

NORTH LIDO BEACH & WOODS

8:00am. Meet in small parking lot at end of Ringling Blvd on Lido. Leaders: John Ginaven and Stu Wilson (512-897-8341)

Thursday, JANUARY 3rd:

OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey / Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee). Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Saturday, JANUARY 5th:

68th ANNUAL SARASOTA AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Birders are encouraged to join us as we count all the birds within our circle. Expect to spend at least a half-day in the field. Alternately, spend a couple hours monitoring your backyard feeder and report your results. Contact: Stu Wilson stuwilson@comcast.net or 512-897-8341

Wednesday, JANUARY 9th:

CELERY FIELDS WALK - PM BIRDING

3:00pm - 5:00pm. Don't want to get up so early? Enjoy a 'PM Birding' walk with Margi Haas (mhaas@pipeline.com). Meet at the Nature Center.

Wednesday, JANUARY 9th:

CELERY FIELDS CLEAN UP

9:00am. Help keep our area trash free. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader: Joanna Bear (jbear0822@aol.com)

Thursday, JANUARY 10th:

OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey / Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee). Alternating leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Saturday, JANUARY 12th:

SAS GARAGE SALE

9:00am. SAS Nature Center. Contact: Garage Sale Team: 1117chase@gmail.com

Saturday, JANUARY 12th:

VOLUNTEER FAIR

10:00am - 1:00p. Come check out volunteer opportunities at SAS. Contact: Marcy Packer (packmw@aol.com)



REMINDER....

ANNUAL SAS
MEMBERSHIP WAS DUE
IN DECEMBER

Click--> JOIN / RENEW

\$30.00 per member/family

Or Mail a Check Payable to:

Sarasota Audubon Society
999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Don't Know if You Renewed?

Check with Lynn Jakubowicz, our Membership
Chairperson, email:

membership@sarasotaudubon.org

2018-2019 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE



CLICK --> COMPLETE SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION FOR ALL trips, classes and SAS
Special Events must be completed
ON-LINE at the SAS web site.

Register:

CLASSES -----> CLICK
TRIPS -----> CLICK

You can also register by signing up

Saturday, JANUARY 12th:

CELERY FIELDS WALK - 2nd SATURDAY

8:00AM. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader - Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Monday, JANUARY 14th:

MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK

8:15am. Meet at 1st parking lot on right after the entrance (park opens at 9:00am, fee). Leader: Joyce Leary (508-737-8954), Eileen Gerle.

Thursday, JANUARY 17th:

OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey / Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee). Alternating Leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Thursday, JANUARY 17th:

CELERY FIELDS WALK - 3rd THURSDAY

8:00am. Meet at the Nature Center, Leader: SAS Survey Team (lynn234@verizon.net).

Tuesday, JANUARY 22nd:

URFER PARK

8:00am. Meet at the park, 4000 Honore Ave. Leaders: Martha Straub and Lynn Jakubowicz (lynn234@verizon.net).

Thursday, JANUARY 24th:

OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey / Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee). Alternating Leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Monday, JANUARY 28th:

CELERY FIELDS WALK - 4th MONDAY

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

Tuesday, JANUARY 29th:

FT. DESOTO SHOREBIRDS & DUCKS

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

Thursday, JANUARY 31st:

PERICO PRESERVE

8:00am. Meet at the park, 11700 Manatee Ave. W. Bradenton. Leaders: SAS Survey team. (lynn234@verizon.net).

Thursday, JANUARY 31st:

OSCAR SCHERER PARK

8:30am. Meet inside the park at Lake Osprey / Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee). Alternating Leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954) and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

on-line in person at the Nature Center.

For questions or help with on-line registration feel free to stop by / call (941-312-6533) the Nature Center daily 9:00am-1:00pm.



**SARASOTA AUDUBON
GARAGE SALE**

*JANUARY 12th
9:00am
Nature Center*

Sarasota Audubon will be hosting a garage sale at the Nature Center on Saturday January 12th beginning at 9 am. There will be an assortment of sale items from the Nature Center gift shop.

