



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 2019

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](#)

**Pre-monthly Meeting Dinner
All Members Welcome!**



The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center

Open daily 9:00am-1:00pm

October 1st through May 31st

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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



Instructor, Diane Wallace leads students in a SAS art class "Bring Your Art Outside"

Photograph by Marilyn Schmal

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



Kinglets or



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

(birddoggie1@gmail.com)

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 (508-241-5541).**

Thursday, MARCH 21st:

CELERY FIELDS 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/

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 enralls 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

Nature Center (park opens at 8:00am - park fee).
Alternating Leaders Joyce Leary (508-737-8954)
and Peter Brown (508-241-5541).

Thursday, MARCH 28th:

LETTUCE LAKE PARK

7:00am. BRING LUNCH. Meet behind Starbucks (I-75 & University Pkwy). Leaders: Lynn Jakubowicz (lynn234@verizon.net) and Mary Heinlen.

fascinated (either is valid); to take part in science, including citizen science; or if your interest lies in history, biography, autobiography, art, photography, travel, volunteering, the outdoors, the indoors (including data crunching, record keeping or writing), meeting people, including people of other countries, with birding there's something for everyone, isn't there? And you can pursue your bliss at whatever level you choose. All is equally valid. We are all equal in the world of birds.

Glynnis Thomas



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.

'ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS'

MARCH 23rd

'PURPLE MARTINS'

APRIL 20th

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE

CLASSES

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

ON-LINE (only) REGISTRATION REQUIRED

'YOGA IN NATURE'

Tuesdays - March 12, 19, 26, April 2
4:30 at the Nature Center

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE



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:

[CLICK --> CLASS REGISTRATION](#)

Questions? Contact: Kathryn Young
kathwren4@gmail.com



**HOW TO ATTRACT HUMMINGBIRDS TO YOUR YARD
WORKSHOP**



**Saturday, Mar 23
1:30 PM**

Sarasota Audubon Nature Center
999 Center Rd, Sarasota, FL 34240

John Groskopf will share information on resident and migrant hummingbirds and identify which plants will attract them to our yards.

Children welcome!

\$5 donation - No Reservations - pay at the door

For more information contact:
Doug Janson
doug.jj@gmail.com

- Snail Kite (unconfirmed)

Carlton Reserve:

- 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

SAS ACTIVITIES

**SAVING LOCAL LANDS FOR
CONSERVATION WORKSHOP**



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



**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

999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Don't Know if You Renewed?

email: membership@sarasotaaudubon.org

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@sarasotaaudubon.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!

Harma 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,

Bird Steward Training

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!

Where: Siesta Beach Sea Turtle Pavilion
948 Beach Rd. Sarasota FL 34232

When: Saturday, March 23rd
9:00 – 11:00 AM

What: A presentation and training on the Bird Stewardship program for the nesting Snowy Plovers on Siesta. Afterwards will be a short beach walk to see the Snowy Plovers!

Who: This program is open to the public. Audubon Florida staff Kylie Wilson and Holley Short will be leading the presentation.

Why: To learn about the protected shorebirds & seabirds that nest on Siesta and how you can help them!



If you have any questions or would like more information please send an email to kwilson@audubon.org

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 have nesting pairs at the

and securely wired or otherwise able to be hung on our display system hooks. Any questions regarding our framing and hanging specifications should be sent to: sas.art.committee@gmail.com.

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

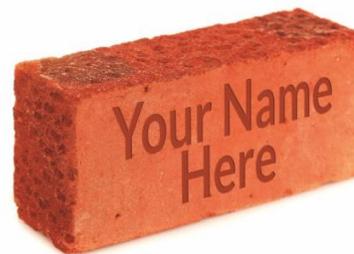
BECOME A SPOONBILL CLUB MEMBER



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

the public and are held most 4th Thursdays of each month Sept-May.

Visit www.sarasotabutterfly.com to learn more!



We've Gone
GREEN

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

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.



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Thanks to Peter Rice for providing this service.



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



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

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org