



# THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

**OCTOBER 2020**

## ***Message From: The SAS Board of Directors***

Hello Everyone,

October is the traditional start of our Audubon season. This year, our October 12, November 9, and December 14 general meetings will be held via Zoom. You will receive information on how to access them a day or so before and on the day, as well. The meetings will start with a short business update, then onto the speakers.

Due to COVID we were not able to elect Sarasota Audubon officers for the year beginning June 1, 2020. We kept right on with last year's officers. So, for the October 12 general meeting the slate of officers will be announced by the Nominating Committee, and then you will receive, electronically, the ability to vote. Please send in your vote as soon as possible so that we will know who our next officers will be.

In spite of the fact that all of our programs have been suspended through the end of this year, and the Nature Center building is closed, our gardens are still open. Volunteers are working in the gardens, so if you visit, please wear a mask and keep your distance.

To keep you all connected to birds, nature, and Audubon, *The Brown Pelican* will continue monthly, and *Winging In The Gap* will still go out bi-weekly. Watch these publications for links to other Audubon presentations and articles of interest too.

We hope you are all staying safe and well.

**Monthly General Meetings via  
Zoom**

**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 by email and the SAS web site prior to the first meeting. They will also be repeated for each monthly general 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



**The Nature Center remains closed:** As you have probably already read, the Board has decided to keep the Nature Center closed at least until the end of 2020. In December a further assessment will be made based on local Covid-19 cases and willingness of volunteers to participate. In the meantime, we hope you will enjoy the gardens, safely and at a distance from other people.

**Volunteers in the gardens are welcome:** The current protocol is that you will be trained, and then work on your own. This will allow us to keep a safe distance, since weeding is not a

group activity. The summer has been long and hot, and the weeds are taking over. We have several new weeding volunteers, and would welcome more! Contact me at [gardens@sarasotaudubon.org](mailto:gardens@sarasotaudubon.org) if you wish to be trained in plant ID for that purpose.

**Karen Willey**  
**SAS Nature Center Manager**

## Upcoming Events

### SAS Activities



Please visit our website [www.sarasotaudubon.org](http://www.sarasotaudubon.org) for the most up-to-date information. Also check the Brown Pelican monthly newsletter and eBlasts to alert you to any scheduled upcoming activities.

## CONSERVATION



### VOTE FOR THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The forthcoming November 3<sup>rd</sup> elections can be vital for our natural environment. Though I retired a couple of years ago after about 20 years as SAS Conservation Chair, I still get telephone calls seeking advice on voting for supporters of our natural environment. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Sarasota Audubon cannot recommend political candidates, and we all vote for various reasons (including, I hope, environmental ones). We can however indicate which of the candidates have good to strong environmental positions. Following is a list of those. You may also consider voting for one of the Florida Constitutional Amendments.

**US District 16 Representative: Margaret Good.** Although Good's opponent, Representative Vern Buchanan, has an outstanding record in supporting animal welfare, both domestic and wild, his votes on environmental land conservation

are not as strong.

**State Senator, District 23: Katherine Norman.** Highlights “A passionate environmental advocate”. Lifelong Sarasota resident.

**Sarasota County Commissioner, District 1: Mark Pienkos.** Former school superintendent. Highlights protecting environment, green spaces and the Celery Fields.

**Sarasota County Commissioner, District 5: Alice White.** Numerous environmental awards. Founder of People for Trees. North Port Citizen of the Year in 1914.

**State Representative, District 7: Andy Mele.** A professional environmentalist, particularly experienced in water protection, promises to “fight corporations plundering our natural resources and decimating our environment.”

**State Representative, District 72: Drake Buckman.** Excellent environmental positions and knowledge from over 30 years in Sarasota.

**State Representative, District 73: David Fairey, CPA.** Highlights clean environment.

**State Representative, District 74: Lisa Startstrom.** Highlights “working for you, not developers” and “Dedicated to a clean, healthy environment” and “environmental sustainability”.

**Sarasota City Commission: District 1: Willie Shaw.** Incumbent has supported sensible controls on growth and pro-environment issues.

**Sarasota City Commission: District 2: Terry Turner.** Former Sarasota city commissioner, backs strong environmental and growth controls, supported by five former city commissioners.

**Florida Constitutional Amendment Article 3, Section 5.** This would allow all registered voters to vote in State primaries with the two highest vote-getters advancing to the general election regardless of party affiliation. This would favor candidates backing popular issues, such as those favoring the environment.

***Wade Matthews, former SAS Conservation Chair***

**\*\*\*\*\***

## **TWO-THIRDS OF WILDLIFE POPULATION GONE IN 50 YEARS**

When I joined SAS my main goals were to learn about, and enjoy birds. Although that is still my priority, I find conservation to be increasingly connected to these passions.

Two recent studies have found that fully two-thirds of the planet's wildlife has disappeared in my lifetime. And the pressures continue to grow on a global scale. Habitat destruction and global climate change are two of the biggest contributors to these losses.

Two-thirds.

With such intense stresses on nature and birds, I find it increasingly important to support conservation, even in small ways. To help preserve sensitive and important land, to help support ecologically-friendly legislation, to make my own yard more wildlife friendly and even just to share the importance of conservation with my community. All of the little things do add up, and the whole can be greater than the sum of the parts .

