MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, October 14th

Pelagic Birding Off the SW Florida Coast, The Final Frontier

Florida-based national champion birders, 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

Pre-Monthly Meeting Dinner
All Members Welcome!
Gecko’s Restaurant
1900 Hillview Ave
5:00pm
Contact Karen Jensen (karensarasota@yahoo.com)

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

Click Through This Issue!
:: MONTHLY MEETING
:: SAS 2019-20 SCHEDULE
:: SAS ACTIVITIES
:: FOR THE BIRDS
:: SAS COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS
:: SUBMIT AN ARTICLE
:: WRITE THE EDITOR
:: SAS NATURE CENTER
:: MESSAGE FROM OUR ACTING PRESIDENT
:: CLASS AND EVENT REGISTRATION
:: DISPLAYS AT THE NC
:: BIRD RECORDER
:: SAS WEB SITE
:: SAS GIFT SHOP
:: SPOONBILL CLUB
:: LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

2019-2020
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

CLICK FOR COMPLETE
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
8:00am. 704 99th St NW, Bradenton. Leaders are Stu Wilson (512-897 -8341) and John Ginaven

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)

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR FALL WALKS AND TOURS

October 1-31, 2019

Guided walks will be led by some of the most knowledgeable and experienced birders in our area. Come along with us!

Join the Celeray Fields Explorers Program this spring!

For more information, visit www.sarasotaaudubon.org.
NATURE CENTER GARDEN TOURS
Fourth Saturdays
Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 28, Apr 25, 9:30am-11:30am. With Master Gardener Jan McLaughlin, enjoy our evolving subtropical garden, designed to attract migratory & resident birds, butterflies and moths.

CELELY FIELDS ACTIVITIES

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.

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

SIDEWALK ASTRONOMY
Deep Sky Observers www.lgdso.com will set up telescopes at the Nature Center for star and planet gazing! Saturdays: 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)

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@sarasotaudubon.org

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION
Saturday, April 4th, 5:00pm-7:00pm, Nature Center. All SAS volunteers invited! volunteer@sarasotaudubon.org

GARDEN WORKDAYS
Sunday, February 9th: 8:30am-11:00am. Help the Temple Emanuel garden volunteers at our mid-winter spruce-up. volunteer@sarasotaudubon.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

October 17-20
FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL
fbnfestival.org

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

ONLINE at the SAS web site.
Here are links to register:
REGISTER CLASSES -------> CLICK
REGISTER SPECIAL EVENTS --> CLICK

You can register online by visiting the SAS web site at: sarasotaudubon.org or signup online at the Nature Center.

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

Are Bird Numbers Falling in Sarasota?

Many of us have seen articles about the disturbing research paper released last week indicating that North America has lost 3 billion birds, a 29% decline, since 1970. Are we seeing that same trend in Sarasota?

Well, egged on by Jeanne Dubi, I decided to do a quick research project: Plot the number of individual birds reported on the Sarasota CBC 1970 to present. In so doing, I ran into a couple of obstacles: 1) Retrievable Audubon CBC data on Numbers of Individual Birds only go back to 1999; 2) During the winters of 2009 and 2010, we had biblical numbers of Tree Swallows in Sarasota (1,000,000 reported in 2009 and 602,000 in 2010, or 97% and 95% of all birds counted on the 2009 and 2010 CBCs, respectively).

To address, I settled on looking at a shorter range than in the research paper, 1999-present. As for the Tree Swallows, since their sheer numbers 2009-2010 would have drowned out all the other species and greatly skewed the results, I simply eliminated Tree Swallow numbers over the 20-year span. If there was an overall trend to be observed, eliminating a single highly irruptive (on the 2016/2017 CBC we recorded a total of only 78 Tree Swallows!) species from the raw data shouldn't be a problem. The results are displayed in the chart below.
So it would appear that avian activity here in Sarasota, at least as measured on annual Christmas Bird Counts, bucks the trend observed over greater North America... right? Not so fast!

The 2018/2019 effort on the Sarasota CBC (142 volunteers contributing 286 party-hours) dwarfs that in 1999/2000 (34 volunteers contributing 75 party-hours). Besides steadily increasing CBC effort over the 20-year span, I'll also speculate that we have sharper and more motivated volunteer observers, equipped with better technology, out in the field than we did 20 years ago.

To summarize, although we've been able to turn up individual bird numbers on the CBC increasing at an average 1.5-2.0% annual clip, a more detailed analysis would be required before we could conclude that Sarasota is a special haven for North American birds.

Stu Wilson

On a related note... see Washington Post article (September 19, 2019):

"North America has lost 3 billion birds in 50 years"

https://www.washingtonpost.com/science/2019/09/19/north-america-has-lost-billion-birds-years/

A Barn Owl box has been erected between the Palmer and Raymond Rd. Boardwalks, thanks to Rick Greenspun and Stu Wilson.
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

Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis)

You may forgive me this month for writing about a bird you won't find in Florida. But I do have several excuses. One is that following a summer encounter with this bird, I have been full of enthusiasm for it. In addition, many of us SAS-ers spend greater or lesser parts of the summer months in the more northerly states, within this bird's range, so it is relevant to most of us. Plus, it's such a charismatic bird to write about.

