HOPE EVERYONE HAS HAD A NICE SUMMER!

MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, October 14th

Pelagic Birding Off the SW Florida Coast, The Final Frontier

Florida-based national champion birders,

The Sarasota Audubon Society Nature Center
Open daily 9:00am-1:00pm
October 1st through May 31st

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Message from the SAS Acting President...
It's time to get ready to start planning for the 2019-
2019-2020
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

CLICK FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE

SAS ACTIVITIES
CLICK --> COMPLETE SCHEDULE

GUIDED WALKS
Our SAS guided walks are led by some of our most knowledgeable and experienced birders. Come along with us!

Suggested donation for walks and tours: $2 members, $4 non-members. No reservations are necessary unless noted.

Saturday, Oct. 12th
PINECRAFT PARK
9:00am. 1420 Gilbert Ave. Leaders are Edith Miller and Helen King thekingsom@gmail.com

Tuesday, October 29th
ROBINSON PRESERVE

2020 season. The Nature Center will be open to visitors from October 1. In preparation for that day, we are working on the gardens and improving the interior by installing cabinets and a new kids’ area. To help us put our best foot forward, please join other volunteers on Saturday, September 14, 8:30-11am while we work to spruce up the gardens and the Nature Center.

Once again, we have a full range of activities, from monthly meetings to classes, workshops, special events and numerous bird walks. For those events requiring registration, please go to: www.sarasotaaudubon.org or register at the Nature Center.

We have a newly designed website!! The site is mobile friendly and the upgraded software makes it faster and better functioning. Check it out at: www.sarasotaaudubon.org

A heartfelt thank you to the outstanding work of Betty Neupert and Barbara Males for making our new site a reality.

More exciting news! Karen Willey, formerly of Around the Bend Nature Tours, has agreed to be our part-time Nature Center Manager. Her role will include managing the native plant gardens and overseeing the functioning of the Nature Center. Please drop by and give Karen a warm welcome.

Another addition to our Audubon family is Volunteer Consultant Vickie French. Vickie will help us enlarge our volunteer base and make the Volgistics system more functional and easier to use.

Want to volunteer? Send an email to Vickie at: volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org

Our newsletter, The Brown Pelican, is sent out to members online via email (aka eblast), so be sure to provide your email address. We also send out special announcements via eblast, making it doubly important that you stay in touch electronically. Please send your email address to: member@sarasotaaudubon.org

Thanks to each and every one of you for continuing to make SAS an outstanding organization. We look forward to seeing you all soon at the Nature Center, in the gardens, on the boardwalks or at one of our events.

Tammy and David McQuade who among many other things run the SW Florida Bird Alert Facebook Group.

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

First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
2031 S. Euclid, Sarasota

CLICK -> MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS

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Pre-Monthly Meeting Dinner
All Members Welcome!
Gecko’s Restaurant
1900 Hillview Ave
5:00pm
Contact Karen Jensen (karensarasota@yahoo.com)
Wednesday, November 6th
SIESTA KEY SHOREBIRDS
8:00am. Meet at Pavilion at north end of the main Siesta Key parking lot. Leaders are Mary Heinlen (346-3335) and Claire Herzog

Sunday, Nov 10th
LONGBOAT KEY SHOREBIRDS
8:00am. Meet at Broadway beach access north end of LBK. Leaders are Stu Wilson (512-897-8341) and John Ginaven

OSCAR SCHERER PARK WALKS
8:30am. Every Thursday, Nov 7-Mar 26: Meet inside park at Lake Osprey/Nature Center (opens 8:00am, fee). On the 1st and 2nd Thursday walks the leader is Peter Brown (508-2415541). On the 3rd, 4th and 5th Thursday walks the leader is Joyce Leary (508-737-8954).

CELERY FIELDS WALKS
First Mondays - "PM Birding"
Jan 6, Feb 3 and Mar 2. 3:00pm-5:00pm. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader is Margi Haas mhaas@pipeline.com

Third Mondays
Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 16: 8-10am: Meet at Raymond Rd Boardwalk. Leader is Peter Brown (508-241-5541)

Fourth Mondays
Oct 28, Nov 25, Dec 23, Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 23. 9:00am-11:00am. Leader is Joyce Leary (508-737-8954)

Third Thursdays
Jan 16, Feb 20, March 19. 8:00am. Leader is the SAS Survey Team lynn234@verizon.net

Second Saturdays
Nov 9, Dec 14, Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 14, Apr 11: 8-10am. Meet at Nature Center. Leader is Peter Brown (508-241-5541)

NATURE CENTER GARDEN TOURS
Fourth Saturdays
Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 28, Apr 25, 9:30am-11:30am. With Master Gardener

Welcome back!
Best Regards,
Jeanne Dubi

Registration for all SAS classes and events must be completed ONLINE at the SAS web site.

