



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2021



Message from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Auduboners,

We are on the move at last! Thanks to the continued reduction in the COVID-19 rate, the increase in vaccinations, and the retrofitting of the Nature Center to purify the air, the board decided to open up for weekends in November. This was all due to our NC docents signing up, which they did enthusiastically. In fact more docents signed up for the available slots, so we may be able to expand to include Fridays. If you haven't already signed up, please let Sue Herring know [email Sue here](#).

At last month's general meeting via Zoom, I attempted to show the results of our last fiscal year, ended 5/31/21. Due to a fluff on my part, the screens could not be seen -- sorry about that. I think the best thing now, is to wait for the first general meeting when we can meet in person at the church hall--possibly in January--and I can answer questions. By then, the results of our certified audit will be complete and copies will be available.

Take care always,

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 NOV 8, 2021
7:00pm on ZOOM
Florida Soils Sustain Ecosystems



Stephen M. Suau, PE

In addition to the increased CO₂ in the atmosphere, the amount of Nitrogen in our soils and waters has also dramatically increased. Mr. Suau, a watershed manager, will discuss how we might reverse both of these trends through a better understanding and emulation of nature's

time tested processes for transforming nitrogen and sequestering carbon.

Register

Notes from the NATURE CENTER



We are excited to announce that we are opening the Nature Center for **weekends only**, starting November 6 & 7.

Thanks to a grant from the Edward K. Roberts Emerging Needs Fund at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County we feel confident that we can provide the safest possible environment. Here's why:

- Installed state of the art ionizing scrubbers in our air conditioning system which will constantly sanitize the air
- Purchased two mobile air purifiers strategically placed in the public room
- Weather permitting, we will completely open the concertina glass doors, introducing outside air
- Daily cleaning of the water fountain according to Sarasota County guidelines
- Available before entering: a box of masks for anyone who wants to use one, hand sanitizer, and information about our air purification system
- **Reduced hours from 9am until noon, weekends only in November.**

We look forward to the time we have enough docents to cover all shifts. Remember: Nature is always open! Come on out and enjoy

the gardens.

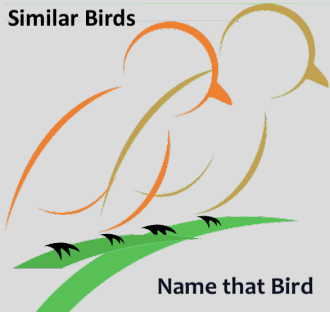
Karen Willey
SAS Nature Center Manager



The Painted Bunting pair is back! Jeanne Dubi asked us to put the millet feeder up about 2 weeks ago and we were rewarded by their return on Saturday. Andy will begin filling the other feeders this week. It appears everyone is ready to get back to the Nature Center!

SIMILAR BIRDS

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

Discover Which is Which

Similar Shorebirds



CONSERVATION



CELERY FIELDS SUSTAINABILITY DAY NOV. 11 9am - Noon

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP

Tours, solar power, pond solutions and more
eventbright.com celery fields

CELERY FIELDS SUSTAINABILITY DAY NOVEMBER 11, 9am-Noon

Participate in the online workshop on Wednesday Nov. 10 and then join us at the Celery Fields Nature Center on Nov. 11. Come out and meet the organizations that are bringing Sarasota County to the forefront of sustainability as part of the **Sustainable Communities Workshop**.

Sarasota Audubon Society hosts this event at our LEED Gold Nature Center and Native Gardens. Tour the building which is net zero solar powered. Then tour the gardens and discover the beauty and essential nature of native Florida plants.

Tour is in four 20-minute segments and will last 1 hour and 20 minutes.

1. LEED Gold Building Tour of Nature Center **Brilliant Harvest**
2. Native Garden Tour **Selby Gardens EcoFlora Project**
3. Microforest tour **FL Veterans for Common Sense Fund**
4. Palmer Boardwalk Tour with **Audubon Bird Naturalists**

Tours every 30 minutes begin at 9am, last tour 10:30am
Registration Required as space is limited on the tours.

Come out and discover sustainable practices with:

- **Brilliant Harvest Solar.** Speak with the team under the tent about

all topics related to solar and storage/renewable energy.

