MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 9th

BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH RESEARCH AT TALL TIMBERS

Join Jim Cox, from the Tall Timbers Research Station in Tallahassee, Florida, who will talk with us about the ongoing studies of the Brown-headed Nuthatch which have revealed some startlingly interesting information.

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

First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall
2031 S. Euclid, Sarasota

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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)

1900
THE FLORIDA AUDUBON SOCIETY WAS FORMED

Nine women and six men assembled on March 2, 1900 near the shores of Lake Minnehaha in Maitland, Florida.
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.

CROWLEY NATURE CENTER
FRIDAY, MARCH 6th
7:00am-10:00am. Meet at the park, 16405 Myakka Road ($3 park fee). Several different habitats. Indigo Bintings, Eagles, Redheaded woodpeckers, etc. Bring water & snack. Leader: Sharon Wilcox swilcox@fastmail.fm

OLD MIAKKA PRESERVE
THURSDAY, MARCH 12th
7:30am. Meet at the SAS Nature Center. NO FACILITIES AT THE PARK. Leader: Rick Greenspun birddoggie1@gmail.com

VENICE ROOKERY
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18th
8:00am. Meet at McDonald’s at Bee Ridge & Cattlemen to carpool. Leader: Kathryn Young kathwren4@gmail.com

LONGBOAT KEY / LEFFIS KEY
TUESDAY, MARCH 24th
8:00am. Meet at Broadway Beach access north end of Long Beach Key. Leader: Stu Wilson 512-897-8341

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).

CELEY FIELDS WALKS
First Mondays - "PM Birding"
Mar 2. 3:00pm-5:00pm. Meet at the Nature Center. Leader: Margi Haas mhaas@pipeline.com

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

Third Mondays
Mar 16: 8-10am. Meet at Raymond Rd Boardwalk. Leader: Peter Brown (508-241-5541)

Third Thursdays
Mar 19: 9:00am. Leader: SAS Survey Team

CONSERVATION NEWS

BOBBY JONES GOLF COURSE
On February 18, 2020, the Sarasota City commission voted 3-2 to go with Option III. This option was supported by the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast and Sarasota Audubon Society, as well as many in attendance and the majority of surveyed community citizens.

Here are some of the planned features:

1. Restore and upgrade 27 holes of golf (a reduction from the current 45).
2. Increase the park’s nature-based recreation to 130 acres with created wetland (30 acres) and pine upland.
3. Expand the use of the park, including a playground, lawn bowls and nature trails.
4. Store 1,620 metric tons of CO2 in the wetland, the equivalent of preventing greenhouse gas emissions from burning 1.8 million pounds of coal per year.
5. Offer the potential to expand the Legacy Trail along Circus Blvd to and through The Meadows and on to Benderson Park.

Read about this victory: CLICK-->Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Another win for the environment!

BEACH NESTING BIRD SEASON
The Beach Nesting Bird season is kicking off. Kylie Wilson, Coordinator for Audubon Florida, will be at the March 9 Sarasota Audubon general meeting to explain the program and to ask for volunteers for help in protecting our birds on the beach.

Kylie has worked in Sarasota and Manatee Counties for several years managing this program and is a super ambassador for Audubon and for birds.

Please consider meeting with Kylie and volunteering a few hours at our lovely beaches to help protect our nesting birds.

Contact Kylie: CLICK ---> TO EMAIL

RENEW YOUR ANNUAL SAS MEMBERSHIP!
March 19. 8:00am. Leader: SAS Survey Team
lynn234@verizon.net

Fourth Mondays
Mar 23. 9:00am- 11:00am. Leader is Joyce Leary (508-737-8954)

NATURE CENTER GARDEN TOURS
Fourth Saturdays
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.

CELEY FIELDS ACTIVITIES

CELEY FIELDS 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.

