



# Winging in the Gap

It's Summer with Sarasota Audubon!

July 17, 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.

## Shorebird Nesting Season in Florida



### Shorebird Alliance: Stewards Still Needed by Kylie Wilson

Initial Report after Tropical Storm Elsa:

The skimmers did lose many remaining nests to the over wash but there are about 190 chicks that were large enough to move to higher ground that survived. The Least Terns amazingly got by unscathed and actually had their first chicks hatch the day of the storm.

July 10 Update: Remarkably, some skimmer nests DID survive TS Elsa! I recorded up to 12 birds nesting/brooding young chicks on July 10th including a banded bird, E22, with two little chicks!

With many of the chicks being larger most of the birds were at the shoreline this week. Hundreds of them were spread out at the water line and laying down in front of the colony.

We still need stewards! Please continue to sign up for shifts to keep an eye on these chicks. They will be nesting throughout the summer. Click the button below to sign up, and thank you!

Note: The button will send an e-mail to Kylie Wilson, Bird Stewardship Coordinator - let her know your interest and she will send you the information for getting you on the schedule.

[Chick-Checkers Register Here](#)



Cape Coral Burrowing Owls  
Pamela Koepf



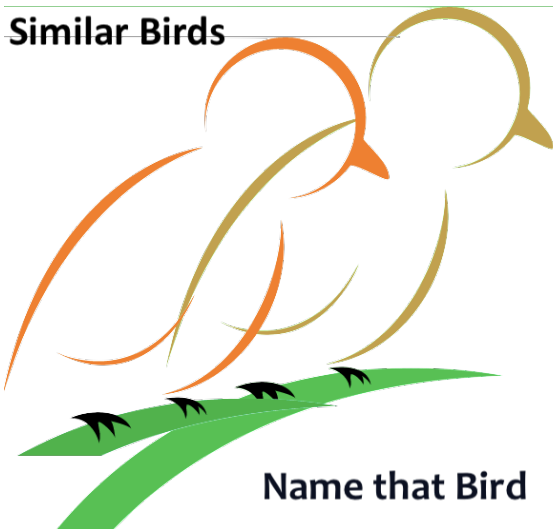


Cape Coral is home to the largest known population of the Florida Burrowing Owl which is listed as a State of Florida threatened species. They are actually quite easy to find there and there is an annual festival each February to celebrate them and other wildlife. Their breeding period is from February through July.

You can learn more here on their very own [Facebook Page](#)

Above we have 3 siblings by their burrow. It was fun to watch them as they all seemed to have different personalities.

### Similar Birds



Here you will find photos (taken by local photographers) of birds that you can find in Sarasota County - that can





be confusingly similar. Traits that will help you identify them will be noted. Click the caption to find the answer. Let's have some fun!

~Kath"Wren" Young, Education Chair  
Sarasota Audubon Society

### 35. Who Am I?



### 36. Who Am I?



## A Sad Farewell to Ron Platt

Long time Sarasota Audubon member Ron Platt died June 16, 2021 at the age of 94. Ron was well known for his smile and kind manner. He took on the leadership role of day trip coordinator, led the Endowment Committee and served on the Board of Directors. Ron loved to travel the world and even made it to Antarctica.

Ron was born and raised in England and wed Kathleen in 1953. He graduated from the London School of Economics, worked for Ford Motor Company in Michigan and England and came to be director of sales and marketing for 18 countries. In 1969 Queen Elizabeth awarded him membership of the Order of the British Empire, OBE. Ron and his wife retired to Longboat Key in 1991.



Over the last 10 years, Ron and fellow Audubon member Karen Jensen traveled the world together and visited such exotic places as Antarctica, the Great Wall of China, Angkor Wat, big animal preserves in Africa, as well as Victoria Falls and also Iguazu Falls in South America. He especially enjoyed his trips to Belize with the Sarasota Audubon Survey Team.

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### The United States Symbol: The Bald Eagle *by the American Bird Conservancy*

The majestic Bald Eagle is the only eagle species found solely in North America. It is well-known, even to non-birders, as the national symbol of the United States, an honor it was granted in 1782.

The Bald Eagle's Latin name accurately reflects its appearance and habits: *Hali* and *aiētos* mean "sea eagle," and *leuco* and *cephalos* mean "white head." The use of the word "Bald" in its English name does not mean hairless; rather, it derives from the Middle English word "balde," which means shining white.

[Read entire article here](#)

### The Last Word is Graphic: Red Tail Blues by Rosemary Mosco, Bird and Moon





Monthly Programs will begin again  
in October 2021

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

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Missed a back issue? No worries!  
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