

DECEMBER 2021



Message from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Auduboners,

We are gradually expanding our opening hours at the Nature Center as more and more docents return and sign up. We are feeling more comfortable with the retrofit of the air conditioning system, and the weather is glorious, allowing us to open up the doors for better circulation.

We are so pleased to be back in business! It has been a long haul and we are feeling the pinch. Over the last 18 months or so, we worked hard to provide extra programming via Zoom so we could keep in touch with you. And we expanded our newsletters to offer a wider variety of bird and nature topics. Please don't forget us. We urge you to re-up your membership (still only \$30 per year), and to make a donation if you can.

On Tuesday, November 30 -- GIVING TUESDAY -- please donate to any of our several programs.

Take care always and good wishes for a safe and healthy Holiday Season,

Jeanne Dubi and the Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

It's Time to Renew Membership!

Annual membership expires at the end of each year.

Please renew your Sarasota Audubon Society Membership now.

Thank you!



Renew or Join NOW!

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

General Meeting Monday DEC 13, 2021 7:00pm on ZOOM Ambition, Naivety, and Insanity: A Florida Big Year



Tallahassee Birders Natasza Fontaine & Robert Gundy

In 2020, Tallahassee-based naturalists and birders Natasza Fontaine & Robert Gundy worked together to break the Florida Big Year record, set at 387 species just the year before. Tune into this entertaining talk that will cover the highs and lows (and everything in between) of Big Year birding.

Register

National Audubon Volunteer of the YEAR

In November, Sarasota Audubon was spotlighted out of 500+ other Audubon chapters around the country by National Audubon. President Jeanne Dubi was honored with the Charles H. Callison Award as Volunteer of the Year. Jeanne shares this award with all who helped catapult SAS into the national spotlight in making the Celery Fields the go-to birding hot spot in the Gulf Coast region. Thanks to members, donors, volunteers, and funders—you all made it happen!

Read all about it here



Karen Willey, Nature Center Manager & Jeanne Dubi, President Sarasota Audubon Society 2021

Giving Tuesday is this week!

Thanksgiving is now



followed by Black Friday,
Small-Business Saturday,
Cyber-Monday and
International Giving
Tuesday
Won't you consider
supporting Sarasota
Audubon and all we do for
the Birds?

DONATE

Notes from the NATURE CENTER



We are excited to announce that we are opening the Nature Center

Tuesday through Sunday 9am - NOON Beginning December 1, 2021

Thanks to our volunteer docents who are returning to the Sarasota area.

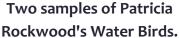
Our Garden Volunteers are working hard and the result is glorious. Special thanks to Linda Kitch, Marti Ramos, Courtney Milton, Rick Greenspun and Andy Schneider!

New Member Artist Display at the SAS Nature Center from December 4 through December 31. **We invite you to come in and take a look at Patricia Rockwood's Water Birds. READ MORE HERE**

Remember: Nature is always open! Come on out and enjoy the gardens.

Karen Willey SAS Nature Center Manager







CONSERVATION

HAVE YOU SPOTTED A DEAD LOON?



To assist in helping to determine what's killing Common Loons that winter in our local waters, <u>Save Our Seabirds (SOS)</u> will begin accepting loon carcasses for examination.

If you find a dead loon, you can either call SOS at 941-388-3010 for retrieval or, better yet, box/bag the carcass yourself and bring it in to their facility at 1708 Ken Thompson Parkway on City Island in Sarasota (next to Mote Marine). There is a drop box for carcasses left outside of normal working hours (weekdays 10:00am-4:00pm). If you use the drop box, please leave a note with your name and contact information as well as a description of when and where you found the carcass. The fresher the carcass, the more information that can be gleaned. Note that if you're unable to get the carcass to SOS right away, it's better to refrigerate rather than freeze it.

Even in poor condition, a loon carcass can usually be differentiated from that of a cormorant by the bill: the loon's is silvery and pointed

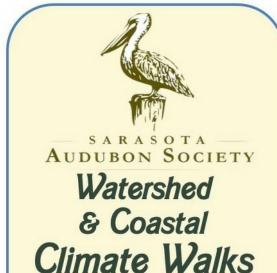
while the cormorant's is yellowish and blunt-tipped, even appearing slightly hooked.

Save Our Seabirds is to be applauded for this effort to help determine causes of loon mortality in local waters!

