



# THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

## MARCH 2021

### *Message From the SAS Board of Directors*

Hello Sarasota Auduboners,

How quickly this past year has gone by. We shut down all of our activities on 14 March 2020 due to COVID, and we will continue to do so until we feel it's safe to open the nature center and resume our talks and walks. Thank goodness for Zoom, which is keeping us in touch and allowing our board business to continue.

At the March and April general meetings each year, we issue a call for nominations for elected officers: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, secretary, and treasurer. Please send in your nominations to one of our committee members: Karen Schneider (kardons47@gmail.com), Don Schneider (donsdds@gmail.com) and Glynnis Thomas (glynnis65@gmail.com). Voting will be right after the 12 April general meeting via Survey Monkey. You will receive a link that evening to cast your vote.

Did you miss one of our fabulous Zoom presentations? No problem: Each one is uploaded to our YouTube account so that you can access them at will. Go to <https://www.sarasotaudubon.org/sas-monthly-meetings/> or go to the [www.sarasotaudubon.org](http://www.sarasotaudubon.org) website and click on Activities, then scroll to the first drop down. You will see all of our Zoom presentations, past and future, right there.

To register for a general meeting or special meeting, go to <https://www.sarasotaudubon.org/product-category/zoom-registrations/>. Select the one you want, then on the next screen click on the registration link. Note that even though it says "Add to Cart" the meetings are FREE.

Have you renewed your membership? For just \$30 per year, you are supporting the work we do. We rely on every single member to keep us healthy and vibrant. Click here to renew now <https://www.sarasotaudubon.org/product/pay-membership-dues/>. Thanks to all our wonderful members who have renewed; as always, we deeply appreciate your support. The Quad: we are working hard with the Conservation Foundation to advance our plans. Things of this complexity always take longer to come to fruition, but we are well on our way. We will be sharing our plans with you in the next month or so.

Stay safe and well!

Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

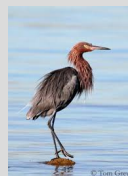
## Monthly General Zoom Meetings

### MARCH MEETING

**MONDAY  
8 MARCH  
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.



### Tracking Data Drives Habitat Management and Conservation for Imperiled Florida Birds

Kenneth D. Meyer, Ph.d, and Gina M. Kent, MS, Avian Research and Conservation Institute will focus the discussion on Snail Kites and Reddish Egrets.

### 2020-21 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

## BIRDS IN THE NEWS

### Your dirty bird feeder could be spreading disease

Don't just hang them and forget about them for weeks on end. Experts share advice on how — and how often — to clean them.



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/how-to-clean-bird-feeder/2021/02/08/20797a58-60e6-11eb-afbe-9a11a127d146\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/home/how-to-clean-bird-feeder/2021/02/08/20797a58-60e6-11eb-afbe-9a11a127d146_story.html)

**Study Finds Even the common house sparrow is declining**

## URGENT -- RENEWAL REMINDER



### It's Past Time to Renew!

Our Sarasota Audubon memberships normally run on the calendar year, so it's time to renew for 2021.

Only \$30/year for either individuals or families.  
The easiest way to renew is online on our Website:

**CLICK TO RENEW**

If you have a question about your membership, please email

**CLICK - MEMBERSHIP**

*Thanks for supporting your local Audubon Society!*

## NATURE CENTER HAPPENINGS





A big thank you to Barry Gerber and the Middle Schoolers from Temple Emanu-El who came out in late January to mulch the garden pathways with pine straw. Thanks also to our Audubon Florida Conservation Leadership intern

Christyna Reagan who did a fantastic job leading and interacting with the students. And another big thank you to the Jelks Family Foundation for donating the pine straw so that we could beautify our garden with the students' help.



As we approach the one year mark since we shut down, we are watching the variants of COVID19 and will remain closed for the foreseeable future. However, the gardens are glorious, and NATURE IS STILL OPEN! Get out and enjoy the birds.

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

## Upcoming Events

### SAS Activities



Please visit our website [www.sarasotaaudubon.org](http://www.sarasotaaudubon.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.

