



Winging in the Gap

Happy Holidays from Sarasota Audubon!

December 18, 2020

News, links to activities and learning sites to keep you up to date and actively learning about birds, wildlife and other topics of interest.
Monthly Newsletter

Bird Blog: Sea Birds with Bling by Bill Dunson

Some Sea Birds have bands on their legs which enable scientists to follow their movements if the band numbers are reported. Many birds have flown long distances to spend the winter here whereas others remain in the local area or within the Gulf year-round.

I find it exciting to go on a hunt for these bands and attempt to decipher their stories for each species.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.



Red Knot, Palm Island, FL
Photo credit Bill Dunson



Evening Grosbeaks Photo Credit:
Cathy DeNeal, Macaulay Library

Is a Superflight of Finches on the way to Sarasota? by Matthew A. Young and Ryan F. Mandelbaum, from the American Birding Association

Birders in the eastern United States and Canada are receiving a welcome surprise as we experience a banner year for irruptive boreal birds, including remarkable records and a "superflight" of finches. Typically, only some of the irruptive finch species found in the East will undergo an irruption, but in superflight years, the search for food



Hoary Redpoll Photo Credit: Henry Trimpe, Macaulay Library

with drive southward representatives from all eight species: Pine Siskin, Common Redpoll, Hoary Redpoll, Purple Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, and White-winged Crossbill. By mid-fall, a Common Redpoll had shown up [in Albuquerque, New Mexico](#); Evening Grosbeaks were spotted in the [Florida Panhandle](#); Pine Siskins headed out over the ocean to [Bermuda](#); and Hoary Redpolls visited [Cleveland, Ohio](#). [Learn more Here](#)

Who Am I?



Name that Bird

Here you will find photos (taken by local photographers) of Pieces and Parts of Birds that you can find in Sarasota County. I have tried to include one trait that is unique for each bird. Click the caption to find the answer. Let's have some fun!

~Kath"Wren" Young, Education Chair
Sarasota Audubon



[21. Who Am I?](#)



[22. Who Am I?](#)

Test Your Skill with the ABA Photo Quiz

A distant bird on a treetop can be difficult to identify. Distance takes away most, if not all, of the features that we generally use to ID individual birds.

There **are** features other than color with which we can identify birds. That route to ID is attainable by most birders that have



time to not only identify birds, but study them.

[Get more clues, a larger image, and an opportunity to try your bird ID skill at the ABA website!](#)



Volunteer Spotlight □

by Christyna Reagan, CLI Intern

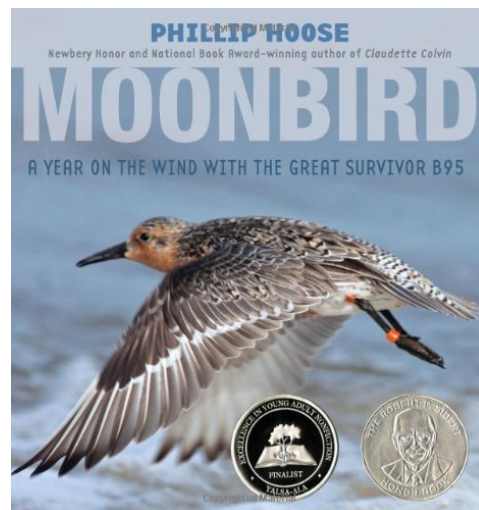
Stu Wilson with Sarasota Audubon is a crucial volunteer for the Florida Chapter. Originally from Austin, TX, Stu is a retired consulting engineer turned bird nerd. He volunteers on an abundance of programs for SAS including running the local Christmas Bird Count, organizing the Big Sit, completing surveys and monitoring for the city on behalf of Audubon, participating in naturalist programs at the Celery Fields and leading bird walks and field trips. [READ full Story](#)

Photo credit: Steve Simnett

Sarasota Audubon Book Shelf Book Reviews from Members Kathryn Young submits:

Moonbird: A Year on the Wind with the Great Survivor B95

The book details the endangered Red Knot Shorebird (tagged #B95) and its journey for survival. It is called the Moonbird because in its lifetime it travels the distance from the Earth to the Moon. This is a great introduction to what ornithologists do and how scientists worldwide communicate and work together for the survival of a species. Details are given in this book about specific migratory bird biologists and how birds are



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The Last Word is Graphic: Wayward Birds Explained

By Rosemary Mosco, BirdandMoon.com



birdandmoon.com

Julie Wraithmell, Executive Director [Audubon Florida](#), at [Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary](#) by Maisie, her 12-year old daughter

Note: If you plan to visit Corkscrew Swamp, be sure to get a reservation in advance, they are limiting numbers of visitors.

Share Feedback

The Nature Center Is Closed



Nature Is Open!

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Sarasota Audubon Society
999 Center Rd
Sarasota, FL 34240
www.sarasotaudubon.org

gardens@sarasotaudubon.org

Missed a back issue? No worries!
[Archive Here](#)