CLIMATE CORNER □

CLIMATE WALKS BEGIN IN JANUARY from Sarasota Audubon Society





Let's talk about it!
Actions for Protection

FRIDAYS Winter 2022 9:30am - Noon



Register

www.SarasotaAudubon.org

CONSERVATION

- Emerson Point: Florida's First People Jan. 7 or Feb. 25
- Ken Thompson: Sea Level Rise Jan. 14 or March 4
- Perico Preserve: Coastal Resilience Jan. 21 or March 11
- Red Bug Slough: Inland Invader Issues Jan. 28 or March 18
- Leffis Key: Early Restoration Efforts Feb. 4 or March 25
- Robinson Preserve: Mangrove Migration Feb. 11 or April 1
- Celery Fields: Stormwater Solutions Feb 18 or April 8

\$10/person

Masks Optional (this can change)

Talk about climate change with hope and confidence. How can one be hopeful when the outlook is so dire? Turn the anguish into action. Local solutions are closer than you think. Karen Willey brings her knowledge of solutions from the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI) and shares the tools for talking

about it in this series of local nature walks focused on climate. Register now - they will fill up! Two options for each tour, the series will repeat after 7 weeks.

Climate Walk Registration

Bird Blog: Local Places by Lou Newman





Looking for something to do? How about a visit to a nearby park? It's outdoors, it's safe and it's low cost or free! Most of these images were taken in Myakka River State Park during late October, 2021, at a time when there were receding flood waters in the fields and migratory birds were present in the park.



Look what you might see! See all the photos here!

Bird Blog: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher by Thomas Litteral

At the Venice Airport, a group of scissor-tailed flycatchers has been entertaining birders for some days now. One has been faithful to a location at the eastern edge of the property and is recovering from a wound of unknown origin. Discover its fascinating behavior at the link below.

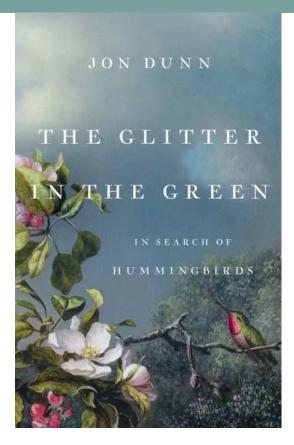


Full Blog and Photos Here





Book Review: The Glitter in the Green



The Glitter in the Green: In Search of **Hummingbirds**, by Jon **Dunn** Birds, even hummingbirds with their otherworldly colors and behaviors, exist in a world dominated by humans. **Considerable portions of** *The* Glitter in the Green are dedicated to the history of the interaction, a history often troubling but always fascinating. As amazing as hummingbirds may be, the behavior of many hummingbird people over the centuries has been at least as astonishing. Read about these interactions in this fascinating book.

Click here to read Book Review



Ready to go birding! But not sure where to go?

Help is here!

27 local hotspots described in detail complete with directions, maps, checklists, & insider tips!



Accessible on your computer, tablet, or **smartphone in the field**. Know where to look and how to get there.



How to get to this amazing free resource.

Scan this QR code with your smartphone.
Or type or speak this into your browser on any device: sarasotaaudubon.org, then go to Birding menu, then Online Guide.

Pro tip - on tablets and phones the menu icon looks like this:



BIRDs OF THE MONTH Lapland Longspur AND Great Cormorant



<<< Lapland Longspur

First seen at edge of Venice Airport on 11/9/21, this Lapland Longspur is far from its expected Central U.S. wintering grounds. This is only the second record of this species in Sarasota County.

READ all about it here

Photo credit: Pam Koepf

Great Cormorant >>>

Sarasota County's first record Great Cormorant was spotted on 11/20/21 on the weir at Myakka River State Park. In this photo, you can compare Doublebreasted Cormorant (left) that is normally seen in Florida to the Great Cormorant (right).



Double-breasted Cormorant (L), Great Cormorant (R)

Photo credit: Pam Koepf

READ all about it here

The Last Word is Graphic: Field Guide to Christmas







Highly poisonous semi-parasite of the order Santalales. Its name means "poop twig" and it enjoys watching you kiss.



Both sexes have antlers. Some subspecies are highly endangered. Questionably aerodynamic.



A Mexican & Central American plant that looks extra-festive thanks to a bacterial infection.





Varied plants of the genus Ilex. Typically only female holly plants bear red fruit, and only if a male is within an unchaste 25 foot radius.





Streptopelia furtur ; relatives. Increasingly rare. Awkward, noisy, ; full of love, much like Christmas.

Partridge in a Pear Tree



Can - can somebody get me down? I'm a ground bird. Please? Somebody? Hello?

* Happy holidays to those of you who overwinter as adults! *









Contact the Editor

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