



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2020

Message From: The SAS Board of Directors

Dear Sarasota Auduboners,

As we move through the summer, we still do not know how the fall is going to pan out for us.

- The church hall where we hold our monthly meetings will not be open in the foreseeable future, so that means that we have to change how we conduct general meetings;
- We are not sure yet when our activities will start up; and
- We are not sure when the nature center will open.

In spite of these uncertainties, we are forging ahead with Zooming our meetings. Karen Willey, Nature Center Manager, has been busy this summer setting up Zoom capabilities. And in late September, at our virtual board meeting, we will come to some decisions about the nature center opening, field trips, bird naturalist activities, and meetings. We'll let you know what we come up with.

Here is something we know for sure:

Our October 12 general meeting will be conducted by Zoom and all members will get invitations to attend. Since we were not able to vote on the new slate of officers at our (non-existent) April meeting, on October 12 you will receive a list of officers standing for election and we will give you the capability of sending in your vote electronically. We will give you more specific instructions before the meeting date.

Margi Haas, our Program Director, has put together a full schedule of speakers and has asked all of them to give their presentations by Zoom. So, the October 12 meeting will have **Tammy & Dave McQuade's 2019 Big Year** presentation. All monthly presentations will allow for a 10-15-minute Q&A at the end. You will be able to type in your question during the presentation. Access details will be sent to you.

Please bear with us as we learn new systems and procedures to keep Sarasota Audubon thriving.

As some of you filter back into Sarasota for the season ahead, we ask that if you visit the nature center gardens, bird with friends, or conduct any activities in Sarasota Audubon's name, please

wear a mask and abide by social distancing norms.

Be safe and take care,
Jeanne Dubi (Acting President)

Monthly Meetings

**OCTOBER
MEETING Monday,
October 12th 7:00pm**

PLEASE NOTE: Until further notice our monthly meetings will be conducted online via ZOOM. Specific access details and directions will be provided via email and the SAS web site prior to the first meeting. They will also be repeated for each monthly meeting.

Each meeting will allow for a 10-15-minute Q&A at the end of the presentation. You will be able to type in your question during the presentation.



Tammy & Dave McQuade's 2019 Big Year

Back by popular demand after they spoke last fall, they are Florida-based national champion birders who among many other things run the SW Florida Bird Alert Facebook group

2020-21 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

NATURE CENTER HAPPENINGS



Nature is Open: Even though the Nature Center is closed, unofficially the gardens remain open to visitors. We have, thankfully, had very few issues over the duration of the COVID lockdown and then the long, hot summer. As we look to September the numbers are still too high for re-opening according to the CDC health guidelines. However, the gardens are happy from all the rain and the weeds are running rampant!

Wonderful Weeders: Kudos to the small, but mighty, crew that worked periodically over the summer months to keep some semblance of order in the gardens: Linda Kitch and Marie Brooks-Deamud. And of course, Andy Schneider, who comes in more than weekly to keep the grounds clear and the building running. I live in downtown Bradenton, so am working mostly from home, although I am coming into the Nature Center more often as the time goes on... The bird feeders are empty for now, and until we get a volunteer who is willing/able to fill them daily.

Plant ID Training: If you are interested in assisting our wondrous weeders – you are invited to do so! We work physically distanced and outdoors, following CDC guidelines. Masks are worn when we are interacting directly with each other. Linda, Marie or I are/am happy to give you a one-on-one lesson on the most common plants to look out for. While you are working in the gardens you can't help but learn the identity and habits of the native plants that call it home. Come join us! Contact me at Gardens@SarasotaAudubon.org to schedule a training session.

Karen Willey
SAS Nature Center Manager

Upcoming Events

Hey, Where's My SAS Activity Schedule?



Did I lose it already?
Did the dog eat it?

NO !

Surprise! We didn't print one this year! And it's not because we're saving paper or postage (although we have.) Blame it on Corona Virus!!!! At this time we really don't know what activities we can do! It's impossible to print up activities (classes, walks, workshops, etc.) which may not be feasible right now, but may be possible in the near future. So we decided to wait and see.

In the meantime, please visit our website www.sarasotaudubon.org for

the most up-to-date information. In addition, the Brown Pelican and eBlasts will alert you to any upcoming activities.

Plus, the Celery Fields are always open to birding and walking while socially distancing!

See you there!