- **Stocking Savvy Environmental Consulting.** Will share their techniques for restoring Florida using ecological principles. This can be done in your own backyard or on a large scale. Native plants will be available for purchase.
- **Sunshine Community Compost.** Find out how to compost, the dos and don'ts of composting, vermicomposting, befriending the creatures of the compost – and a scavenger hunt!
- **Transition Sarasota.** Learn about gleaning, a local food initiative that harvests unwanted produce for local food banks.
- **Gismo Power: New College** student 22-year-old **Antonia Ginsberg-Klemmt** will be demonstrating her mobile solar-powered EV charging carport. She won the 2021 OZY Genius Award – out of thousands - for her invention. Look for Antonia (Toni) in the parking lot - a mobile carport with solar panels.
- **Selby Gardens Sarasota-Manatee Eco-Flora Project** engaging citizens to help preserve the state's native plant species and to assemble new, original observations and data on the state's flora to better inform policy decisions about management and conservation of the state's natural resources.
- **Sarasota County UF/IFAS Sustainability.** Learn about water and energy conservation, participate in trivia games, and win prizes.
- **Conserve Bobby Jones Golf Course.** Learn about local wetlands restoration focused on the eventual conservation of almost 300 acres with the goal of transforming the former golf course into a birding and recreation destination.
- **Sarasota Vegan Society.** Will share information on how diet impacts the environment.

Sustainability Tour Registration

16TH ANNUAL **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP** *"Roots of Sustainability"*

REGISTER NOW! One-day, Virtual Workshop

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Consider the Bright Side of Darkness for our Wildlife Neighbors (insects, too)

by Lee Amos, Land Steward, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast special to the [Herald-Tribune.com](https://www.herald-tribune.com)



Halloween is an interesting holiday for its love of darkness. Interesting to me, at least, because as a conservation biologist at the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, I'm amazed by how many creatures lurk in the shadows – truly – and how fundamental darkness is to their well-being.

The core problem for animals is Artificial Light at Night (ALAN). ALAN is disruptive to wildlife – everything from insects, reptiles and amphibians, to birds and mammals.

The reason is that most wildlife are more active at night – perhaps as much as 70% of wildlife may be considered nocturnal – and ALAN disorients and distracts wildlife from performing their normal rituals. Locally, we have three groups that are particularly impacted by ALAN: sea turtles, song birds, and insects.

Song birds are also distracted by ALAN. According to the International Dark-Sky Association and the National Audubon Society, 70% of all song birds are migratory, and 80% of those migrate at night. Song birds migrate at night to avoid predators – namely hawks – that might otherwise gobble up the parade of flying birds.

[Read Entire Article](#)



SpaceX Destroys Habitat Of Endangered Species, Defies Federal Approval Process

Endangered birds and sensitive habitats at risk in Boca Chica, Texas

by Jordan Rutter, American Bird Conservancy

While SpaceX is focusing on exploring distant planets, the company's operations are taking a toll on planet Earth, specifically in Boca Chica, Texas. Here, the SpaceX Starship Super Heavy Project and launch site are being built and expanded, even though some of the infrastructure has yet to be approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is deeply concerned about the facility's impacts on wildlife habitat and species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including the federally Threatened Piping Plover and Red Knot, and the Endangered Northern Aplomado Falcon.

In addition to Threatened and Endangered birds, the area surrounding the Boca Chica SpaceX site provides sensitive habitat for other wildlife listed under the ESA — from the Ocelot and several species of sea turtle (Kemp's Ridley, Hawksbill, Leatherback, Loggerhead, and Green) to the Gulf Coast population of the Jaguarundi. This habitat has been identified by the Environmental Protection Agency as an aquatic resource of national importance (ARNI). It's also home to some of the

country's most diverse communities of wind-tidal flats, mid-delta thorn forest, and mid-valley riparian woodlands.

[Read entire article here](#)

CLIMATE CORNER

NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS from Audubon Florida



Great Blue Heron on Red Mangrove Photo Credit: Jean Hall

With 8,436 miles of coastline and approximately 15 million people living along the coast, Florida is one of the states most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, more intense storms, and increasing flooding.

Investing in Florida's natural infrastructure, including wetlands, barrier islands, and mangroves can help protect coastal communities, wildlife, and the economy from climate change and extreme weather. Restoring Florida's mangrove forests can be 2-5 times cheaper than some structural flood protections. Coral reefs and salt marshes can reduce wave heights by 70% or more, and every mile of wetland can reduce storm surges by 1-2 feet.

