MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, March 11th

THE GREAT FLORIDA INVASION
FROM PYTHONS TO PEPPER
Sanibel author Charles Sobczak will speak on the many invasive species that have arrived in Florida throughout recorded history

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

First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
2031 S. Euclid, Sarasota

Click --> MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS

BRINGING ART OUTSIDE.....
Gecko's Restaurant, 1900 Hillview Avenue at 5:00pm. Reservations are not necessary. Contact Karen Jensen for more information: 941-400-6890

2018-2019 ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

CLICK --> COMPLETE SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION FOR most trips, classes and special events must be completed ON-LINE at the SAS web site. CLICK ---> REGISTER
You can also register by signing up on-line in person at the Nature Center.

For help stop by the Nature Center or call (941-312-6533) 9am-1pm daily

FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES
No reservations necessary for field trips unless noted. Suggested donation: $2 members, $4 non-members.

Tuesday, MARCH 5th
CELERY FIELDS WALK - 1st TUESDAY
8:00am. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader - Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Thursday, MARCH 7th:
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, MARCH 9th:
CELERY FIELDS WALK - 2nd SATURDAY
8:00AM. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader - Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Wednesday, MARCH 13th:
CELERY FIELDS WALK - PM BIRDING
3:00pm. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader - Margi Haas (mhaas@pipeline.com).

Thursday, MARCH 14th:
OLD MYAKKA PRESERVE
7:30am. Meet at the Nature Center. NO FACILITIES at the preserve. Leader: Rick Greenspun

On that wonderful trip that Harma Nyhof arranged to St Marks last month, we saw some great birds. I wanted the American Woodcock so badly - and I was not disappointed. I also desperately hoped that the American Flamingo had not moved on - and again, I was not disappointed. I hoped for some new sparrows
Thursday, MARCH 14th:
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, MARCH 16th:
NATURE CTR - NATIVE GARDEN TOUR
10:00am. Join Master Gardener and SAS member Jan McLaughlin for a tour of the Nature Center's gardens. Jan will identify plants native to SW Florida and focus on specific plants that provide benefit to migratory and resident birds, as well as butterflies and other insects. Learn why it's important to create appropriate habitat for wildlife, while creating a more interesting landscape to live with. FREE and open to the public. Donations for garden upkeep always gratefully accepted.

Thursday, MARCH 21st:
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.

Thursday, MARCH 21st:
CELERYFIELDS WALK - 3rd THURSDAY
8:00am. Meet at the Nature Center, Leader: SAS Survey Team (lynn234@verizon.net).

Saturday, MARCH 23rd:
BEACH NESTING BIRD STEWARD TRAINING - SIESTA BEACH
9:00am. Please join us to learn more about becoming a bird steward! This will be an introduction and training - all are welcome! There will also be a short guided beach walk afterward to see the Snowy Plovers! Meet at Siesta Beach Sea Turtle Pavilion 948 Beach Rd. For questions or more information contact: kwilson@audubon.org

Monday, MARCH 25th:
CELERY FIELDS WALK - 4th MONDAY
9:00am. Meet at the Nature Center, Leader: Joyce Leary (508-737-8954).

Tuesday, MARCH 26th
NORTH LONGBOAT / LEFFIS KEY
8:00am. Meet at Broadway Beach access north end of Longboat Key. Leaders: Stu Wilson (512-897-8341) and John Ginaven.

Thursday, MARCH 28th:
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). and again, with fabulous views (and photos) of a Henslow's and not so great views of a Nelson's, I was not disappointed. But a bird that really intrigued me, and I was very keen to see, was the Golden-crowned Kinglet. Somehow this bird had so far eluded me. You might possibly call it a nemesis bird. It seemed that it shouldn't be a problem to find, but I simply hadn't seen one. Well, we did see one. And we also so a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. So, two Kinglets on one trip - Regulus calendula and Regulus satrapa.

