MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, November 11th

THE SECRET LIFE OF BATS
Explore the fascinating and mysterious life of bats with Joshua Schulte, Associate Professor, Natural Sciences State College of Florida

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

Click Through This Issue!
:: MONTHLY MEETING
:: SAS 2019-20 SCHEDULE
:: SAS ACTIVITIES
:: CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS
:: FOR THE BIRDS
:: SAS COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS
:: SUBMIT AN ARTICLE
:: WRITE THE EDITOR
:: BIRD RECORDER
:: SAS GIFT SHOP
:: SPOONBILL CLUB
:: SAS WEB SITE

LOOK WHO SHOWED UP AT THE NC?
Folks are flocking to see the Yellow-headed Blackbird at the SAS Nature Center!
This is the third occurrence at the Celery Fields for this western vagrant and first time at he Nature Center feeders.

2019-2020
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

CLICK FOR COMPLETE SCHEDULE

SAS ACTIVITIES
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.

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 (508-241-5541). 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
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 Jan McLaughlin, enjoy our evolving subtropical garden, designed to attract migratory & resident birds, butterflies and moths.

CELERY 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.

CELERY 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

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

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 limited. REGISTER ONLINE. $5 per person, per session. Nature Center.
Harma Nyhof birdsrq@gmail.com

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.
SAS.Art.Committee@gmail.com

Saturday, February 1
SAS WORKSHOP

Photograph by Karen Willey
Kids created a "Gift for the birds". They planted wildflower seeds in egg cups which they will take home and put in their own gardens.

Thanks to all the SAS volunteers who staffed our table!

Florida Birding and Nature Festival

This year the Florida Birding and Nature Festival was organized by Tampa Audubon Society and held in Brandon, Hillsborough County.

As keynote speaker, Ken Kaufman, author of 'Kingbird Highway' and several excellent Field Guides, requested to lead a trip to the Celery Fields. This trip took place on October 20th and was for subscribed participants of the Festival.

SAS members, Jeanne Dubi, Kathryn Young and Glynnis Thomas co-lead the trip, which was a great success. Following this, the indications are that Ken will come back next year and lead a trip for SAS members.

Photograph by Betty Neupert

SAS WORKSHOP
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

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

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
It was with such deep regret that I, along with everyone else, I guess, learned of the recent dismantling of the barn on Center Road on the east side of Celery Hill, that has been the home of generations of Barn Owls, for as long as many of us can remember.

The Center Rd Barn Owl was first sighted by Jeff Palmer in 2001, and was known to, and named Einstein, by former residents (now long gone), before that.

My own memories of this bird are as long as my association with Sarasota. In fact my life Barn Owl was at that very barn, a dusky evening in August 2002. We watched the ghostly white silhouette emerge from the side of the barn and float over the area where the hill now is. Since then I've had many better views of Barn Owls, both in the UK and in the USA, but nothing quite matches the memory of that first sighting.

My acquaintance with Einstein did not end there. On Christmas bird count days we would be up at 4 a.m., Celery Fields being the first port of call, trying to get the Barn Owl on our list for the day. One year, when I was dropped off at the old gazebo, on an elevated mound to the west of where the Nature Center now stands, while Jeanne Dubi patrolled the surrounding roads, I heard that piercing screech before I saw the ghostly form flying by. And what an eerie, unearthly sound it is. No wonder that it evoked in folk in more superstitious times, thoughts of ghosts and vampires. On another occasion, standing outside the barn, we heard the clearly audible hissing of hungry chicks, presumably at the arrival of an adult bird.

In 2018, still at the 4 a.m. CBC early shift, I had tramped down Center Rd, along Palmer near the Big Cat Habitat, where one had been reported several days earlier and finally up the eastern side of Celery Hill. Going uphill in the dark was interesting. I had no flashlight. Half way up I saw a tall shape silhouetted against the skyline. Was it a tree or post....or even a human being? It was perfectly still. As I got closer I noticed the man, still not moving, was gazing intently at the Barn Owl barn. So .... another CBC counter! Well, that was the first year we didn't see the Barn Owl on the CBC count, although it was seen on subsequent days.

So back in 2000 or earlier, the Barn Owl, known as Einstein, lived in the barn at Center Rd. Even then the barn was in a very dilapidated condition, perfect actually for this bird. As the years passed, the barn continued to deteriorate. It was when it was finally dismantle in 2019, with us all watching the barn fall apart.}

**MEMBER CRAFT FAIR AND SALE**
Calling SAS Member Crafters - We will be holding our first member Craft Fair & Sale on Saturday morning, December 7, 2019, from 9 AM to 1 PM. An official announcement will be sent out again in the next week or so with details and sign-up information.

