



# THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

## MARCH 2022



### Message from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Auduboners,

We will be Zooming our monthly meetings for the rest of this season March, April and May. Along with COVID concerns, we were unable to solve hybrid meeting tech issues. By Zooming our meetings, we actually have greater attendance than prior to ..... Last month, we had 155 registrations and average well over 100 for each meeting. Thank you for sticking with us!

#### **The Quad Parcels at the Celery Fields**

On Saturday, Feb 19th, we were pleased to be able to show over 400 of you our concept plans for the Quad. For those of you who could not make it to the Nature Center on that day, [take a look here](#). The initial plans, developed by our engineering firm, Kimley-Horn, have yet to be finalized, costed out, and approved by the County. We do know that the costs will be several million dollars.

Sarasota Audubon and the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast took a big leap in agreeing to take over the 27

acre parcels, re-wild them, and then maintain them. The result will have many benefits: a) buffering the Celery Fields from commercial development; b) increasing wildlife habitat and biodiversity; c) further improving the quality of our water as it enters Phillippi Creek; and d) creating more green space for children and families to enjoy.

### **Please Help Us Complete the Quad Parcels Project**

We will keep you informed as we move through final concept design, permitting, then construction. In order to complete the project, we need your help. You did it before - with the Nature Center - and I am asking for your help again. The Quad project will cement our already stellar reputation as an environmental organization that takes on difficult challenges to benefit our human and wildlife communities.

As always, take care and be safe,

Jeanne Dubi and the Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

**Donate to the  
Quads**

## **MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION**

**General Meeting Monday Mar. 14, 2022**

**7:00pm on ZOOM**

**THE COLORS OF SPRING**

**with Dr. Jerome Jackson, Florida Gulf Coast University**



Dr. Jerome Jackson  
Professor Emeritus, Florida Gulf  
Coast University, and Mississippi  
State University

Spring is the season of renewal -- bringing with it feelings of hope, enhanced by sitting in a quiet place outdoors, and watching events in the natural world unfold. In short, being a "bird watcher", not merely a "birder" who ticks birds off on a checklist and moves on.

Birds that spent the winter with us begin to change from drab winter plumage to brighter, often distinctly different plumage - allowing us to monitor their changes from day to day as they visit our feeders. The transition results in a plumage associated with courtship and nesting. These changes reveal a kaleidoscope of color and patterns unique



Below: Dr. J learns to dry his wings from a Cormorant at the Anhinga Trail, Florida Everglades



to each species, sex, age cohort, and variations in the light that illuminates them.

In this presentation Dr. Jackson will use south Florida birds to illustrate this annual rainbow that comes our way and will answer questions of when, why, and how these changes occur.

[Register](#)

Image: Janet Petrik



American Goldfinch male in summer plumage, May

Image: Kevin J. McGowan



American Goldfinch male in transition, March

Image: Pam Wertz



American Goldfinch male in winter plumage, February

## **UPCOMING WORKSHOPS**

### **Beach Nesting Birds March 1**

### **Purple Martins March 19**

### **Plant for Birds April 2**

**Workshops are free - donations appreciated**

### **Beach-nesting Birds Workshop**

**Tuesday March 1, 2022 at 1:30pm**

**At the Nature Center - no Registration necessary**

**With Kylie Wilson, Audubon Florida Shorebird Monitor.**

**Learn how YOU can get involved in protecting our threatened beach nesting species pictured below.**



Snowy Plover with chick



Black Skimmer with chick



Least Tern chicks

**Purple Martins Workshop**

**Saturday March 19, 2022 at 1:30pm**

**At the Nature Center - no Registration necessary**

**Join Sue Guarasci for a fascinating look at this largest American swallow. Learn how these birds depend on us for their survival. We'll observe nests, eggs and hatchlings in our Nature Center Purple Martin houses**



**Planting for Birds Workshop**  
**Saturday April 2, 2022 at 8:30am**

**At the Nature Center - [FREE Register Here](#)**

**Join Karen Willey, Nature Center Manager, as she shares a short power point of a few common native plants, insects and birds that depend on them and then takes us on a walk in our 1-acre native gardens to see them in action.**



**Workshops are FREE**  
**Donations are appreciated**

**Notes from the NATURE CENTER**





Two works from watercolor artist Elaine Charney

**OPEN DAILY 9am - NOON**

**Two nights below freezing at the nature center and the gardens are showing a bit of brown. But as spring envelops us, new shoots are showing up everywhere!**