The amazing thing for me is that these two little birds, including their appearance and habits, are mirrored almost perfectly in two British/European birds - the Goldcrest and the Firecrest. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is remarkably like the British Goldcrest - the same bland, wide-eyed face, the same short neck and large head, the same tiny size. Only difference is the crest, which is 'golden' on the Goldcrest and 'ruby' on the Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

As for the Golden-crowned Kinglet, well he is the perfect counterpart of the British Firecrest - same striped face with its broad white supercilium, same buzzy call and same relative scarcity value compared to the Goldcrest as the Golden-crowned Kinglet is to the Ruby-crowned. The difference? Well, it is the the Golden-crowned Kinglet that has the 'golden' crown and the Firecrest that has the 'ruby' crown, which is a complete reverse of the British pair.

This trans-continental parallelism intrigued me, I have no idea why but I couldn't quite get it out of my head. And then the plot thickened. I found out that all four birds belong to the family *Regulus*, of which there are only six species worldwide. As well as the Firecrest, Goldcrest, Golden-crowned Kinglet and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, there are also the Flamecrest and the Madeira Firecrest. Incidentally, the Latin name *Regulus* is a diminutive of rex meaning king - so, prince, little king or, yes, kinglet. And it obviously refers to the colorful crest or crown of the bird. It's a perfect name.

Here's a mystery though. How is it that these six bird species are found as far apart as the USA, UK, Madeira and Taiwan! The Flamecrest, so very similar, but more showy, to both the Firecrest and the Golden-crowned kinglet is endemic, yes endemic, to the mountains of the island of Taiwan! That's way off the beaten track. And the Madeira Firecrest is endemic to the island of Madeira, one of the offshore islands of Portugal. I have no idea why this should be so, but you know, reflecting on all of this, there is so much about birding that totally enthralls and captivates. And really what do we know about birds, even one bird, in spite of all our lists and sightings? What do I know about an American Woodcock beside the thrill of seeing one displaying in that magical moment at dawn at St Marks?

But here's the thing. Wherever our interest lies, birding gives opportunities to us all. For instance trying to fathom mysteries like this, or just to be...
NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER

February 2019
Rarities/Highlights

Celery Fields:
- Greater Scaup
- Bronzed Cowbird
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Cinnamon Teal
- Ash-throated Flycatcher
- Blue Grosbeak
- Least Flycatcher
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Broad-winged Hawk

Crowley Museum & Nature Center:
- Least Flycatcher
- American Redstart

Bay Street Park, Osprey:
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Chuck-will's-widow

Pinecraft Park:
- Magnolia Warbler
- Turkey Vulture (all white, leucistic)
- Baltimore Oriole
- Summer Tanager
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo

North Lido & Siesta Beach:
- Common Tern
- Great Black-backed Gull (Lido only)

Myakka River State Park:
SAS ACTIVITIES

SAVING LOCAL LANDS FOR CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Using a Manatee County case study and discussions, the workshop provided a powerful experience for over

Carlton Reserve:
- Snail Kite (unconfirmed)
- Brown-headed Nuthatch

Oscar Scherer State Park:
- Eastern Whip-poor-will

Private Locations:
- Hairy Woodpecker, Venice
- Yellow Warbler

First-of-Season:
- Swallow-tailed Kites, Barn Swallows, Northern Parulas

Claire Herzog

UPDATE YOUR CALENDARS!

OUR 2019 VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT HAS BEEN MOVED TO:

SATURDAY, APRIL 27th
6:00pm-8:00pm
SAS Nature Center

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

Click --> JOIN or RENEW
$30.00 per member/family

Or Mail a Check Payable to:
Sarasota Audubon Society
30 enthusiastic participants. It laid out all of the steps and pieces necessary to conduct a successful citizen activist conservation campaign. It concluded with a strong focus on the western parameters of Celery Fields and what might be done to save at least the south two “quads” of land at Apex and Palmer from proposed industrial development. We are hoping there will some follow up to address this situation.

Please contact Margi Haas mhaas@pipeline.com if you are interested in helping. I’d especially like to thank Gary Hebert and Brenda Russell of KeepWoods, Debi Osborne of the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, and the Sarasota Audubon Society.

Margi Haas

MYAKKA RIVER WALK
On February 14th what started out to be a chilly and windy day at Myakka, turned out to be warm with clear blue skies for 18 SAS members and visitors.