[READ ABOUT MORE NATURAL SOLUTIONS HERE](#)

WE NEED YOU! VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Brown Pelican Editor

We are in need of an editor to work with us (at first) to get our info-packed newsletter out each month. Would you like to learn how to use Constant Contact? This powerful communications tool is easy to use. The template for the BP has already been set up, so minimum to no design required. You can also be part of the decision-making team for which articles and notices appear. Contact info@sarasotaudubon.org



Volunteer Coordinator

This position does not function in isolation. The board of directors, our nature center coordinator, and other volunteers also help in recruitment, but having a volunteer coordinator spearhead the function would be a great help to us, and to SAS at large. We will get you up to speed. Contact info@sarasotaudubon.org

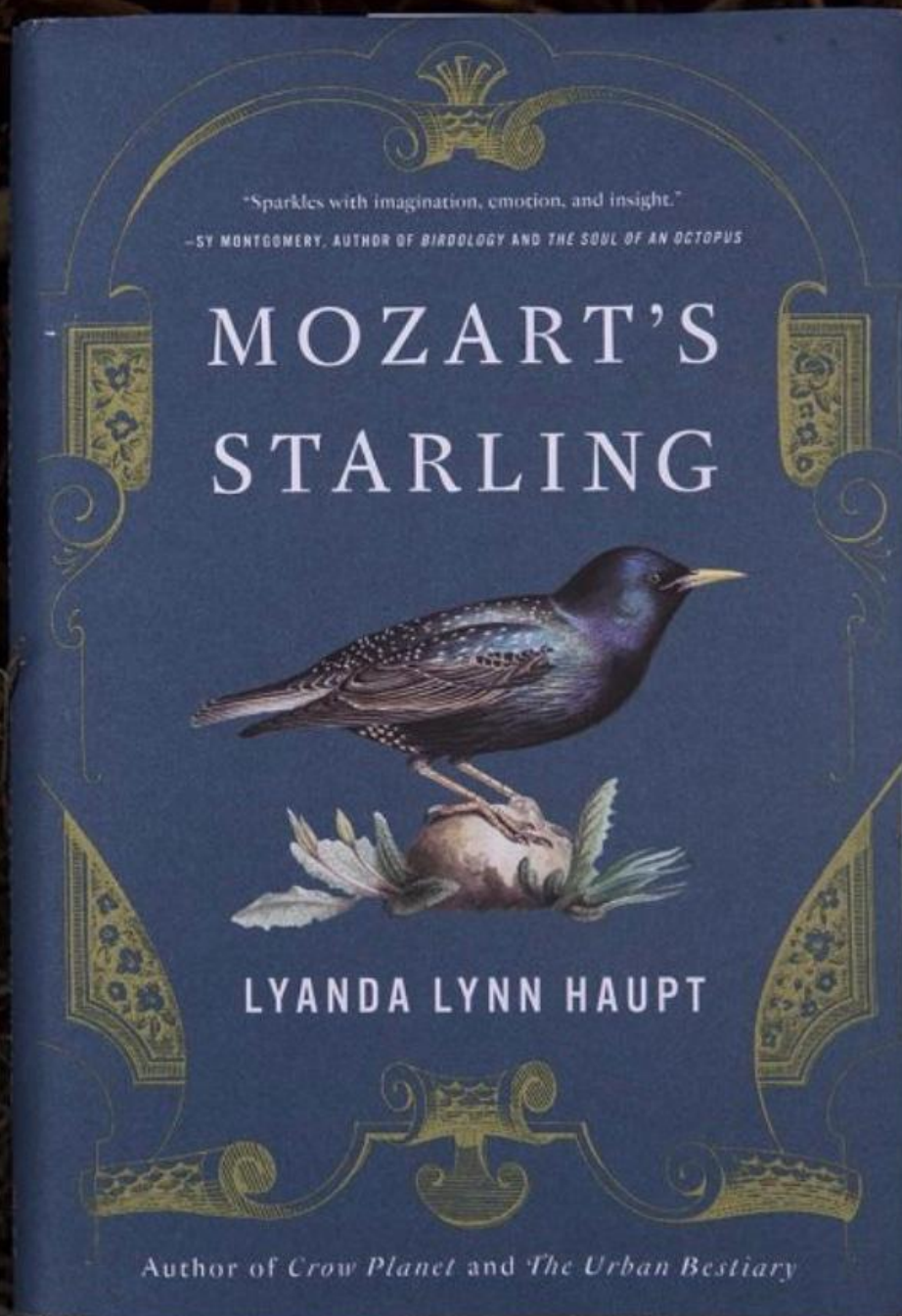
Palmer Blvd Clean Up Coordinator

Years ago, SAS adopted Palmer Blvd from just west of Apex to Tatum. We conduct 4 clean ups per year, the next is October 24. Please consider being part of the crew or coordinator. Four times a year x 1.5 hours each is doable for many of you. **Hand up please!**

Nature Center Docents

This is one of the most interesting volunteer spots in Sarasota. Meet and greet visitors from all over the US and the world as they explore the Celery Fields and all the birds and wildlife that thrive in this urban oasis - our very own Central Park. Check out the website to see what we are all about sarasotaudubon.org. For more info, contact Sue Herring at sue.zq.herring@gmail.com

Book Review: Mozart's Starling by Lyanda Lynn Haupt



On May 27th, 1784, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart met a flirtatious little (European) starling in a Viennese shop who sang an improvised version of the theme from his Piano Concerto no. 17 in G major. Sensing a kindred spirit in the plucky young bird, Mozart bought him and took him home to be a family pet. For three years, the starling lived with Mozart, influencing his work and serving as his companion, distraction, consolation, and muse.

When naturalist and author Lyanda Lynn Haupt decided to write the story of the relationship of composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his pet starling, she knew that she had to do some field research. So she adopted a starling of her own, Carmen, to live with her and her

family.

Learn about the book in this delightful [4 minute YouTube Video](#), that includes the secret of starling murmurations.