[Learn More](#)

**Kevin Griffioen**



## Notes From The Bird Recorder Late August & September 2020

### **Red Bug Slough Park**

- Cerulean Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Blue-winged Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Yellow-throated Vireo

### **Pinecraft Park & Bay Street Park**

- Cerulean Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Tennessee Warbler
- Louisiana Waterthrush (PP)
- Scarlet Tanager
- Veery
- Barn Owl (PP)

### **Manasota Scrub Preserve**

- Blackburnian Warbler
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Veery
- Blue-headed Vireo

### **Celery Fields**

- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Indigo Bunting
- Gull-billed Tern

### **G. Gonzalez Private Residence, North Port**

- Cerulean Warbler
- Scarlet Tanager
- Canada Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Prothonotary Warbler

### **Lido Beach Parks**

- Peregrine Falcon
- White-eyed Parakeet
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Cliff Swallow
- Whimbrel

### **Siesta Beach**

- Wilson's Phalarope
- Whimbrel
- Great Black-backed Gull

- Gull-billed Tern
- Tennessee Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Indigo Bunting
- Peregrine Falcon
- Swallow-tailed Kite
- Stilt Sandpiper

**Glebe Park**

- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
- Tennessee Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Veery

**Leffis Key (Manatee Co)**

- Cape May Warbler
- Wilson's Warbler
- Mississippi Kite

**Floyd Street (flyover)**

- Broad-winged Hawk

**Claire Herzog**

In Memoriam



**Ken Davis**

SAS member Ken Davis died on August 21, 2020. He and his wife Patch were/are great champions of the Earth. Most mornings, Patch and Ken walked Siesta Key Beach picking up trash. Patch, we mourn for the loss of Ken, a most engaging and engaged friend of the environment.



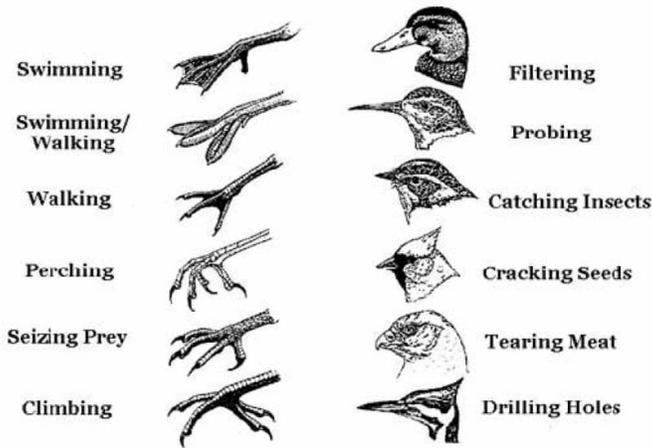
**WORKSHOP MANAGER(S) NEEDED**

We need Workshop Manager(s). This flexible volunteer position allows you to create a schedule of 3 -5 workshops per year. Workshops are designed to give a hands on experience about nature or our environment and are presented at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center. Ideas for workshops come from our members, the county and other sources.

*PLEASE NOTE: No workshops will be done at our Nature Center until Sarasota Audubon officially opens.*

**Email Kathryn Young for more details — [kathwren4@gmail.com](mailto:kathwren4@gmail.com)**

## Bird Beaks and Feet



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



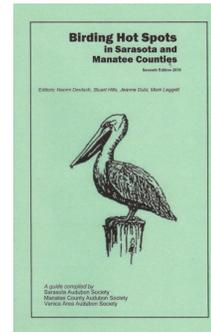
Engrave a loved one's name, or a short quote on a brick to commemorate a lasting tribute, or mark a special occasion. Ask us about other naming opportunities. Truly a gift that gives back.

**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**



## It's Here!

**Sarasota Audubon Society's Online Guide: Our Favorite Local Birding Hotspots**, has been updated for 2020-2021, and is now live on the SAS website!

This revised edition, in addition to enhancing last year's sites with new information and web links for use on your computer, tablet or cell phone, adds seven new Favorites, for a total of 25 nearby, exceptional birding locations! Use it at home or in the field!

To view the updated Online Guide, go to the SAS website, click on the *Birding* drop-down menu and select the *Online Guide*, or click the link below and add it to your Favorites:

**CLICK TO VIEW**

# Backyard Bird Fun



*Find it!*

Can you find all the words listed below?  
They can be horizontal, vertical or diagonal



WOODPECKER  
TREE  
SUNFLOWER  
GOLDFINCH  
FEEDERWISE  
PATIOWISE

BIRDWISE  
CARDINAL  
BLUEJAY  
HUMMINGBIRD  
SEED  
SUET

CHIRP  
TITMOUSE  
CHICKADEE  
NUTHATCH  
WARBLER  
WING

BIRDBATH  
FEEDER  
PEANUT  
BIRDHOUSE  
FLY  
AVIARY  
WILDBIRDCENTER



## 10 Common Bird Songs Made Less Confusing

**CLICK**



SARASOTA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Contact the Editor**

999 Center Road  
Sarasota, FL 34240  
941-312-6533