Here are links to register:
REGISTER CLASSES -------> CLICK
REGISTER SPECIAL EVENTS --> CLICK

You can also register online by visiting the SAS web site at: sarasotaudubon.org or signing up online in person at the Nature Center.

If you need help stop by or call (941-312-6533) the Nature Center during hours of operation (Oct 1-May 31, 9:00am-1:00pm)

NATURE CENTER CLEAN-UP
SEPTEMBER 14th
8:30am-11:00am

We will be preparing the SAS Nature Center and gardens for re-opening on October 1st. We'll be weeding, trimming, mulching, sweeping and getting the NC spruced up and ready to go. There will be opportunities to participate both inside and outside.

Come Join Us! We need your help!

Volunteers can sign-up on their volunteer account. Log-in to Volgistics, Click "My Schedule", Click on the Help Wanted sign on the calendar for September 14th.

Don't have an account? Just show up for the clean-up and we will get you enrolled.
Jan McLaughlin, enjoy our evolving subtropical garden, designed to attract migratory & resident birds, butterflies and moths.

**CELERY FIELDS ACTIVITIES**

**SAS NATURE CENTER**
Open every day, Oct - May, 9:00 am - 1:00pm. Docents on duty, displays, kids’ corner, information, gift shop, gardens, gazebo and more!

**BOARDWALKS**
At Palmer Blvd and Raymond Rd boardwalks, a SAS Celery Fields Bird Naturalist is on duty every day, Nov 1-Apr 30 from 8:30am - 10:30am.

**CELERY FIELDS CLEANUPS**
Help keep Palmer Blvd and our area trash free! Wednesdays at 9:00am: Nov 13, Jan 15, Mar 11, and Apr 15

**SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY**
Deep Sky Observers [www.lgdso.com](http://www.lgdso.com) will set up telescopes at the Nature Center for star and planet gazing! Saturdays: September 7th, 7:30pm, December 7th, 5:30pm & February 29th, 6:30pm

**BIG SIT**
Sunday, October 13th. Join SAS members to count birds from a 17 foot circle. Contact Stu Wilson ([stuwilson@comcast.net](mailto:stuwilson@comcast.net))

**VOLUNTEER FOR SAS**
Saturdays, December 14th & February 8th, 10:00am-12:00pm at the Nature Center. Learn about volunteer opportunities with SAS and how to apply. [volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org)

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**
Saturday, April 4th, 5:00pm-7:00pm, Nature Center. All SAS volunteers invited! [volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org)

**GARDEN WORKDAYS**
Saturday, September 14th, 8:30-11am. Please help us spruce up for our October 1st opening. [volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org)

**Sunday, February 9th: 8:30am-11:00am. Help the Temple Emanuel garden volunteers at our**

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**SHINY AND NEW**
Thanks to Sara King’s handy work over the summer we have a newly painted and refinished front desk at the Nature Center. Stop by after we open on October 1st and see what else is new!

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**NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER**

**Summer Rarities 2019**

**June**
- Rose-ring Parakeet: Siesta & N Lido Beach
- Common Tern: Siesta Beach & Lido Beach
- Elegant/Cayenne Tern: Siesta Beach
- Tropical Kingbird: St. Armand’s
- Mississippi Kite: Oscar Scherer State Park
- Brown Headed Nuthatch: Carlton Reserve
- Hairy Woodpecker: Carlton Reserve

**July**
- Pomarine Jaeger: Siesta Beach
- Elegant Tern: Siesta Beach & N. Lido Beach

**August**
- Snail Kite: Myakka River State Park
- Solitary Sandpiper: Fruitville Library
- Barn Owl: Celery Fields
SPECIAL EVENTS

October 17-20
FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL
volunteer@sarasotaudubon.org

October 25-26
AUDUBON ASSEMBLY
flaudubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly

Thursday, December 5
WHAT HAPPENS TO ALL THAT TOILET WATER?
9:00am. Join us as we visit a Sarasota County Wastewater Treatment facility including a tour of the operational lab.
RESERVATION REQUIRED-SPACE IS LIMITED.
Contact Kathryn Young kathwren4@gmail.com
Meet at McDonald’s, Bee Ridge/Cattlemen