## Zoom Presentation About E-Bird

### Audubon Extra in March

Kathryn Young from Sarasota Audubon will provide an Educational Zoom on:  
Using eBird

Find Birds all over the world, save your bird sightings, photos audios, historical sightings and much more.

Wednesday, 24 March 2021

7:00pm

(Create an eBird account before class if you would like to follow along)

eBird is a worldwide database of bird sightings. Cornell Lab of Ornithology manages and supports eBird, by organizing your sightings into country, state, and county lists. It also keeps and shares your photos and audios.

eBird gives you current information and alerts about bird distribution, migration and where other birders are finding birds anywhere in the world.

Questions email [kathwren4@gmail.com](mailto:kathwren4@gmail.com)

Click here to Register for Zoom Webinar:

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_0BALYc7eQCil-r05fJrvxA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0BALYc7eQCil-r05fJrvxA)**

## NATURE IS STILL OPEN!!

Sherry Rhodes, your newsletter editor

(Photo credit: Sherry Rhodes)

In our latest quest to visit and appreciate some of our wonderful parks here in Florida, my intrepid group of birding friends and I embarked on an overnight trip to visit Lake Apopka



and enjoy the wildlife drive there. On the way north, we stopped at Circle B Bar Reserve in Polk County. We enjoyed walking through the various habitats, including wetlands and large oak trees. We saw at least one monster-sized alligator. The next morning we did the wildlife drive, which is a self-drive, one-way route and is open from 7 am to 3 pm. There are various places along the route to stop and observe birds and wildlife. It's a great place to see ducks, and one of the highlights for our group was a nice look at fulvous whistling ducks. Visitors can spend as much or as little time as they wish on the drive, as long as they exit the drive by 5 pm.



## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **One Day Trip Leader:**

SAS is looking for a volunteer One Day Trip Coordinator for our 2021-2022 season. There are four trips in total that take place February-April, on the Carefree Learner boat tour of Robert's Bay Rookery and there is an Eagle Nest bus tour.

Training will be provided. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Sarasota and meet new people. All coordination can be done remotely but in-person attendance is required on trip days. After all, you wouldn't want to miss out on the fun. Current SAS volunteers can apply using their existing volunteer accounts. Simply log in and follow instructions on the "home tab". New volunteers can apply here.

**<https://www.sarasotaudubon.org/volunteer/>** For additional assistance, email **[volunteer@sarasotaudubon.org](mailto:volunteer@sarasotaudubon.org)**

### **Bird Box Monitor:**

Manage and monitor the nesting boxes for Bluebirds, Barn Owls, and Chimney Swifts. Boxes are monitored for wasps and ants and cleaned at the end of the season. The Chimney Swifts are called into the tower one night at the end of March using a prerecorded tape.

Flexible schedule requiring 2-8 hours a month part of the year.

Those interested can use the application instructions cited above.

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## **Additions to the SAS Website**

It is now easier to make memorial or honorary donations on the SAS website. If you want to donate to Sarasota Audubon either in memory of or in honor of someone,

follow any of the Donate links on the Home Page ([www.sarasotaaudubon.org](http://www.sarasotaaudubon.org)), look for this logo, and fill out the form. You may choose to donate to any one of the following funds: the Endowment Fund, SAS Quad Fund, Celery Fields Nature Center, or Celery Fields Explorers Program.



You may also give a year of SAS Membership as a gift. Look for the Gift Membership button at the bottom of the Membership page ([www.sarasotaaudubon.org/membership](http://www.sarasotaaudubon.org/membership)).

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

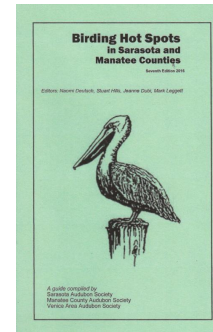


Engrave a loved one's name, or a short quote on a brick to commemorate a lasting tribute, or mark a special occasion. Ask us about other naming opportunities. Truly a gift that gives back.

