



# Winging in the Gap

Happy Valentines from Sarasota Audubon!

\*\*\* All links have been corrected

February 12, 2021

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

## Membership Renewal Time

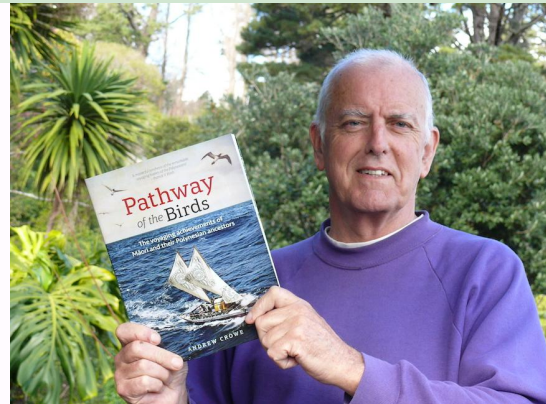
If you haven't already, [please click here](#) Thank you!

### Audubon Extra: Pathway of the Birds: The Role of Birds in Pacific Traditional Navigation [Zoom 7pm February 24](#)

Sarasota Audubon will offer a special evening lecture on this fascinating subject on zoom February 24 from New Zealand. The latest research reveals that native Polynesians may have been the greatest navigators of all time using the signs of nature such as birds, stars, and ocean currents to migrate to and settle island after island in the Pacific. Present-day native Maori and Hawaiians are reviving the amazing art of non-instrument sailing the ocean in voyaging canoes.

Andrew Crowe will speak about the subject of his beautiful book *Pathway of the Birds: The Voyaging Achievements of Māori and Their Polynesian Ancestors*.

Ani Black, a Maori wayfinder, will join him to describe her experiences navigating the traditional way from New Zealand to Easter Island.



Andrew Crowe, Author *Pathway of the Birds*



Ani Black, Traditional Maori Navigator  
Below: The Hinemoana

[Click Here To Register](#)



This video from Ormond Beach, FL walks you step by step through the Great Backyard Bird Count details, how to submit your list on eBird, and how to use Merlin for bird ID. [Watch now.](#)

## Great Backyard Bird Count February 12–15, 2021

Each year people from around the world come together to watch, learn about, count, and celebrate birds. Participating is easy, fun to do alone, or with others, and can be done anywhere you find birds. Simply watch birds for 15 minutes or more, at least once over the four days, February 12-15, 2021, and tell us what you see! [Official site 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



25. Who Am I?



26. Who Am I?





Ash-throated Flycatcher  
Photo Credit: Kathryn Young

## Bird Blog: Ash-throated Flycatcher by Pam Koepf

Another rare species for Florida has been visiting Sarasota this winter- the Ash-throated Flycatcher. This Flycatcher, a desert dweller, breeds in the U.S southwest and northern Mexico and then typically winters along both coasts of Mexico and south to Honduras.

[Full blog and photos here.](#)

## Sarasota Audubon Book Shelf Member Featured in local Media

### **The Outsiders: The Bird-Watcher**

BY BRITTANY MATTIE, ANDREW FABIAN AND OLIVIA

LIANG

JOHN GROSKOPF  
in SRQ Magazine

**“Sharp-eyed and well outfitted, John Groskopf fits the mold of the birding archetype. The local is an avid member of the Sarasota Audubon Society. Members volunteer to conserve and restore the region’s natural ecosystems that primarily inhabit birds and other wildlife.**

[Read entire article at SRQ Mag  
HERE](#)



**“I always keep my camera handy because I always seem to find something worth photographing,” says John Groskopf, a seasoned birder with an appetite for rarities.”**

## Volunteer Spotlight □

**Andy Schneider**

by Christyna Reagan, CLI Intern

Andy Schneider, a volunteer at the Celery Fields Nature Center since its inception, keeps the gardens alive and the butterflies happy. A self-described Victory Gardener from New York City, Schneider came to Florida 12 years ago and joined the Sarasota Audubon Society just as the



**Nature Center construction began in 2014.**

[READ full Story](#)

Photo credit: Karen Willey

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## The Last Word is Graphic: Peregrine Love

By Rosemary Mosco, BirdandMoon.com

My love for you is like  
a Peregrine Falcon.

Strong.

Powerful.



Energetic.

Zooming towards  
you at 200 mph.



Striking prey in a  
dramatic mid-air  
explosion of feathers.



Storing excess meat in  
crevices or on ledges.

Vomiting up pellets  
of bone, feathers,  
gizzard, and other  
coarse material.



Wait.

What were we  
talking about?

## Next Month's Program

Citizen Science: Swallowtail Kites ~ Kenneth D. Meyer, and Gina M. Kent

[Monday March 8, 2021 via Zoom](#)

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Nature Is Open!

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

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