DO YOU HAVE UNWANTED NATURE RELATED ITEMS?

If you have unwanted nature related items (birding equipment, field guides, outdoor items) that you think other members would be interested in, please donate them at the Nature Center on:

Tuesday, January 9th and Wednesday, January 10th, 9:00am until 1:00pm only.
These are the only two days/times that we will accept donations due to lack of storage space.

We look forward to seeing you at the sale on Saturday January 12th.

Questions? email: 1117chase@gmail.com



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.

- Jan 18th - BIRDS OF PARADISE**
- Feb 9th - TALES FROM PELICAN COVE**
- Feb 15th - SAVING LOCAL LANDS**
- Mar 23rd - ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS**
- Apr 20th - PURPLE MARTINS**

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE

CLASSES

From Yoga to Photography. Check out this season's interesting selection of classes.

ON-LINE (only) REGISTRATION REQUIRED

- January - EBIRD**
- February - PHOTOGRAPHY**
- Feb-> March - BRING ART OUTSIDE**
- Feb-> March - EVERYTHING BIRDS**
- March - YOGA IN NATURE**

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE

[CLICK --> CLASS REGISTRATION](#)

Questions? Contact: Kathryn Young
kathwren4@gmail.com

TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS



Volunteers Staff the Holidays!



Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers who keep SAS going every day! However, the holiday season can be a tough time to ensure we have all our bases covered.

So, here is an additional **THANK YOU** to those who staffed the Nature Center and the CF Boardwalks on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years day!

Thanksgiving Day:

NC Docents - Marilyn Schmal, Sue Herring, Jon Michel

CF Bird Naturalists - Len Stein, Jim & Diane Wallace

Garden - Andy Schneider

Christmas Day:

NC Docents - Sara King, Marilyn Schmal
CF Bird Naturalists: Ellen McKeefe, Linda & Fred Verceles

Garden: Andy Schneider

New Years Day:

NC Docents - Marilyn Schmal, Jon Michel
CF Bird Naturalists - Sue Guarasci, Stu Wilson

ST MARK'S NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

January 18 - 20, 2019

Overnight birding trip

RESERVATION REQUIRED

[REGISTER OVERNIGHT TRIP](#)

EAGLE TROLLEY

February 2, 2019 or February 9, 2019

Visit bald eagle nests with expert Dale Nauman.

Two trips available: February 2 or February 9, 2019.

RESERVATION REQUIRED.

[REGISTER EAGLE TROLLEY - FEB. 2, 2019](#)

[REGISTER EAGLE TROLLEY - FEB. 9, 2019](#)



Christmas day...Sara King, Ellen McKeefe and Marilyn Schmal are some of the volunteers who kept up going over the holidays!

SAS ACTIVITIES

MYAKKA RIVER STATE PARK

Nineteen participants joined John Ginaven and me for the December 4th drive/walk at Myakka River State Park. We covered all the usual spots (river's edge near the entrance, Alligator Bridge, BirdWalk, and Weir) and had a pretty good day. The weather was pleasant bordering on hot (*82F) by noon. We saw seven times as many shorebird species as we did on the November 11th Longboat Key Shorebirds walk. Overall 66 birds were recorded.

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

Stu Wilson & John Ginaven

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

A record number (96) attended this years SAS Holiday Luncheon on December 14th. A terrific program was put on by Anne Brooks and her team; Barb Males, Lenee Owens, Diane Wallace and Paula Griffin. The festivities included fun activities such as a silent auction, bird trivia game, bird photography slide show and a wonderful presentation on the history of women in conservation and Audubon. A great time was had by all!



Photograph by Kathryn Young

Volunteer Fair



JANUARY 12, 2019

10:00am - 1:00pm

SAS Nature Center

At the Sarasota Audubon Society every position and task is done by one of our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers.