[Read an in-depth author interview with WBUR Boston](#) including book excerpts.

Sarasota Big Sit! October 10, 2021



"What is a Big Sit?", you say. The Big Sit! is like a Bird-a-thon. Individuals or teams find as many species as possible in 24 hours. There is one critical difference – all observations must be made from within a circle no more than 17 feet (5.2 meters) in diameter. It's fun. It's a challenge. And here is the Sarasota Report from Stu Wilson:

Thanks to a late-inning rally led by Rick "The Anchorman" Greenspun, Celery Fields Forever – Sarasota Audubon's Big Sit team – was able to climb from a 9-species deficit with just two hours remaining in the day to achieve a respectable 60 species showing... 60 species being exactly what we notched each of the last two years!

We were fourteen (14) volunteer "sitters" strong, spread over three shifts, and enjoyed a very nice fall day with light winds and quite bearable high temperatures. Those volunteers covered 13 hours

(6:30am to 7:30pm) from the confines of our 17-ft diameter circle at the end of the Palmer Blvd Boardwalk at Celery Fields. Our 60 species total was well off the record-setting 66 species pace from 2018, but given that it looked like we were going to settle for a total in the low 50s, I consider it quite a successful day. My thanks to all the participants with a special shout-out to first-time shift captain Naomi Deutsch and Shift 3 sisters Jeanne and Glynnis who were instrumental in the late-Sit heroics. Special thanks also to the affable Bob Clark for the evening refreshment.

[READ THE FULL REPORT HERE](#) – Lot's more fun details!

Audubon Florida Celebrates ALL Audubon Chapters

Audubon Chapters at
work making every
community...

**BIRD
FRIENDLY!**



Enjoy a round-robin of Audubon Florida chapter successes from 2021 Audubon Assembly. Click photo above to watch entire video!

BIRD OF THE MONTH Whiskered Screech Owl



Whiskered Screech Owl rufous morph, *Megascops trichopsis* Photo by Greg Homel, Natural Elements Productions.

A well-camouflaged little raptor, the Whiskered Screech-Owl's U.S. population even managed to hide from scientists until almost the dawn of the 20th century.

Read all about this bird [At the American Bird Conservancy](#)

The Last Word is Graphic: Amazing Fall Migrations

Amazing Fall Migrations

Spectacular Songbird Migration



Dazzling Insect Migration



Majestic Hawk Migration



Glorious Garden Snail Migration



birdandmoon.com



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