



Winging in the Gap

Let's celebrate May with Sarasota Audubon!
May 15, 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

□ Virtual Scrub-Jay Festival May 22nd □



Juvenile Burrowing Owl

Bird Blog: The "Howdy Bird" by
Lou Newman

North American Burrowing Owls

Because of their comical head bobbing, these birds were called "howdy birds" by American cowboys. These little birds stand just nine inches tall and weigh only seven ounces. Their sharp powerful claws not only grasp prey but also dig dirt and kick it backward during excavation of burrows, which can reach lengths of up to ten feet.

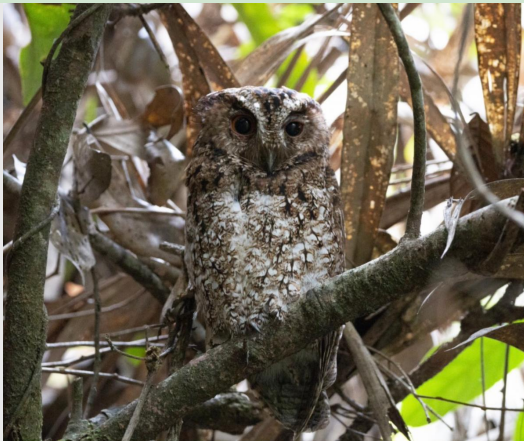
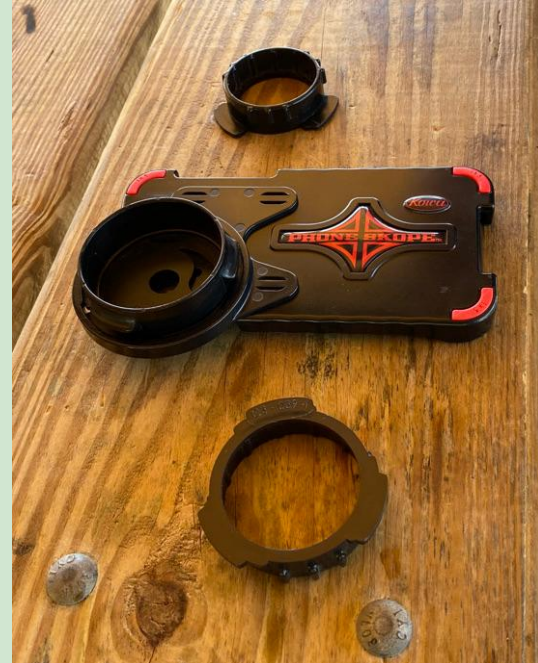
Lou's [Blog and photos here.](#)

Audubon Extra: Optics for
Everyone with Jeff Bouton
Zoom 7pm May 26

Jeff Bouton, National Sales and Marketing Manager for Kowa Sporting Optics, will show us how to choose birding optics from binoculars to digiscoping.

Jeff, a self-described bird bum, has spent over two decades “chasing” birds as a seasonal field research biologist, bird bander & tour leader.

[Click Here To Register](#)



The first photograph of the Bornean Rajah scops-owl (*Otus brookii brookii*) in the wild. Image credit: Andy Boyce.

Bornean Rajah Scops Owl Rediscovered in Borneo After 125 Years

Published April 28, in [The Wilson Journal of Ornithology](#), Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center ecologist Andy Boyce reported the rediscovery and photographed this elusive subspecies (*Otus brookii brookii*) in the mountainous forests of Mount Kinabalu in Sabah, Malaysia.

“It was a pretty rapid progression of emotions when I first saw the owl—absolute shock and excitement that we’d found this mythical bird, then pure anxiety that I had to document it as fast as I could,” Boyce said.

“Based on size, eye color and habitat, I knew it was the Bornean



Zebra Finches © Sue Anne Zollinger

Urban Traffic Noise Causes Learning Deficits in Songbirds

Dr. Henrik Brumm

[Max Planck Institute for Ornithology.](#)

[Seewiesen](#)

Traffic noise leads to inaccuracies and delays in the development of song learning in young birds. They also suffer from a suppressed immune system, which is an indicator of chronic stress. A new study by researchers of the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology and colleagues shows that young zebra finches, just like children, are particularly vulnerable to the effects of noise because of its potential to interfere with learning at a critical developmental stage.

For the study, the researchers

Rajah scops owl. What's more, taking into account this bird's specific plumage characters, known speciation patterns within the Otus genus and phylogeographic patterns of montane birds in Borneo and Sumatra, *O. b. brookii* is likely its own unique species and further study is needed."

[Read entire article HERE](#)

raised male zebra finch chicks in two groups. During their sensitive song learning period, the chicks in both groups were tutored with recorded song of adult males. In one group, the birds were additionally exposed to traffic noise that had been recorded in bird habitats close to busy roads in the city of Munich, Germany.

[Read entire article 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



[31. Who Am I?](#)



[32. Who Am I?](#)



Why Do Mixed Species Flock Together?

from Science Spotlight
Kite Tales, Great Florida Birding Trail

There are two main theories to explain why these species might band together.

1. More birds in a flock means

Blue-headed Vireo, Danny Bales



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Rick Greenspun

- there are more eyes to look out for potential predators.
2. Foraging together might also mean that it's easier to find food in the first place.

Researchers continue to study this fascinating behavior and have found evidence for both of these theories – it is probably the case that both contribute to the formation of these groups. But one thing is certain – happening upon a mixed-species flock is always a special treat for a birder.

[Read Entire Article Here](#)

Limited space available in 2022 Panama Birding Trip with Sarasota Audubon Society

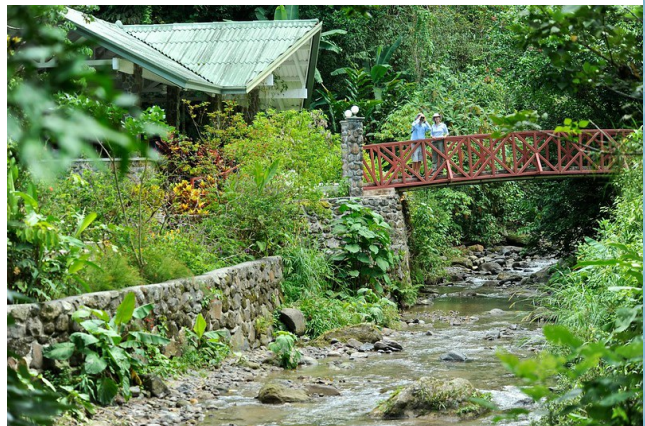
Sarasota Audubon would be pleased to show you the birds and natural history of Panama in February/March of 2022.

The trip will consist of two segments and depending on your wishes you could do one or both.

- Canopy Lodge & Tower (Combined 10-night land package)
- Canopy Camp (Additional 5-night package)

This is based on a group of 8 people meeting in Panama City at the Tocumen International Airport.

[More information HERE](#)





The Festival is Virtual this year, but the planners are making it FUN!
and its FREE on Zoom! Attend for all, or just a part of it.

[Registration Link](#)

The Last Word is Graphic: Nut Hatch

By Rosemary Mosco birdandmoon.com

This is a nuthatch.



It's called a nuthatch because...

wait, no



That's not...

wait



NO.



birdandmoon.com

Monthly Programs will begin again
in October 2021

[View all past Sarasota Audubon Society programs HERE](#)

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[Archive Here](#)