Do you have a special talent and some extra time?

Come on down to check out the many SAS volunteer opportunities at our annual **Volunteer Fair!**

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

Snake Tales Workshop

On December 15th, Linda Becherelli educated us on the value of Florida native snakes. Photo shows Linda with one of her Corn Snakes.



Workshop attendees were able to get up close and personal as they were able to see and touch.

Doug Jansen

SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY PRESENTS

MEMBER PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

"Celebrating the Celery Fields"

FEBRUARY 1-28, 2019

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday February 2, 2019
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM



VOTE FOR PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD
Check out our Raffles
Light Refreshments Served



Join us as we celebrate the talents of our SAS members for our first Photography Show.

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

Sarasota Audubon Nature Center

at The Celery Fields
999 Center Road
Sarasota, FL 34240

941-312-6533

www.SarasotaAudubon.org

Open Daily 9am - 1pm

The logo for the Sarasota Audubon Society, featuring a bird and the text "SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY".

Gull.....but which one??



Who remembers that delightful book by Richard Bach - 'Jonathan Livingstone Seagull?' Published in 1972 it dominated the #1 spot on the New York Times Bestseller list for two consecutive years, and sold over 60 million copies worldwide. A former USAF pilot, Air Force Captain and latter-day barnstorming pilot, Bach explored the joys and freedom of flying in this fable (and parable) featuring a gull learning about life and flight and the notion of self-perfection. As Jonathan pushes himself ever higher and faster he is seized by a passion for flight that eventually makes him an outcast, but in the process he learns things about life and himself that he would not otherwise have found out.

But what kind of a gull was Jonathan? Certainly not a Seagull, there is no such bird. Well, we are never told....

And we all know this dilemma, highlighted during the

ALL ABOARD THE EAGLE TROLLEY



February 2nd or 9th

All aboard! Join our Bald Eagle expert Dale Nauman for a Trolley Tour of several active Bald Eagle nests in the Sarasota-Manatee area. He will narrate the tour and share his vast knowledge, acquired from years of observing these Eagles as a volunteer with Florida Audubon EagleWatch.

There are 2 tours scheduled. One on February 2, the other a week later on February 9. The tour leaves from and returns to the Audubon Nature Center. Time: 8am-12pm.

winter months in Sarasota, when less usual gulls show up on our coast. So let's indulge in a little revision about gull ID.

Here's what I learned from Ken Kaufman in his very helpful book called 'Identify Yourself; The 50 Most Common Birding Identification Challenges'.

Under Basics of Gull ID, he says,

- 1) Rare gulls are rare
- 2) Gulls are variable
- 3) Gulls have a bewildering variety of plumages related to age.

Hmmmm... not too helpful a beginning maybe.

Then he adds more helpfully (very helpfully in my view), 'There are only three basic kinds of gulls - little ones, medium sized ones, and big ones'. He adds, 'Ignore the pages and pages of gull pictures in your field guide and focus on that fact. He then goes on to unpack that concept a little by relating them to a variety of gulls. For example 'The medium-sized gulls, such as ring-billed, mew, laughing and Franklin's.....'

Based on this helpful tip I turned to a book I recently purchased (only don't be fooled by the title), 'Gulls Simplified, A comparative Approach to Identification', by Pete Dunne and Kevin T. Karlson. At the beginning of this book there is an array of 22 gulls, a little larger than postage stamp sized, placed in order of size! On the next page are the same pictures, but in silhouette. Great!

Here's what I did. I photocopied this page, cut out the pictures and on a sheet of paper I stuck the ones that are found on our beaches, and re-photocopied the page. I now have a neat little sheet with the 10 most likely to see gulls - Great Black-backed, Herring, Iceland (Thayer's), Lesser Black-backed, Ring-billed, Laughing, Mew, Franklin's, Sabine's and Bonaparte's. (Not sure why I added Mew, except it's a gull I'm very familiar with).