**Featured Artist this month is award-winning local watercolor artist, Elaine Charney. Elaine was an Administrative Law Judge in Michigan and worked for the Department of Homeland Security. She turned to art in 2006. Elaine teaches Beginning and Intermediate-Advanced Watercolor at ACE (Adult Community Enrichment), part of Suncoast Technical College.**

**Elaine has received many art awards and participated in numerous local and national exhibitions. Her artwork can be found in a number of area galleries in Sarasota and Punta Gorda.**

**Elaine's artwork will be available for viewing and purchase during the month of March. Please stop in to take a look.**

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

**Karen Willey**  
**SAS Nature Center Manager**

**Palmer Blvd CLEANUP**  
**Tuesday MARCH 15, 9am-10:30am**  
**Registration Required**



Our next Celery Fields Cleanup is on Tuesday, March 15 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 here](#) or the button below.

It is essential that you complete the form before attending.

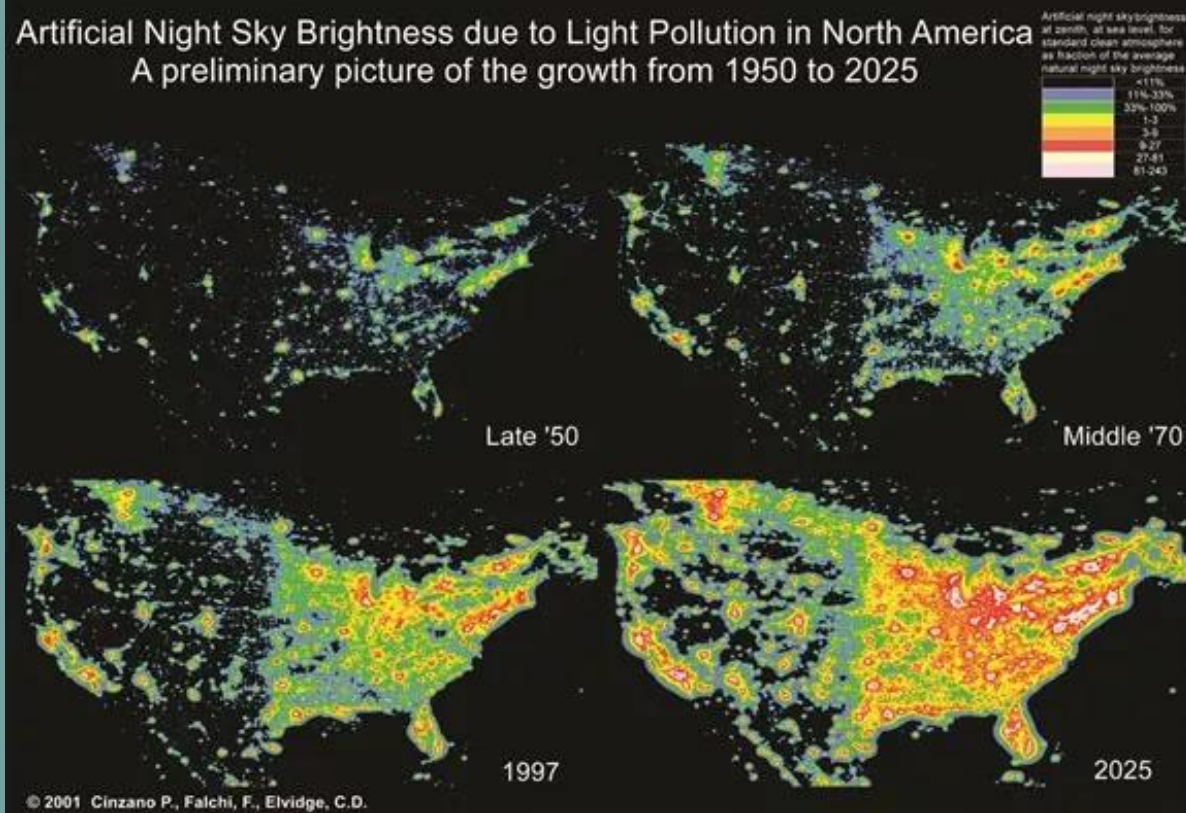
[Register Here](#)

## **CONSERVATION**

**Lights out for Migrating Birds**  
**International Dark Sky Association**



## Artificial Night Sky Brightness due to Light Pollution in North America A preliminary picture of the growth from 1950 to 2025



*Simulation of light pollution growth in the United States: 1950s, 1970s, 1990s, and projected to 2025. Credit: P. Cinzano, F. Falchi, C. D. Elvidge. Copyright 2001 NPS*

The nighttime sky is becoming increasingly polluted by artificial light. This light pollution poses a significant threat to migrating birds, causing confusion and disorientation and often leading to collisions with buildings, disturbing their internal clocks, or interfering with their ability to undertake long-distance migrations. Solutions to light pollution are readily available. For instance, more and more cities around the world are undertaking measures to promote the use of dark sky friendly lights. Best practice guidelines are also being developed under the Convention of Migratory Species to address this growing issue and to ensure that action is taken globally to help birds migrate safely.

