



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

JANUARY 2022



Message from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Auduboners,

At this writing, we are watching warily the current COVID surge and hoping we can keep the Nature Center open, albeit on a reduced schedule. We are always mindful of everyone's safety, and especially those of you who work on the front line: docents, bird naturalists, garden workers, and also our visitors.

Fortunately, we have Zoom to keep us in touch with each other. The next few monthly meetings will be especially interesting. On Monday, January 10, via Zoom, we have a change of presenters: Dr. Haney will get us up-to-date on research and searches for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker: is it extinct in the U.S. or not? Tune in to find out.

On February 14, we will be having a hybrid presentation: live at the church hall, and Zooming too. Scott Weidensaul, a genuine rock star of the birding world and an authority on bird migration, will wow us with anecdotes and with hard facts of bird migration. Did you know that Amur Falcons

breed in northern China and eastern Russia, then migrate in massive flocks many thousands of miles around the Himalayas, through India and over the Arabian Sea to South Africa? Yes, really! Tune in or come along to learn more of the amazing migration of birds.

As always, take care and be safe,

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.

Thanks to all who have already renewed!



Renew or Join NOW!

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

**General Meeting Monday Jan. 10, 2021
7:00pm on ZOOM**

Ivory-billed Woodpecker as Trickster



Ivory-billed Woodpecker
Campephilus principalis
principalis (c) Arthur A Allen

Is the Ivory-billed woodpecker extinct or not? Listed since 1967 as an endangered species, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing to remove this iconic bird and 22 other species from the endangered species list and declare them extinct.

However, the "Lord God Bird" with its prominent beak and 30-inch wingspan continues to attract attention.

Independent searchers especially in Arkansas and Louisiana say they have seen and/or heard it recently: Matt Courtman, head of "Mission Ivorybill", says he has seen them



twice--first in 2019--and heard them eight times.

Join Sarasota Audubon on zoom Monday January 10, 2022 at 7pm to learn more with Dr. J. Christopher Haney speaking about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker as Trickster and exploring the simmering controversy surrounding this iconic bird.

Register

Dr. James Christopher Haney

Myakka River State Park Christmas Bird Count Report December 20, 2021, by Belinda Perry



The overcast warm day coupled with low water level in the river and lakes resulted in a good day of birding. What started as a routine bird count ended with a surprising record of 125 species after 38 participants covered 152 miles in 78 hours. Additional hours at feeders (6 hrs.) and nocturnal birding (1.5 hrs.) helped with the species count. This total ties with the highest count recorded in 2011.

We added two new records: Great Cormorant and Whooping Crane. This Great Cormorant is an immature bird (white belly) seen at the weir on the upper lake among the smaller Double-crested Cormorants and Black Vultures. It was first sighted by Matthew Press on November 10. A video clip by Tony Ford can be viewed at <https://ebird.org/species/grecor/US-FL>.

The single Whooping Crane, sighted by Claire Herzog's party while

covering the Crowley Museum & Nature Center, was with a flock of Sandhill Cranes in the river marsh north of the park, about a mile north of the SR780 (Myakka Rd.) bridge. Although not considered countable by the state compilers it will remain on the park's count list. [READ ENTIRE REPORT HERE](#)

Bradenton Circle Christmas Bird Count Report December 18, 2021, by Kathy Doddridge

In 2021 sixty-four volunteers identified 153 species for a total of 38,047 individual birds. This is down from 2020 when we counted 158 species for a total of 52,836 individual birds. With continued good weather in the northern U.S., we saw very low numbers of migrating birds such as ducks, Tree Swallow, American Robin and American Goldfinch. Even vulture and Fish Crow numbers were down and Bald Eagle numbers were lower by 36%..

It is not all bad news, early ducks such as American Wigeon and Hooded Merganser saw considerably higher numbers and the number of Reddish Egret doubled. Shorebirds saw an increase especially American Oystercatcher, yellowlegs, sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitcher. There were more Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk and Eastern Bluebird than the previous year.

New birds for the 2021 CBC included: Green-winged Teal, Magnificent Frigatebird, Black Skimmer, Great Black-backed Gull, Common Tern, White-eyed Vireo, Bell's Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Parula, Summer Tanager and Yellow-headed Blackbird. In addition American Avocet and Franklin's Gull were seen during the count week, which is three days prior and three days following the count day.

Stay Tuned for Sarasota Report CBC takes place January 2, 2022

Macaulay Library Two local winners accepted!