Admittedly, rarer birds can turn up. I well remember the wonderful specimen of a Kelp Gull that showed up in Ancote Gulf Park in January of 2011, and the Heerman's Gull that turned up annually in Fort de Soto in the early 2000s, and the Glaucous Gull seen on Siesta in 2017, but those sightings are highly unusual, and the theory is that the better you can ID the more usual birds, the more likely you are to note something obviously different.

Returning to the issue of size for a minute, this idea can be helpful even with the bewildering array of juvenile birds.

For example, you may not know that at length of 30" the Great Black-backed is the world's largest gull. (Consider also that a Bald Eagle is 31", a Turkey Vulture 26" and a Snow Goose 28". These are birds we are familiar with, so think about that when you ask yourself, could it be a Great Black-backed).

Think too about the sizes of other gulls. A Herring Gull is 25", a (Thayers) Iceland Gull 23", and a Lesser

RESERVATION REQUIRED

[REGISTER EAGLE TROLLEY - FEB. 2, 2019](#)

[REGISTER EAGLE TROLLEY - FEB. 9, 2019](#)



NEWS FROM THE GIFT SHOP

Along with all our great gifts we have two artists displaying and selling their artwork and photographs at the SAS Nature Center during the month of January. We invite you to come in and take a look.

Kathy Houghton is a watercolor artist who draws her inspiration from many of our Celery Fields photographers. She paints portraits, flowers and wildlife. Kathy is a Master Signature Member of the Florida Suncoast Watercolor Society who often participates in local watercolor art shows.



Watercolor by Kathy Houghton

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'd lost parents in "expressing grief through the lens". Jill's framed photos will be on display in November and December.

Black-backed 21", even as a juvenile a Great Black-backed is going to be much bigger.

Another tip, when I take a photograph of a gull for ID purposes I always try to add a photograph of the bird with other gulls for comparison of size. By the way the only other gull that comes near to the Great Black-backed in size is the Glaucous Gull at 27" but there is no way those two species can be confused! By the way, 'Jonathan Livingstone Seagull' is still out there. Have a good read!

Glynnis Thomas



Photograph by Jill Mudge



NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

December Rarities 2018

- **Franklin's Gull:** Sarasota Bayfront Recreational Trail, Siesta Beach
- **Iceland Gull (Thayer's):** Siesta Beach
- **Common Tern:** Siesta Beach, Siesta Access 5 & 7, Nokomis Beach, Manasota Beach, N. Lido Beach, Benderson, Oaks Clubhouse
- **Black Scoter:** S. Lido Park, N. Jetty Park, Siesta Beach +Access 5 & 7, Turtle Beach, Venice Island
- **Least Flycatcher:** Celery Fields
- **Bronzed Cowbird:** Celery Fields, Ackerman Park, Fruitville Rd.
- **Black-throated Green Warbler:** Crowley Nature Center
- **Brown-headed Nuthatch:** Deer Prairie Creek Preserve
- **Yellow-throated Vireo:** Pinecraft Park, Buckskin Dr, Englewood,
- **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's):** Corradino Blvd, North Port
- **American Redstart:** Crowley Nature Center, Pinecraft Park
- **Painted Bunting:** Crowley Nature Center
- **Blue Grosbeak:** Crowley Nature Center, Celery Fields
- **Magnolia Warbler:** Pinecraft Park
- **Barn Swallow:** Celery Fields
- **Greater Scaup:** Celery Fields
- **Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Celery Fields
- **Surf Scoter:** Lemon Bay Park

Claire Herzog

Myakka River Christmas Bird Count

December 17, 2018

The paucity of individuals and species disappointed many but overall the total of 111 species was a pleasant surprise. Forty eight participants logged nearly 45 hours in the field covering 140 miles by foot and vehicle. The Krider's Hawk was a new record for the count. This hawk is a Great Plains race of the Red-tailed Hawk with a whitish head and washed-out pink in the tail. It was seen soaring with vultures off M & J Road. A lone Crested Caracara was seen on a sandbar where the river channel widens into the Lower Lake.