CELEY FIELDS CLEANUPS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11th
Help keep Palmer blvd and our area trash free! Wednesdays at 9:00am: Mar 11 & Apr 15

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION
SATURDAY, APRIL 4th
5:00pm-7:00pm, Nature Center. All SAS volunteers invited!
volunteer@sarasotaaudubon.org

SPECIAL EVENTS
Monday, March 23, Tuesday, April 7: ROBERTS BAY ROOKERY BOAT TOURS
1:00pm-3:00pm. REGISTER ONLINE.
Cost $30. Harma Nyhof - birdsrq@gmail.com

CLICK ---> REGISTER ONLINE

SAS CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

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

WORKSHOPS

FLORIDA FOSSIL HUNTING
Saturday, March 7th
1:30 PM
Sarasota Audubon Nature Center
999 Center Rd, Sarasota, FL 34240

Madelaine Verbeek will introduce the fun that is fossil hunting here in Florida; we will review local sites, common fossil finds, laws, regulations, and reference materials needed for you to become an amateur paleontologist. Feel free to bring your own finds the day of the workshop so we can identify and discuss them together! Children welcome!

$5 donation - No Reservations - pay at the door
For more information contact:
Doug Janson
doug.j@ymail.com

Click --> Join or Renew
Mail a check payable to: Sarasota Audubon Society
Address: SAS, 999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

Don't Know if You Renewed?
Contact: membership@sarasotaaudubon.org
1:30pm
SAS Nature Center
Madelaine Verbeek will share the fun of fossil hunting in Florida. Where to look, common fossils, regulations and materials needed to become an amateur paleontologist. Feel free to bring your own finds to ID and discuss.

No registration required.
Pay at the door - $5.00 donation

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & SCHEDULE

CLASSES

EVERYTHING BIRDS

March 3, 10, 17 & 24

Field Trips: March 3, 10 & 17 are fields trips from 8:00am-11:00am. Locations will be announced to registered students

March 24 will be in the classroom at the SAS Nature center meeting at 1:30pm

Kathryn Young and other experienced co-leaders will explore birding in different habitats. This class with field trips will help you advance your birding skills.

Cost $40

Online Registration Required
CLICK ---> CLASS REGISTRATION

Questions?
Contact: Kathryn Young kathwren4@gmail.com

TRIP REPORT

EAGLE NEST BUS TOURS

SAS will be participating in the Earth Day Celebration the City of Sarasota is hosting on Wednesday, April 22 from 11:30-1:30pm at Five Points Park in downtown Sarasota. Volunteers are needed to help with the SAS table. Openings are available for 4 shifts from 11-2pm. We'll be providing information about birds and the importance of habitat

Interested?
Email: volunteer@sarasotaudubon.org

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In early February Sarasota Audubon organized two Eagle Nest Bus Tours, which were a great success. We once again enjoyed the expertise of Dale Nauman, who has extensive knowledge of the many Bald Eagle nests in Sarasota and Manatee counties. The first trip on February 1st had to be postponed to the next day due to heavy rain and wind, which, true to Florida form, had moved through by the next day.

During both tours we were very lucky to have a beautiful day out watching these majestic birds and their offspring. It is remarkable how they have adapted to the ever increasing development in Sarasota County. Many nests are now very close to homes and busy roads.

Enclosed is a photo graciously shared by Tim Smith of Nokomis Wildlife Images who was standing near us at one of the nests. He had one of those amazing cameras with a very long lens.

We do these trips every year. They are very popular and sell out fast. The dates are published on our website in the Fall, so if you would like to join us, please sign up online as soon as you are able.

Happy birding,
Harma Nyhof

According to the Yale Center for Climate Communication, 75% of Americans are certain that climate change is happening, but less than half of them are talking about it.

The 2019 study goes on to say that in order for folks to do something about climate change they need:

- To understand the impact of a problem on individuals
- To recognize that the problem will impact our local area
- To recognize that the problem is a problem now, and not at some far-away point in the future
- To feel some level of positivity ('what can be gained, not what is lost').