Saturday, December 7
MEMBER CRAFT EVENT
9:00am-1:00pm Nature Center picnic area. SAS members will display and sell nature-related crafts. SAS.Art.Committee@gmail.com

Monday, December 16
MYAKKA PARK CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Belinda Perry - bperry51@verizon.net

Saturday, January 4
SAS CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Stu Wilson - stuwilson@comcast.net

Saturdays, January 11 & 18
'WINGSPAN' THE BOARD GAME
3:30pm - 5:30pm."WINGSPAN" Learn to play this wildly popular birdy board game! Space is

Black Skimmers

Beach Nesting Season Review

Black Skimmers

A really productive year for these guys!
Adults: 784
Nests: 327
Fledged Chicks: 322

Least Terns
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
MEMBER ART AND PHOTO SHOW
A month long exhibit of our members' art and photography. Opening Reception 4:00pm-6:00pm at the Nature Center.

SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY 1 & 8
EAGLE NEST TOURS
8:00am - 12:00pm. Visit active nests with Dale Nauman, Cost $30. REGISTER ONLINE. February 1st trip leader, Harma Nyhof birdsrq@gmail.com. February 8th trip leader, Barry Gerber blgerber@comcast.net.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, TUESDAY, APRIL 7: ROBERTS BAY ROOKERY BOAT TOURS
1:00pm-3:00pm. REGISTER ONLINE. Cost $30. Harma Nyhof - birdsrq@gmail.com

There were two ground nesting colonies, one on Lido and one on Longboat. The Longboat colony was on private property and so I chose not to advertise it but the colony did quite well! The numbers below are peak counts for each with the Lido colony shown first and the Longboat colony second.

Adults: 54 + 150 = 204
Nests: 54* + 57 = 111 (*combined from both the original and re-nest locations)
Fledged Chicks: 80

Snowy Plovers

Very sadly, there was no productivity and overall lower numbers this year. We had at most 3 breeding pairs and 7 nests (6 on Siesta and 1 on Lido). The primary causes of nest lost were:

1) ghost crabs (3 nests)
2) overwash (2 nests)
3) crows (confirmed, 1 nest)

Hopefully with some more predator management we will be able to restore nesting success for these birds on Siesta.

Kylie Wilson
Shorebird Monitoring & Stewardship Sarasota Program Coordinator

SAS CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

We are pleased to offer another season of educational and inspiring classes and workshops.

WORKSHOPS

These 1.5 hour workshops provide a wealth of information on a variety of topics. Meet at the Nature Center at 1:30pm. $5.00 Donation. No registration required; Pay at the door.
**WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE**

**CLASSES**
Check out this season's interesting selection of classes; eBird, Everything About Birds and Tai Chi. [Online Registration Required]

**CLASS DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE**

**CLASS REGISTRATION**
Questions? Contact: Kathryn Young
kathwren4@gmail.com

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**NEW! WEBSITE!**

In January 2019 we began the process of creating a new Sarasota Audubon web site. We first identified several goals:

- The need for a responsive and mobile optimized site. This feature will ensure our site looks great and works well on any size screen from a large TV to a mobile phone.
- The need for a fresh, modern appearance. While our previous site served our purposes for many years, it had become somewhat dated and stale.
- The need for a secure site. Now that all registrations are conducted through the web site it is vitally important to have a "secure" site. When you visit the site you will notice it has "https:" at the beginning of the address to indicate it is secure.
- The need to optimize "load" time so visitors to our site can access information quickly and efficiently.

We chose to partner with SiteSpring, a Sarasota-based company specializing in online software development. They worked with SAS webmasters, Betty Neupert and Barb Males, to create our new site and are also hosting our site.

Visit [www.sarasotaaudubon.org](http://www.sarasotaaudubon.org) to see our new look!

**Barb Males & Betty Neupert**

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**Our Friends at Birds of Paradise Need Our Help**

Good morning from Birds of Paradise. We have some unfortunate news to share. Most of you know, we

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**Mourning Dove, alias 'MoDo'**
*(Zenaida macroura)*

*Photograph by Glynnis Thomas*

My guess is, the Mourning Dove is not exactly your favorite bird, and more than likely the phrase, 'Oh it's just a MoDo', has passed your lips on more than one occasion, accompanied maybe by a tinge of disappointment. Even its call, that desperately sad and monotonous Wooo-oo-oo-oo, doesn't exactly fill you with a sense of excitement or discovery, does it?