It was another mild temperature count with the lake water depth about an inch deeper than usual according to Chris Oliver, the Myakka River biologist. This higher water combined with the previous drought years perhaps contributed to the large dead areas of the exotic paragrass (*Urochloa mutica*) and the expansion of the endemic Florida loosestrife (*Lythrum flagellare*). The lower vegetation diminished foraging habitat for Red-winged Blackbirds, Swamp Sparrows and Marsh Wrens which were in smaller numbers this year. There were fewer ducks and terns and no gulls. The green meadows of the river marsh provided foraging area for Wilson's Snipe, Least Sandpipers, Killdeer and Limpkins. Black-necked Stilts and American White Pelicans were scattered in the river and lakes. Tree Swallows returned this year by the thousands.

There were several species not usually seen: Hooded Merganser, American Avocet, Peregrine Falcon, White-winged Dove and Cooper's Hawk. Other uncommon species included the Stilt Sandpiper, Sora, Ovenbird, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Painted Bunting. Black-bellied Plover and Dunlin normally found along the coast were again observed inland at Crowley Museum and Nature Center.

The decrease of tall grasses in the river marshes resulted in less habitat for the sparrows and wrens. Only a single Chipping Sparrow was found north of



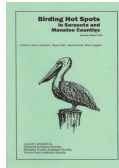
OUR BROWN PELICAN NEWSLETTER IS NOW ONLY AVAILABLE IN ELECTRONIC FORMAT. PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS SO YOU WON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE
EMAIL: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org



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 or by mail for \$8.50. Send a check to: SAS, 999 Center Rd, Sarasota, FL 34240.



the Upper Lake and one Marsh Wren discovered north of the Myakka Road bridge, north of the park. Everyone heard the Carolina Wren and half of the groups sighted the House Wren. The Caspian Tern and Forster's Tern were the only terns sighted. We set record highs for individuals observed for four species: Muscovy Duck (14), Turkey Vulture (1116), Limpkin (152) and Ruby-throated Hummingbird (3). Jean Blackburn's backyard observations provided the hummingbirds. We had the second highest record (213) for white pelicans since 1959. The largest number of white pelicans (279) were recorded in 2000. On the deficit side, no bitterns, gulls, Northern Flicker, Hermit Thrush or American Pipit.

This was a challenging count. A helicopter flew over the lower lake and scattered birds and alligators at Deep Hole. The park truck transporting the power line group broke down mid-morning and curtailed that group's ability to cover their area. They were rescued by the park manager. And one group had the most participants (11) and the widest age range (9 - 70+ yrs).

Next year's Myakka River count is on Monday, December 16, 2019.

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

Belinda Perry



SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

NAME BADGES

Pin Badge - \$5.25, Magnet Badge - \$7.25
Add \$4.50 for shipping. Send name and address to:
Michael Fox, 2749 Ringling Ave. Sarasota, FL 34237

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 TO ORDER - BRICK ORDER FORM](#)

Call for SAS Members to Display and Sell Their Artwork / Photography at the Nature Center



If you are a member of Sarasota Audubon who is an artist or photographer and interested in displaying and selling your artwork at the Nature Center, we invite you to print out, complete, and send the "Artist Request to Display and Sell" form.

[CLICK --> Artist Request to Display and Sell](#)

We are looking to showcase one or two members' artworks or photographs during the months of April and May.

For questions or additional information, please contact us at: SAS.Art.Committee@gmail.com

Sue Herring, Chair - SAS Art Committee

Sarasota County Butterfly Club

BECOME A SPOONBILL CLUB



Sarasota County Butterfly Club Programs are open to the public and are held most 4th Thursdays of each month Sept-May.
Visit www.sarasotabutterfly.com to learn more!

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

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](#)



Submissions, comments and questions always welcome
Send to: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

[CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site](#)

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