



# THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

**MAY 2021**

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

Hello Everyone,

Well, here we are nearing the end of another year, and what a year it has been. There are many positive aspects we can point to: We learned how to use Zoom as participants, as presenters, and as facilitators. Thanks to Karen Willey, Nature Center Manager, for spearheading that function. Our membership is holding steady in spite of little to no social contact at the nature center. Thank you for renewing.

With all of our Zoom meetings: seven general meetings, and the four extra Zooms we organized to keep in touch with you all, we had interesting numbers. On average, our general meetings had 109 registrants, and our extra meetings had 120 registrants. These figures exceed what we normally get in our live meetings at the church hall. It's a different world now. Because we are now adept at polling via Survey Monkey, during the summer we will send out another survey asking for your opinion about live meetings, Zoom meetings, or a combination of both. Please help us by responding.

The Quad: As you know, we are getting under way with design and engineering aspects, and with the collaboration of the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, we will launch a full-bore fundraising campaign in the fall. This is another major project for SAS, but we know we can achieve the goal of creating habitat for wildlife while buffering the Celery Fields from industrial use. This is a win-win for the environment in this very tough environmental climate.

Many thanks to all for your support this year. We managed to squeak by financially, possibly breaking even by May 31, 2021, or just being in the minus column by a tad. Please keep us in mind when planning to give for 2021.

Take care this summer. We look forward to seeing you in October.

Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

# ELECTION UPDATE

Right after the April 12th Zoom general meeting, SAS members were sent a link via Survey Monkey to cast their votes for officers standing for election for the year beginning 1 June 1 2021. Of the 120 votes received, all voted unanimously for the slate: Jeanne Dubi, President, Kathryn Young, 1st VP, Lynn Jakubowicz, 2nd VP, Mary Heinlen Secretary, and Jeanne Dubi, Treasurer. Thank you for your confidence in the leadership of SAS once more. Board of Directors, SAS.

## Monthly General Zoom Meetings

### MAY MEETING

**MONDAY  
10 MAY  
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.**

### The Merlin Bird App: Bird ID in the Field



Jessie Barry, Program Manager, Macaulay Library at Cornell University and lead in the development of Merlin, a bird app to help identify birds in the field will demonstrate the app and give us tips on how to use it for better bird identification, especially those that puzzle us.

To register [click here](#)

### 2020-21 MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

## ZOOM EXTRA

Audubon Extra – 26 May 26 2021, 7pm – How to Select Optics for Birding – Register: [click here](#)  
Jeff Bouton, Marketing Manager for Kowa Optics will show us how to choose birding optics from binoculars to digiscopers.

## BIRDING IN PANAMA 2022

Limited space available in 2022  
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](#)

---

## FAMILY WALKS AT FELTS AUDUBON PRESERVE

In collaboration with [UnidosNow](#), SAS led 20 people from 4  
families around Felts Preserve on Saturday, April 24th. With help  
from Around the Bend Nature Tours, we spent 2 hours learning  
about birds, the watershed, plants, and bugs.

Ably helped by Spanish speakers Lynn Jakubowicz, grandson Ryan  
Jakubowicz, Glynnis Thomas, and Jimena Gutierrez, we all  
connected with each other. ABT supplied binoculars, and SAS  
provided the Spanish version of Kenn Kaufman's Birds of North  
America (Guia de Campo Kaufman: a las Aves Norteamericanas),  
helping ID birds right away. We have more walks coming up: May  
8, 22, and 29 at 9am all at the Celery Fields. If you want to  
practice your Spanish, please join us. The more the merrier.

---

## QUADS PARCELS

Public Hearings Regarding Amendment to the

I-75/Fruitville Road Major Employment Center Critical Area Plan,  
and Rezone Petition

(Quads Parcels)

Date: May 6, 2021

Time: 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible

Location: Sarasota County Administration Center, County

Commission Chamber, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota FL

The Sarasota County Planning Commission will hold public hearings on amendments to the I-75/Fruitville Road Major Employment Center (MEC) Critical Area Plan (CAP), and the rezoning of three of the County-owned "Quads" parcels.