Congratulations are in order for two local photographers who's submissions made the Best Bird images 2021 For Cornell Lab of Ornithology from Cornell's Macaulay Library! Kathryn Young in the category "Bird-a-tude" and Fran Meyerson in the category "Next Generations"

Macaulay Library's Best Bird Photos 2022

Featuring more than 50 contributors

There are more than 32 million photos in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Macaulay Library archives, covering more than 10,000 species. Each image includes scientifically valuable data via its eBird checklist—and many of them are simply lovely to look at as well. From sunbirds to bee-eaters, owls to albatrosses, [we've chosen some of the best](#)



Kathryn Young winner in the category *Bird-a-tude* with a Turkey Vulture at Myakka River State Park



Fran Meyerson winner in the category *Next Generations* with her Tufted Titmouse at Pinecraft Park

Notes from the NATURE CENTER



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

We will continue December hours through January. With the current surge of the Omicron Variant, we suggest that all visitors mask up when entering the nature center.

The gardens are looking superior thanks to our core weeding group. We have had a couple of nighttime visitors in 4-wheeled vehicles and have had to trim more of the

muchly grass than we should at this time of year.
Fortunately, the plants are native and adaptable.

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

Karen Willey
SAS Nature Center Manager

CONSERVATION

STELLAR'S EAGLE IN THE US!



Stellar's Sea Eagle [Lim Yangmook via Wikicommons under Public Domain](#)

Steller's sea eagles are native to China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea and eastern Russia, so this bird is at least 5,000 miles from home. But what's even wilder is that the same exact bird has been traveling across North America since at least August 2020.

It was first spotted in Alaska during the summer of 2020. Then the bird was seen in Texas and then around Nova Scotia on Canada's east coast last month, *Smithsonian* magazine reported in November.

Birders are sure it's the same eagle because it has unique white markings on its wings, the magazine said.

[FULL STORY HERE](#)

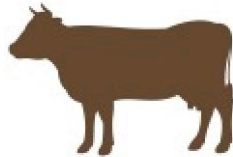
CLIMATE SOLUTIONS Agriculture

Sarasota & Manatee Counties, Florida

Conserving energy and transitioning to renewable energy sources will slow climate change, but we still need to adapt to climate change already underway.



Local farmers will need to shift to growing more heat tolerant varieties of produce.



Local ranchers will need to shift to more heat-tolerant forage crops and livestock.



Consumers can source more of their diets locally to reduce carbon emissions from transportation and support sustainable local agricultural practices.

Watch Now!

CLIMATE STORIES VIDEO SERIES

ScienceAndEnvironment.org/Climate

Featuring local agriculture experts:

EVA WORDEN, PHD
Worden Farm

JIM STRICKLAND
Strickland Farm & Blackbeard's Ranch

SARAH BOSTICK
UF/IFAS Extension



SOLUTION: LOCAL AGRICULTURE from Science & Environment Council of SW Florida

Local agriculture is threatened by changing land uses, with 53% fewer acres in crop production from 1982–2017. Today, 1,040 farms and ranches produce over \$380 million worth of products. Climate factors may further threaten agricultural productivity and local food security. Rising Temperatures will stress heat-sensitive crops and livestock.

Average annual air temperatures are 3.2°F warmer since 1966. Scientists project that future greenhouse gas emissions will continue to drive temperatures higher.

Consumers can source more of their diets locally to reduce carbon emissions from transportation and support sustainable local agricultural practices.

Watch Short Video Now

Climate Walk Update:

In an abundance of caution, Sarasota Audubon is cancelling the first series of Climate Walks for 2022. Thanks for understanding.

Bird Blog: Immature Bald Eagle by Kathryn Young

Because it takes an eagle 4-5 years to attain adult plumage of the iconic white head and tail, you may mis-identify many young eagles as hawks, or call all young

eagles juvenile / immature.

Many ornithologists are unable to ID the exact age / cycle of young eagles. The photos with descriptions in the link below will attempt to summarize and familiarize you with immature eagles.



Mature Bald Eagles Photo:Rick Greenspun

[See all the photos here!](#)

Bird of the Month: Whooping Crane **by Pam Koepf**



Photo Credit: Pam Koepf

The Myakka River State Park Whooping Crane is banded and has potentially been identified via its bands. From the www.savingcranes.org website, the crane banded "77-18" is a male which has been nicknamed American Pharaoh.

Here in Sarasota we have been very lucky to have a current visiting Whooping Crane. It has been viewed by the Myakka River bridge near the Crowley Museum. It was first seen on December 20 by observers from the Myakka Christmas Bird Count and continues to be seen.