Notes From The Bird Recorder Summer 2020

June

- **White-rumped Sandpiper: Siesta Beach**
- **Pomarine Jaeger, Bridled Tern, Brown Booby: off shore Sarasota Co**
- **Snail Kite: Myakka River State Park**

July

- **Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit: Siesta Beach**
- **American Oystercatcher, American Avocet: North Lido Beach Park**
- **Hairy Woodpecker: Myakka State Forest**
- **Gray Catbird: Oscar Scherer State Park**
- **Solitary Sandpiper, Prothonotary Warbler: Myakka River State Park**
- **Tropical Kingbird: St. Armand's Circle**

August

- **Orchard Oriole, Brown-headed Nuthatch: Carlton Reserve**
- **Sooty Tern: flyover, South Gate**
- **Great Blue Heron (white form): North Lido Beach Park**
- **Great Black-backed Gull, Black Tern: Siesta Beach**
- **Prothonotary Warbler: Pinecraft Park**
- **Magnolia Warbler: Pinecraft Park**

Claire Herzog

Birdwatching is something that we do for enjoyment, so if you enjoy it, you are already a good birder. If you enjoy it a lot, you are a *great* birder.



- Kenn Kaufman

CONSERVATION



MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT VICTORY!

In March, the Sarasota Audubon Society urged you to help save the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)*

A proposal from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in March would have taken away companies' incentives to adopt bird-friendly technologies; and would even have eliminated penalties for large bird kills from oil spills, etc.

VICTORY – In a major victory for birds, a federal judge ruled that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act DOES cover unintentional but avoidable avian deaths. On August 11 Judge Caproni wrote:

"It is not only a sin to kill a mockingbird, it is also a crime. That has been the letter of the law for the past century. But if the Department of the Interior has its way, many mockingbirds and other migratory birds that delight people and support ecosystems throughout the country will be killed without legal consequence."

STILL WORK TO BE DONE - People on both sides of the case expect the administration to appeal. We need to keep pressure on lawmakers to strengthen this law rather than carving out new loopholes for corporations. For more information:

[CLICK FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Kevin Griffioen

In Memoriam



This spring and summer, we lost five long time members who we remember fondly:

Fred Verceles

From Ohio, Fred and wife Linda volunteered in many ways for Sarasota Audubon: as bird naturalists, nature center docents and for all our special events. We will very much miss Fred's cheery face and whimsical sense of humor.

June Mades

June was a member of the board for many years as membership chair, helping transition our records from index cards to an electronic database. Another cheery soul, we will remember June with much affection.

Nancy Dean

Nancy with husband Bob created and led Manatee Audubon's successful beginning bird watching classes. Members of Sarasota Audubon too, the Deans moved to Jacksonville 5 years ago where the indefatigable pair volunteered with various non-profits there too. After moving, the Deans continued their loyal membership with Sarasota Audubon.

Patty Ratcliffe

Longtime member Patty Ratcliffe died in March in Ohio. She and her husband Dick were active SAS members while they lived in University Park. Patty was a kindergarten teacher and loved imparting her knowledge about birds to her students. When she and Dick moved back to Ohio a few years ago, Patty donated many bird-related items to Audubon.

John McCabe

John McCabe died in June in Sarasota. John was a great helper at the Nature Center as a fix it guy. Always ready to do touch up painting, brushing away bugs from the outside walls and numerous other chores that kept the Nature Center ticking away. We'll miss his willing hands and cheery face.

Help build a path to the future

Purchase a commemorative brick!



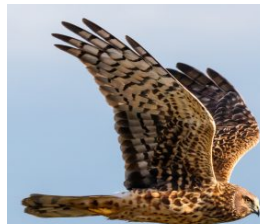
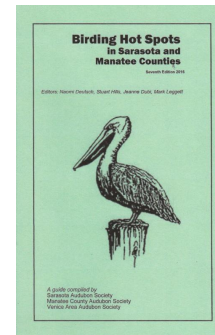
Engrave a loved one's name, or a short quote on a brick to commemorate a lasting tribute, or mark a special occasion. Ask us about other naming opportunities. Truly a gift that gives back.

[DOWNLOAD MAIL-IN FORM](#)

BIRDING HOT SPOTS OF SARASOTA AND MANATEE COUNTIES

Can be purchased for \$8.50 by mail.

Send a check to:
SAS, 999 Center Road
Sarasota, FL 34240



Our Favorite Local Hot Spots

COMING SOON!

Sarasota Audubon Society's "Favorite Local Birding Hot Spots" is currently being updated by Don & Karen Schneider. Look for additional Hot Spots when it goes live on the website. In the meantime, you can still access the last version:

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

These Hot Spots in Sarasota and Manatee Counties were selected because of the substantial number of bird species counted at the sites and because they are located within approximately 30 minutes from downtown Sarasota.



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