We started out in the main parking lot at exactly 8:15 a.m. We managed to scrape out a Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, an Osprey on the nest and some vocalizing Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers. Spoonbills, Wood Storks, various herons and egrets and a pair of Limpkins on the nest at the weir were the only birds present.

A few Black-necked Stilts, one lonely Least Sandpiper, one Greater Yellowlegs and three White Pelicans flying overhead were the birds of note at the bird walk.

No shorebirds, NOT ONE DUCK were the conspicuously absent bird species today. Other than the pleasant participants and beautiful weather, it was a sub par day at the bird office.

Cest La Vie!! Still we managed 40 species in all.

As we were leaving the park, our car saw some turkeys and I received a text that some in the group that stayed behind saw a Northern Harrier.

Rick Greenspun

EAGLE TROLLEY

Jeanne Dubi Scholarship
The scholarship committee will award scholarships to two eligible high school students planning to study the environmental sciences in college.

If you know of any students who would like to apply email: info@sarasotaudubon.org

The Jeanne Dubi Scholarship is donor funded and is another way the Sarasota Audubon Society is furthering the cause of helping the environment.

GIFT SHOP NEWS...

SUN-N-FUN ART EXHIBIT
Come see the beautiful paintings created by the Sun N Fun Artists' Guild now on display at the Nature Center throughout the month of March. These artworks represent the flora and fauna of the Celery Fields. They are for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefits our SAS programs.
On the first two Saturdays in February we had very successful Bald Eagle Nests tours in Sarasota and Manatee counties with our guide and Bald Eagle expert Dale Nauman.

Both days had spectacular weather and the Eagles were very cooperative. Parents were posing beautifully, flying around, bringing food to the nests and we had some great looks at them feeding their young through the scopes. There was a nice variety of ages of the young, from fluffy "bobble heads" to ones several weeks old.

We'll do it again next year. Be sure to sign up early as these tours sell out fast. Please check the Sarasota Audubon website in the Fall to reserve your spot.

See you next year!

_H arma Nyhof_

---

We also have lots of great gifts for family and friends at the Gift Shop, including newly stocked merchandise, jewelry, T-shirts, kid stuff, puzzles, books, and much more. Some of our newest items include microfiber lens cloths and SAS pens that can double as a stylus for your electronic tablet, along with bee houses, small photo frames and some mini photo albums. You can find something for everyone on your shopping list and each purchase helps support our Nature Center at the Celery Fields.

---

_Call for SAS Members to Display and Sell Their Artwork or Photography at the Nature Center_

If you are a member of Sarasota Audubon who is an artist or photographer and is interested in displaying and selling your nature-related artwork/photographs at our Nature Center, we invite you to complete and send us the attached "Artist Request to Display and Sell" form, which is also available at the Nature Center front desk, or via email request to: sas.art.committee@gmail.com.

All artworks and photos should be originals and they must be framed, gallery wrapped, or metal-printed,
**ADDITIONAL BIRD STEWARD TRAINING:**

- **March 7th at 1:00pm:** Longboat Key Bayfront Park Recreation Center*

- **March 23rd at 9:00am:** Siesta Key Siesta Public Beach

- **April 13th at 9:00am:** Lido Key Holiday Inn on Lido

*This will be more of an educational presentation than a stewardship training but it would be a good opportunity to learn more about the birds and stewardship needs of Longboat Key.

We are looking to showcase the artwork and/or photographs of one or two members for up to 8 weeks during the months of April and May.

**ARTIST REQUEST TO DISPLAY & SELL FORM**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact us at: sas.art.committee@gmail.com.

_Sue Herring, Chair - SAS Art Committee_

---

**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

---

**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

---

Sarasota County Butterfly Club

Sarasota County Butterfly Club Programs are open to
Celery Fields
Photograph by Betty Neupert

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

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.

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.

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.

Follow SAS on Facebook!

CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site

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

Write An Article!
Submissions and comments always welcome
Send to: editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

The public and are held most 4th Thursdays of each month Sept-May.
Visit www.sarasotabutterfly.com to learn more!