The bird is about a mile from the viewing area so is a bit difficult to see & photograph (as evidenced from photos above). It associates with the Sandhill Cranes and roosts there overnight with them, leaving about 7:30am & returning about 5:45pm.

[**Full Article Here**](#)

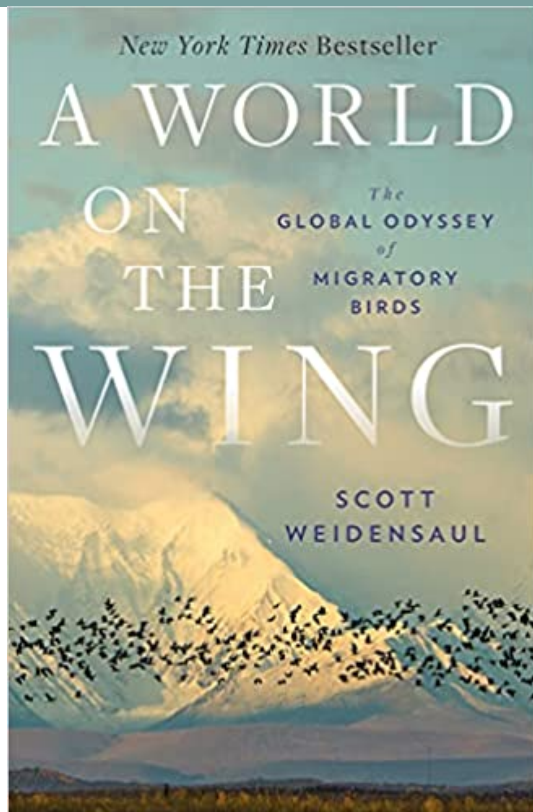
North Lido Beach & Woods Walk Dec. 30, 2021 by Stu Wilson



John Ginaven and I led 16 participants on a very foggy North Lido Beach and Woods walk today. Except for good numbers of beached shorebirds, it was very difficult to get on a bird much of the morning, especially for those without binoculars.

Highlights were well over 100 federally-threatened Red Knots, a lone Dunlin, the Bald Eagles trading off chick-tending duties at the nest (chick(s) not yet visible), an obliging Prairie Warbler, and an actively hunting male American Kestrel out in the dunes.

Book Review: A World on the Wing



A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds by Scott Weidensaul

"Scott Weidensaul, one of our finest nature writers, has produced another instant classic. In *A World on the Wing* he takes a pair of highly complex subjects—global patterns of bird migration, and the research into those patterns—and brings them to life with his own amazing adventures around the world. Here is proof that a book of solid science can also be a page-turner. Highly recommended for anyone curious about the natural world."

— Kenn Kaufman, author of the Kaufman Field Guides

Celery Fields Cleanup Jan. 11



Our next Celery Fields Cleanup is on Tuesday, January 11th at 9:00am. Meet at the Nature Center. Volunteers **MUST** fill out and submit a county release form **BEFORE** arriving at the Nature Center.

[Contact Gloria Markiewicz](#) click her name to email for form. It is essential that you complete the form before attending.

[Email for Form](#)

The Last Word is Graphic: Bird-safe Buildings

SOLUTIONS FOR CREATING BIRD-SAFE BUILDINGS

1



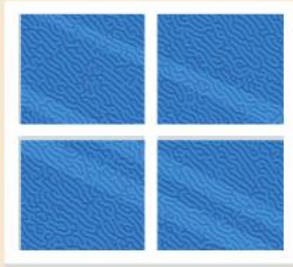
Green roofs

Greenery planted on the roofs of



buildings creates natural habitats for birds.

2



Patterned glass

Visible patterns using frosted, etched, or opaque treatments allow the birds to see and avoid the glass.

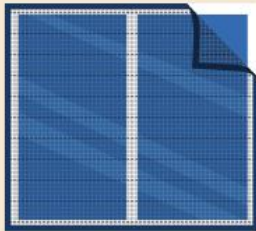
3



Fritted glass

Ceramic dots are applied to the surface of glass to reduce the transmission of light and warn birds away from windows.

4



Screens

A thin material, or screen, acts as a protective covering over windows.

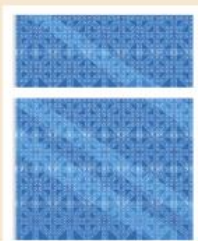
5



Shutters

Solid vertical or horizontal shutters cover windows to prevent birds from flying into them.

6



Interior window tape

Patterned tape alerts birds of solid material and helps them avoid flying into it.

7



Shielded light fixtures

These protect birds from artificial light that disrupts migratory routes.

**BIG
RENTZ**



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