### Lights Out Programs Across the US

Across the country, bird lovers, conservationists, and amateur astronomers are working together to help birds safely migrate between their seasonal homes. Inspired by the [FLAP program](#) in Canada, advocacy organizations are working together to encourage individuals and businesses to participate in [Lights Out Programs](#), which help participants learn about the effects of ALAN on migrating birds and take action to reduce light pollution. The National Audubon Society established its first Lights Out Program in Chicago in 1999 and keeps a growing list of over thirty active [Lights Out Programs in the United States](#).

[FULL STORY HERE](#)



By turning off excess lighting, we can help to provide migrating birds safe passage between their nesting and wintering grounds.

 Audubon



INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

## CLIMATE CORNER ☐



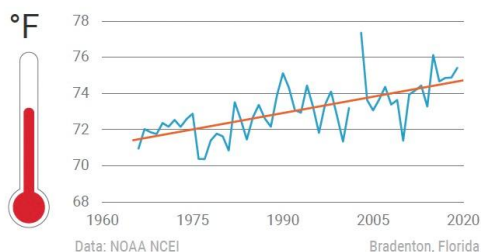
# CLIMATE CHALLENGES

## Historic Neighborhoods

Sarasota & Manatee Counties, Florida

Just one inch of rainfall over 1,000 square feet of roof and driveway can generate 620 gallons of water. Some historic, low-lying neighborhoods lack sufficient infrastructure to handle all this water. Rising temperatures are expected to intensify rainfall and storms, exacerbating flooding in these already troubled areas.

**Rising Temperatures.** Locally, average annual air temperatures are 3.2°F warmer since 1966. Scientists project that future greenhouse gas emissions will continue to drive temperatures higher.



**Heavier downpours.** With every 1°F rise, the atmosphere can hold 4% more water vapor, making more moisture available for heavy downpours.



**Intensifying storms.** Higher energy from warming oceans can increase the intensity of tropical, storms, and hurricanes. Hurricane intensity is increasing globally.



# CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

## Historic Neighborhoods

Sarasota & Manatee Counties, Florida

Conserving energy and transitioning to renewable energy sources will slow climate change, but we will still need to adapt to intensifying rainfall and storms.

**Discover** your property's flood risk at Floodfactor.com.

**Contact** your local government to explore community-wide solutions to flooding, like creating bioswales or incorporating other Green Infrastructure solutions.

**Explore** solutions to reduce runoff and alleviate flooding where you live and work.

- Use rain barrels to capture and store rainwater.
- Reroute rain gutters away from driveways into landscaping.
- Replace concrete drive and walkways with shell or pervious pavers so rain can percolate into the ground.
- Plant trees and rain gardens that can soak up water
- Prevent litter from clogging stormwater pipes
- Waterproof your home with coatings, sealants, and nonporous floors, raised electrical outlets, and a sump pump.
- Elevate or relocate structures to higher ground.

— Watch Now! —

## CLIMATE STORIES VIDEO SERIES

[ScienceAndEnvironment.org/Climate](https://ScienceAndEnvironment.org/Climate)

Featuring:

**"GLOSSIE"  
ATKINS**  
Newtown Resident  
and  
Former Mayor  
City of Sarasota

**WALTER  
GILBERT**  
Newtown  
Resident

**MOLLIE  
HOLLAND  
NEST**  
Sarasota County

2020-12



Watch Short Video  
Now

## Bird of the Month: Hooded Merganser by American Bird Conservancy

The Hooded Merganser is the only member of its genus, *Lophodytes*. This genus name derives from the Greek words *lophos* meaning crest and *dutes* meaning diver — an apt description of this small diving duck with the conspicuous fan-shaped

Hooded Merganser by Greg Homel,  
Natural Elements Productions



crest.

Photo Credit: Greg Homel

The Hooded Merganser is the smallest of the three North American merganser species and the only one that breeds exclusively in North America.

As a species that pursues its prey underwater, the Hooded Merganser needs excellent eyesight to forage effectively. Which adaptations allow it superiority while submerged?