**2020 MEMBER FINE ARTS & PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW**
This season we will be holding a combined Fine Arts & Photo Show in February 2020 with a theme to be announced. A request for artists and photographers will be sent out in early November with details and sign-up information.

**CELEY FIELDS CLEANUP**
November 13th
9:00am
Meet at the Nature Center
Contact: Joanna Bear jbear0822@aol.com

**NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER**
October Rarities 2019
Thanks to Tropical Storm Hestor we experienced a good fallout of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Eastern Wood-Pewees & Acadian Flycatchers. These species have been seen in many locations.

Siesta Beach
- Philadelphia Vireo
- Whimbrel
- Elegant/ Cayenne Tern
- Black Tern
- Yellow Warbler
- Least Flycatcher

Franklin's Gull
dilapidated condition, perfect actually for this bird. As the years went by all the subsequent generations of Barn Owls at that site seemed to merge into one, as though it was the same bird getting older and older. I subsequently found that, according to a British study based on 8,000 band recoveries, a typical life span for a wild Barn Owl that reaches maturity, is only about 4 years old. This means that following first sightings from around 2000 there have been at least 5 or 6 generations of Barn Owls at that site, the current bird being son of, son of, son of, son of, son of Einstein.

We hope and pray that the Barn Owls will find another home, preferably in the vicinity and even more preferably in one of the barn owl boxes SAS has erected at the Celery Fields site.

But whichever way we look at it, it is the end of an era. 

Glynnis Thomas

---

2019 BIG SIT RESULTS
October 13, 2019

Photograph by Jerry Barrack

On a warm to hot, mostly clear, and occasionally breezy fall day, 18 volunteer "sitters" spread over three shifts helped "Celery Fields Forever," Sarasota Audubon Society's Big Sit team, observe birds for nearly 13 hours (6:45am to 7:15pm) from the confines of our 17-ft diameter circle at the end of the Palmer Blvd Boardwalk at Celery Fields. The result was an even sixty species, a bit off our record-setting 66 species pace from last year, and a hair below our 7-year running average of 61 species.

The first shift (dawn to 11:00am) started with a bang with 55 species (a first-shift record) including several feeding Indigo Buntings (see below), but we were unable to maintain that momentum through the second (11:00am to 3:00pm) and third (3:00pm to dusk) shifts, with the second shift added just two new species (Northern Harrier and American Kestrel) and the third shift three (White-winged Dove, Chimney Swift, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow). Although it was an enjoyable day, the late burst we were hoping for never fully materialized.

Shift stats:
First: 55 spp (53 spp last year)
Second: 35 spp (44 spp last year)
Third: 46 spp (58 spp last year)

I've submitted our results to Big Sit Central and, despite a rather average showing (for us), at press time with about one-third of the 156 registered nationwide circles reporting in, Celery Fields Forever stands as the top Sit in Florida and fourth nationwide!

My thanks to all who participated, including co-captain Nancy Edmondson, the reliable Chase Bonanno, and Rick "Anchorman" Greenspun- the White-winged Dove Whisperer.

---

Since 1970, bird populations in the U.S. and Canada have declined by 29%, or almost 3 billion birds, signaling a widespread ecological crisis. The results show tremendous losses across diverse groups of birds and habitats - from iconic songsters such as meadowlarks to long-distance migrants such as swallows and backyard birds including sparrows.

Learn more about the 3 Billion Birds campaign and Seven Simple Actions to Help Birds.

CLICK ---> SMITHSONIAN MIGRATORY BIRD CENTER
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 Enviroineers, 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

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.

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

Our Favorite Local Hot Spots

The Sarasota Audubon Society is pleased to include this interactive component to our newly redesigned web site. It is called "Favorite Local Birding Hot Spots." These Hot Spots in Sarasota and Manatee Counties were selected because of the substantial number of bird species counted at the site and because they are located within approximately 30 minutes from downtown Sarasota.

SARASOTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER

Help build a path to the future Purchase a commemorative brick!

SARASOTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER

Gift Shop
Sarasota County Butterfly 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!

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
membership@sarasotaaudubon.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

Write An Article!

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

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

We have something for everyone. Stop in and see us....

All proceeds support our SAS Nature Center

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

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.

CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site

Like us on Facebook. Click here