**DOWNLOAD MAIL-IN FORM**

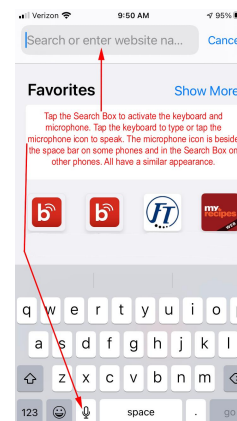
### **BIRDING HOT SPOTS OF SARASOTA AND MANATEE COUNTIES**

Can be purchased for  
**\$8.50 by mail.**  
Send a check to:  
**SAS, 999 Center Road  
Sarasota, FL 34240**



### **Enhance Your Sarasota Birding Experience Using Sarasota Audubon Society's Online Guide: Our Favorite Local Birding Hotspots**

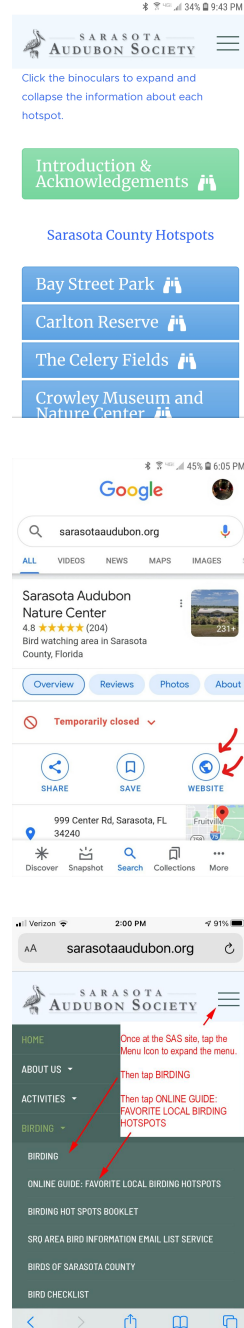
Looking for good, nearby places to go birding in the Sarasota area? Need information about what to expect at a new birding site? At a new site, will you need to locate a trail map, a restroom, or the site's closing time? Sarasota Audubon Society's (SAS) free, "Online Guide: Our Favorite Local Birding Hotspots," can help answer these questions. Updated for 2020-21, the Online Guide explores 25 of our



favorite birding hotspots, most in Sarasota, with five in nearby Manatee County. Hotspots are selected based on the high number of bird species recorded and closeness to downtown Sarasota (about 40 minutes, or less, driving time). Included for each hotspot is a site description, an overview of featured birds, and “Insider’s Tips,” along with addresses and GPS coordinates. Additionally, blue “buttons” link to up-to-date online data, such as driving directions from any starting point, eBird recent sightings, bird checklists, trail maps, and the site sponsor’s website, showing current fees, operating hours and amenities.

You can view the Online Guide on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. To locate it on your computer, go to the SAS website, [sarasotaaudubon.org](http://sarasotaaudubon.org), then click on the “Birding” drop-down menu, select the Online Guide, and add it to your Favorites. To expand or collapse each hotspot, scroll down and click on the “binoculars” buttons. You can print materials, such as directions, checklists and trail maps, before setting out on your birding adventure.

If you’re on the road, or in the field and only have your smartphone, the easiest way to access the Online Guide is to use your phone’s search bar or browser, and speak or write-in “Sarasota Audubon Online Guide.” [Screen 1 on the right]. This command usually connects directly to the Online Guide webpage. “Click” to open the Online Guide, and then, scroll down, and click the binoculars buttons to open or close each hotspot [Screen 2 on the right].



For quick reference, you can save the Online Guide to your home screen, favorites or bookmarks. So, for example, if you are walking in the Celery Fields, you can now open the Celery Fields Hotspot on your smartphone and scroll to an expandable Trail Map, complete with trail names and distances.

If your smartphone search takes you to the [sarasotaaudubon.org](http://sarasotaaudubon.org) website (i.e., the Nature Center website), simply click on the "Website" icon [Screen #3 on the right], then press the three-line "hamburger" menu icon found on the page's upper right side [Screen #4], which brings you to the Online Guide! We hope that this brief Introduction to using the Online Guide will whet your appetite for exploring the wealth of information it contains.

**CLICK TO VIEW**



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**AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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