A male "Hoodie" in breeding plumage is a striking sight, with a snow-white, fan-shaped crest bordered in black; black-and-white-striped chest and back; bright yellow eyes; and rust-colored sides. Females and immatures (pictured below) are brown with a tawny hood and dark eyes.

[Full Article Here](#)



Hooded Merganser hen and chicks. Photo by Melissa Ludwig.

**Venice Rookery Day**  
**Saturday March 19, 9am-Noon**





**Venice Audubon  
Rookery Day**

**Saturday, March 19th  
9:00AM to Noon**

**Venice Audubon Rookery Park**  
4002 S. Tamiami Trail, behind R.L. Anderson Administration Center

**CONSERVATION DEMONSTRATIONS**  
**NATURE STATIONS \* FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SALE**  
**TREE GIVE-AWAY \* FUN FOR KIDS ,TOO!**

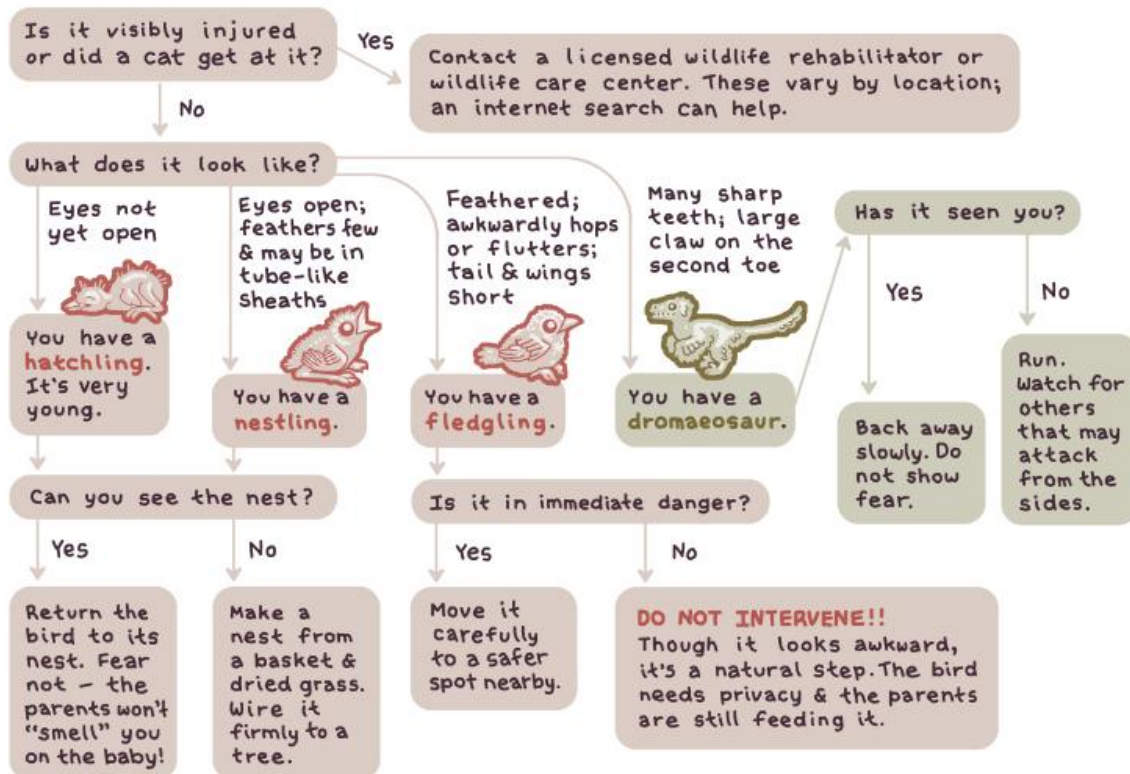
Venice Area Audubon Society \* Sarasota Parks, Recreation,  
and Natural Resources \* Mangrove Chapter, Florida Native  
Plant Society \* Healthy Ponds Collaborative \* Peace River  
Butterfly Society \* FPL/Audubon Florida \* Florida Native  
Plant Nursery

March marks the peak season for nesting birds at the famed Venice Audubon Rookery, but this year residents and visitors alike will have a special opportunity to learn about not only the birds on the rookery island, but also bats and butterflies, Purple Martins and more at the Venice Audubon Rookery Day from 9 a.m. – noon on Saturday, March 19 at the rookery park.

[READ ENTIRE NEWS Article HERE](#)

**The Last Word is Graphic:  
If You Find a Baby Bird**

## If You Find A Baby Songbird Out Of The Nest



SARASOTA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Contact the Editor