As to the recent encounter, well it was short enough. We were walking along a paved cycle track that winds over the dunes in the Provincelands of Cape Cod. The section of the track went from Beech Forest down to the Visitors' Center and on to Race Point beach. We usually like to wander through the woods but had recently taken to walking the tracks where mosquitoes were less active. This section was through fairly densely wooded pine

To all our members who responded with items to be donated to the kids' Touch Table area, please drop off these items between 9am - 1pm at our Nature Center, starting October 1st.

Please mark them to the attention of Lynn J.

Thank you in advance for sharing!
The Northern Goshawk is an accipiter, 'accipiter' from 'acciuper', meaning 'to grasp', referring to the way it kills its prey. There are only three accipiters in North America, two of which we are more familiar with, namely the Cooper's Hawk and the Sharp-shinned Hawk. I think of them as the Three Bears, large, middle-sized and small and we are probably most familiar with the middle-sized - the Cooper's Hawk. As you probably know, accipiters are characterized by relatively short broad wings and a long tail.

The Northern Goshawk, being the largest of the three, is a powerful predator, its hunting habits characterized by short duration sit and watch, with its piercing stare, followed by short bursts of amazingly fast flight, often twisting among branches and crashing through thickets in the intensity of pursuit, their prey being larger birds, squirrels, rodents and rabbits. While Cooper's and Sharp-shinned may be found in more rural settings - parks, gardens, even cemeteries, not so the Northern Goshawk. This is a bird found deep within mature and old growth forests - deciduous, mixed or conifer, with clearings.

In a recent article in 'Bird Watcher's Digest' by Pete Dunne, he describes Northern Goshawks as 'perch-hunting raptors that move beneath the closed forest canopy like smoke-colored ghosts'. (Bird Watcher's Digest Vol 42 No.1)

This reminded me of a tale. Goshawks are the only accipiters that are found both in Europe and North America, so my tale is set in my native land of Wales. One winter out high in the Brecon Beacons, snow on the ground, looking for Northern Shrike, I stopped by an area of clear-fell that fell away to a fairly distant line of trees. I saw, what I can only describe as a largish pale blob, in one of the trees. I just couldn't make it out. I thought maybe it was a large cobweb, frosted over with ice or snow. Anyway, I took a picture of it with my, then, new Canon SX50 and when I got it home and uploaded the picture on my computer, it turned out to be a Northern Goshawk. Yes, definitely looking like a 'smoke-colored ghost'.

A last note on etymology. Goshawk. What a strange name. Well it comes from the Old English 'gosafoc', literally 'goose-hawk', from 'gos' - goose, and 'hafoc' - hawk.

And don't be fooled by its Latin name 'acciuper gentilis' - nothing gentle about this bird! Historically falconry was a popular sport and status symbol among the nobles of medieval Europe, so the gentilis refers to the gentry or the nobles, who were the only ones permitted to use goshawks in falconry. And probably the only ones who could afford it. Nothing changes, does it?

Glynnis Thomas
“Celery Fields Forever,” Sarasota Audubon’s Big Sit team, is looking for volunteers to staff shifts for our seventh annual Big Sit circle at the Celery Fields’ Palmer Road Boardwalk on Sunday, October 13th.

The Big Sit is an annual nationwide "big day" event where the object is for teams to identify as many species of birds as possible from a fixed location, actually from within the confines of a 17-ft diameter circle. It’s sedentary birding at its best, equal parts social event and citizen science.

The Big Sit runs from midnight to midnight but we don’t expect anyone to be on post for 24 hours. We’ll have three shifts: dawn-11am, 11am-3pm, and 3pm-dusk. Each shift "starts their list from scratch".

www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/connect/bigsit.php

In addition to those who enjoy bird identification (both by sight and sound), we’ll need good spotters as well as "proofers"—those willing to venture out from the circle to verify a tentative identification.

Since there are inevitable slack periods, all participants are free to exchange recipes, trim toenails, organize scrapbooks, etc. There’s no fee to participate.

If you're interested in participating or have questions, please contact me.

Stu Wilson stuwilson@comcast.net

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, monthly meetings and field trips or $8.50 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.

Our Friends at Birds of Paradise Need Our Help

Check out our NEW ITEMS!!

Heather gray Sandhill Crane short & long sleeve tshirts

Claire Herzog
Good morning from Birds of Paradise. We have some unfortunate news to share. Most of you know, we leased this 6.6 acre tract almost 5 years ago with the understanding it would be a permanent home to the birds that live here. Our lease is up December 5, and the property owners have refused to sell to us, even with a cash offer at their asking price. We were in negotiations with the property owners for three months, arrived at an agreed upon price, but they refuse to sell. They also refuse to extend our lease, so that leaves us trying to find a new home for these precious birds. This leaves 350 birds without a home come December. Needless to say we are devastated.

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
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](http://www.sarasotabutterfly.com) to learn more!

**Subscribe to SRQ Bird Alerts!**

Need the latest birding info for our area? To subscribe: [Click here to send an email](mailto:). Thanks to Peter Rice for providing this service.

---

**Write An Article!**

Submissions, comments and questions always welcome

Send to: editor@sarasotaudubon.org

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaudubon.org

---

**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](#)

---

**YOUR ANNUAL SAS MEMBERSHIP!**

[Click Here to Join or Renew Online](#)

$30.00 per member/family

Mail a check

**Payable to: Sarasota Audubon Society**

**Address:** SAS, 999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

**Don’t Know if You Renewed?**

Check with Lynn Jakubowicz, our Membership Chairperson, email: membership@sarasotaudubon.org

---

**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

---

[CL]ICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site

---

[CL]ICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site