To that end, Sarasota Audubon is providing a series of Watershed & Coastal Climate Walks led by our own Karen Willey, Nature Center Manager and Climate Change Interpreter. These walks take place in area parks and preserves and each one focuses on a different aspect of climate change that we can see in the park.

NATURE CENTER NATURALISTS
The SAS Nature Center is looking for daily "Nature Center Naturalists" to answer questions about the native gardens, bird feeders, and the Purple Martin boxes. This is an outdoor volunteer position.

INTERESTED??
Please contact:
Nature Center Manager, Karen Willey
gardens@SarasotaAudubon.org

DID YOU KNOW?

ALPHA BIRD BANDING CODES
Have you ever wondered what those 4-letter codes that identify birds for scientific purposes mean? What a LAGU is, or a RUTU?

If you'd like to find out.... CLICK ---> BIRD BANDING CODES

CELERY FIELDS CLEANUP
Help keep the Celery Fields trash free
March 11th, 9:00am
Meet at the Nature Center
Contact Joanna Bear (jbear0822@aol.com)

Climate Corner

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Happenings !

At The Nature Center

GARDEN CLEAN-UP

Our February 9th garden clean-up event was a big
The cost is $10/person and you can learn more about each walk and register here.

Walks are Fridays from 9:30-11:30 and are slow and easy with plenty of stops for interpretation along the way. And the best part is, we end with a discussion of what is happening to change the impacts of climate change at the park, and specific ways we can help on a community level. When we end with hope, things happen.

Karen Willey attended a Florida Audubon webinar for chapters to learn more about climate change advocacy. Florida Audubon is willing to support a training workshop in our area to learn how to be effective in communicating with local governments to make change. Stay tuned for more information as we move forward with this training in the Fall of 2020.

Karen Willey, SAS Nature Center Manager

Help support our Sarasota Audubon Society when you shop at Amazon: CLICK FOR DETAILS

Birding Hot Spots Sarasota/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 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.

CLICK --&gt; SAS WEB SITE

Birds of Paradise Needs Our Help

CLICK FOR ----&gt; UPDATE

For more information contact: Debbie Huckaby, Executive Director

SARASOTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER
COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

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

Sarasota Audubon Nature Center Snowbird

Our SAS snowbird at the Nature Center front desk is now officially a bird watcher with its new binoculars. Our visitors love it and often make cute comments about it. Check it out next time you visit.
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

NOTES FROM THE BIRD RECORDER
February 2019 Notable Sightings

Bay Street Park
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Magnolia Warbler

Celery Fields
- Blue Grosbeak
- Bronzed Cowbird
- Cape May Warbler (Edgar Dr)
- Least Flycatcher
- Painted Bunting
- Purple Martins (nesting)
- Western Kingbird
- White-crowned Sparrow
- Yellow-headed Blackbird

Costco Pond, Sarasota Square Mall
- Clay-colored Sparrow

Italian-American Club, Venice
- Lark Sparrow (also State College, North Port)

Myakka River State Park
- Barn Swallow (also Crowley Nature Center)
- Lincoln’s Sparrow
- Snow Goose
- Solitary Sandpiper
- Swallow-tailed Kite
- White-throated Sparrow

Oscar Scherer State Park
- Bachman’s Sparrow
- Florida Scrub Jay (also Shamrock Park, Lemon Bay Park)
- Swallow-tailed Kite

Oaks Clubhouse
- Blue Grosbeak
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Greater Scaup

Pinecraft Park
- Black-throated Green Warbler
- Hermit Thrush
- Magnolia Warbler
- Purple Martins (nesting)
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak
- Swainson’s Thrush

Siesta Beach
- Burrowing Owl
- California Gull
- Common Tern
- Great Black-backed Gull

Black-throated Blue Warbler and Summer Tanager seen on private property

Claire Herzog

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
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

CLICK: Sarasota Audubon Web Site

Marcy Packer, editor
editor@sarasotaaudubon.org

Sarasota Audubon Nature Center

Stop by and see our variety of nature related items

All proceeds support our SAS Nature Center

Write An Article!

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

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