Well, this summer it wasn't exactly my favorite bird either, until one morning in late June we noticed, in the corner of the guttering, above the back door of
our Provincetown home, a Mourning Dove, sitting. We could just see the top of her head and her beautiful blue-ringed eye above the gutter. We watched her on and off all day and assumed she was incubating eggs. The next day, we woke up to rain. It had rained heavily, torrentially, all night and the Mourning Dove was still sitting in the same place. She had been sitting there all night in the pouring rain, completely exposed, and hadn't moved. Her feathers were bedraggled, and droplets of water were running down her head and back, but she had stuck to her post. What a mom!

Imagine our surprise the next day when we saw the top of a smaller head above the gutter alongside the larger head and eye of the adult bird! Ah... so not eggs.... She had been protecting a chick, one chick, actually a squab, through that long night of rain.

On day 3 we saw the female up in the gutter feeding the young Modo. Or it may have been the male since both the male and female feed the squab with 'crop milk' or 'pigeon milk' which is rich in protein and fat and resembles cottage cheese. It is secreted by the adults' crop lining and regurgitated so the squab can take it directly from the inside corner of the adults' mouth. The babies are fed this crop milk for the first few days of life and then it is gradually augmented with seeds so that when the young fledge, they can feed themselves.

The next day the young bird fledged, and we saw it walking on the ground with the male bird. Since they usually leave the nest at 12 or 15 days old, we were lucky to have caught this part of the process. It was fascinating to see the young bird following papa around the garden, and equally moving to see the male bird sticking close to its young.

Thanks to our generous donors, volunteers and friends, we have made thousands of dollars of improvements and a beautiful sanctuary for these birds. We intend to move the aviaries to a new location, but this will take much manpower as well as a lot of money. I am asking, begging all of you to help us in any way you can. If you know someone with a small parcel of property that would consider donating or selling to us.

If you know anyone at the County or City Administration that could possibly help us. We have contacted Manatee County and they are in search of a property, but nothing is available currently and this takes time we do not have. We also need substantial amounts of money to help with the move. So please, if you can think of anything that can help us, please let me know. We have reached out to ABC7 and they will be doing a story on this issue and we plan to reach out to Bay News 9 and The Herald Tribune. We desperately need everyone's help. Thank you for your generous support in the past and please continue on this journey with us to the future. The birds are counting on all of us.

PS: If you have birds placed in our care, please help us by paying your membership fees or picking up your bird(s). They are all welcome to stay and journey with us, but we need your promised donations for their care.

Thanks always,
Debbie Huckaby
Executive Director
727-366-9997
http://birdsofparadise.org/index.html

New t-shirts, baseball caps, binocular/camera harnesses with our logo and more. Be sure to stop in starting in
I think that in all this process the thing that impressed me most was what incredibly devoted parents both Mourning Doves were, and what a model couple they seemed to be, sharing the child (or squab) rearing tasks together.

Later I found some interesting facts. For example, when they lay eggs it is almost always two, singletons being rare. So, this pair may well have lost one of their chicks, maybe to a predator, or to the cold weather.

Also, they may raise up to six broods of two in a single year. We noticed that when the young bird fledged, the mother remained sitting on the nest with the next clutch.

Later on, we were lucky to see this clutch of two hatch as well and were able to see (and photograph) the adult birds feeding them. Almost exactly four weeks after the first chick fledged, the second pair were ready to go. One afternoon we noticed one had gone, one remained. We were able to see and photograph the first young being fed by a parent in the garden. But then we began to worry about the remaining, smaller, chick. It stayed in the nest, all alone, for the rest of that day and night, the parents very clearly ignoring it. We learned that when the young are ready to fledge, the parents stop feeding them, presumably to encourage them to take the plunge. This little bird wasn't going anywhere. In the end we decided to stage a rescue. It was fledge or starve. So up we went, put it in a shoe box, and lo and behold off it went. We later saw it in the garden with its sibling, both being fed by the papa.
During this period we certainly learned to appreciate the many qualities and true beauty of these birds, even learning to recognize male and female birds apart, the male being slightly bigger, more colorful and having a gorgeous bluish gray head.

And of course it was great to have such a happy ending to a very interesting summer.

Glynnis Thomas
To subscribe:  Click here to send an email.
Thanks to Peter Rice for providing this service.

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org