In October of 2019 County staff completed a CAP study that identified the proposed CAP amendments intended to preserve the open character of Quads parcels. In October of 2020, the County Commission granted a conservation easement over three of the Quads parcels. The proposed zoning change of the three Quads parcels to Government Use (GU) will allow uses consistent with the conservation easement.

All interested parties are invited to appear, be heard, and submit relevant evidence. Copies of the petitions and supporting documents are available during normal business hours in the Planning and Development Services Department at 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, Florida. Copies of the petitions and supporting documents will be available to view or download at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net), Keyword: "Planning Commission" the Friday prior to the public hearings. Written comments will be considered and may be sent to the Planning and Development Services Department prior to the public hearings at the above address or by e-mail to [planner@scgov.net](mailto:planner@scgov.net). The public hearings may be continued from time to time as announced by the Board. For more information, telephone 941-861-5000.

For more information about providing public input, go to:  
[www.scgov.net/publicinput](http://www.scgov.net/publicinput).

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, familial status, religion, or genetic information. Persons with disabilities who require assistance or alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), or who wish to file a complaint, should contact Sarasota County ADA/Civil Rights Coordinator, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, Florida 34236, Phone: 941-861-5000; TTY 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771, E-mail: [adacoordinator@scgov.net](mailto:adacoordinator@scgov.net)

Thank you for your time and interest in this effort!

We appreciate your feedback!

### Planning and Development Services

Planning and Development Services provides unincorporated Sarasota County with land use services in collaboration with businesses, residents and neighboring jurisdictions to build a sustainable, prosperous community that distinguishes Sarasota County.

## Another Interesting Fish Owl

Many of us were fascinated by author Jonathan Slaght's Zoom presentation about the Blakiston Fish Owl in April.

Here is a link to an article about another interesting fish owl in Turkey.

<https://soundapproach.co.uk/species/turkish-fish-owl/>

## NATURE CENTER HAPPENINGS



On 9 April we hosted  
the Sarasota  
Chamber of  
Commerce  
Environmental  
Leadership Day in





conjunction with Sarasota County Extension and the Science & Environment Council. Thirty-nine future leaders learned about the Celery Fields Stormwater Retention Area, our LEED Gold Building

and the one-acre Native Gardens that support so much wildlife. The leadership group was engaged and excited to learn about the latest design elements in the building and gardens as well as the surrounding habitat and neighboring micro-forest.

We replanted the Earth Boxes with the last crop of the season – some late lettuce, hot peppers and eggplant join the celery and SunGold tomato. Yum!

I will repeat my mantra: The Nature Center is closed, but Nature is open! Come on out and enjoy the gardens.

***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.

## Bird of the Month -- Lazuli Bunting

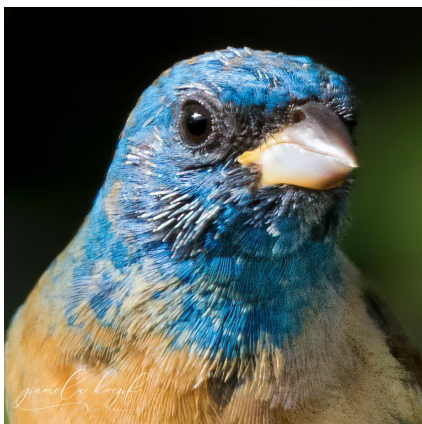
By Pamela Koepf Photo credits:  
Pamela Koepf

For almost three weeks in nearby Manatee County, we had a special visitor – a beautiful male Lazuli Bunting. It was seen at a backyard feeder



at a private home and was last seen in mid-April. Lazuli Buntings are usually found in western North America, from southern Canada to Mexico.

Aptly named for the color of the gemstone Lapis Lazuli, the brilliant Lazuli blue color is found on its head and back. They also show pumpkin color on the breast, have white underparts and two distinct white shoulder patches. The female Lazuli Bunting looks quite similar to a female Indigo bunting - warm brown with hints of blue on the wings and tail. The Manatee County bird was in process of molting into breeding plumage, and if you look closely, you can even see the pin feathers on his neck.



Each male has a unique combination of notes for his song. He creates it as a yearling when arriving on the breeding grounds by rearranging syllables and combining song fragments of several males. This will be his song for life.



It seems that Florida typically gets one of these vagrant Lazuli Buntings visiting each year during the period of February through April. If you put white proso millet in your feeders and you have a stroke of luck, you just might see one in your backyard.

## GREAT PARKS TO VISIT IN DUNEDIN, FL

By your newsletter editor,  
Sherry Rhodes

Photo credits: Sherry Rhodes

In keeping with my recent series of highlighting some nice parks to visit within easy reach of Sarasota, I'd like to share some highlights of a recent visit to Dunedin, Florida, only about an hour and a half by car from Sarasota. Dunedin is a very pretty little town, and unlike Sarasota, most of their waterfront is not blocked off by high-rise buildings, so water views abound. It is the spring training home of the Toronto Blue Jays, who are also playing their first several homestands in Dunedin this year since travel to Canada is problematic right now. It was a baseball series that took me to Dunedin, and with some research on the Great Florida Birding Trail website, I also determined that we could work in some birding along with the baseball.

The first park my husband and I visited was Hammock Park, a municipal park located very close to downtown. It has a variety of very well maintained and well manicured wide trails through mostly wooded habitat, with canals running along two of the trails. There is also a brand new boardwalk trail. Along with the birds, we also saw a pretty wide variety of butterflies in this park. There is ample parking, picnic tables/shelters, and restrooms. We were told to watch for a barred owl along the Palm Trail, but we didn't see it on this visit. We did spot a nice black throated blue warbler.

The next morning we visited Honeymoon Island State Park, which is accessed over a causeway bridge from the mainland. This park has two





main trails, the Osprey Trail and the Pelican Trail. One goes through mostly scrubland territory with bushes and tall trees and the other parallels the beach next to a mangrove section. We spotted several eastern towhees right away and observed a large group of gray kingbirds. Part of the Osprey Trail was blocked off toward the end to protect a pair of nesting bald eagles; however, both the nest and the birds were easily visible from the trail barrier with binoculars. The two young eagles were trying out their wings in hopping up and down in preparation for learning to fly. We also encountered gopher tortoise along the trail chowing down on some grass.

I heartily recommend these two parks, which are an easy outing from Sarasota. Dunedin is worth a visit, and the nature opportunities are certainly a highlight.

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BETTY AND WADE**

On 5 May 5 2021 Wade and Betty Matthews will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary. Betty met Wade when she was teaching high school, and he had just started with the Foreign Service at the US Department of State. What an adventurous life they led living in nine countries, visiting over 150 countries and all 50 US states, while raising their three children. In 1990 they moved to Sarasota after retirement, but that did not stop them from being active in many organizations ,including Audubon, and continuing their worldwide travels. Their children, two grandchildren, family, and friends admire their continued energy and curiosity. Happy Anniversary!



## **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/).

**<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.

### **Workshop Team Members**

Sarasota Audubon needs 1 -2 people to help get our Workshop Program running for 2022. Hours are 4 per month, January – April.

Duties include:

1. Be a part of the team in the spring to decide what workshops (5-7 in number) we will have the next year.
2. Send emails to workshop leaders to organize the schedule and to re-confirm closer to the date.
3. Attend 5 -7 workshops at Sarasota Audubon's Nature Center and help with room set up; signing people in; introducing speakers.
4. Create or help another team member to develop announcements for each workshop which will go out to members via newsletters and eblasts.

Click the application link above to indicate your interest or email Kathryn Young at [kathwren4@gmail.com](mailto:kathwren4@gmail.com)

---

## 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!

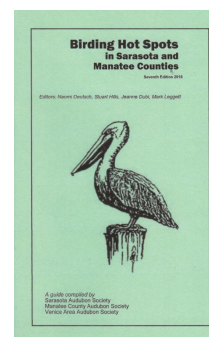


Engrave a loved one's name, or a short quote on a brick to commemorate a lasting tribute, or mark a special occasion. Ask us about other naming opportunities. Truly a gift that gives back.

**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**



Like us on  
**facebook®**

FOLLOW US ON

**twitter**



SARASOTA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

**Contact the Editor**