



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 2022



Message from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Auduboners,

At the April general meeting each year, we elect the officers of the Sarasota Audubon Society for one year starting on June 1. The positions are: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary and Treasurer. If you know of anyone who would like to serve on this--the Executive Committee--please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: [Marcy Packer](#); [Karen Schneider](#); or [Don Schneider](#).

The current executive officers have served well and long

and would be happy to train anyone stepping forward. Although the board work is serious, we all approach it with optimism and humor, and work well together.

Please consider joining us as we go from strength to strength as a highly-regarded environmental organization within our community and beyond.

Right after the April 11 general meeting, a slate of potential officers will be sent out to all members to vote on.

The Giving Challenge (April 26-27) is an area-wide event in which over 600 non-profits appeal for donations from the community. Since its inception 7 years ago, SAS has been a participant. Last year, we received over \$26,000; in previous years we have received as much as \$35,000. These funds go a long way to allowing us to continue our vital programs. Let's make it to \$40,000 this year, or even \$50,000. I know we can do it. See more details below and get ready to donate at noon on April 26! We will provide the link by eblast, social media, and on our website sarasotaudubon.org just before the event.

As always, take care and be safe,

Jeanne Dubi and the Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

**General Meeting Monday April 11, 2022
7:00pm on ZOOM**

**MOVEMENT ECOLOGY OF SNAIL KITES IN BRAZIL
with Dr. Alex Jahn, Midwest Center for Birds & Biodiversity**



Dr. Alex Jahn, Environmental Resilience Institute; Midwest Center for Birds and Biodiversity,

Hundreds of birds migrate in South America, yet we understand relatively little about their seasonal movements. Dr. Jahn and his colleagues used satellite transmitters to study the movement ecology of 10 Snail Kites captured in southern Brazil, tracking them over two years.

Some kites migrated 4000 km to spend the non-breeding season at the mouth of the Amazon River, whereas others exhibited nomadic movements, moving different

Indiana University

Below: Snail Kites in Brazil



distances and to different sites between seasons and years. The complex movements and variable migratory behavior they detected points to the need for more detailed research on the ecology and risks to survival of this poorly studied species in South America.

Join us to learn all about the amazing Snail Kites of Brazil!

[Register](#)

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 26-27
From Noon to Noon



Be the One to do more for the Birds!
Support Sarasota Audubon!



April 26 - 27, 2022

Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Birders Doing More - Be the One!

Pictured here is Andy, Guardian of the Gardens!
Here are three ways Andy does more for birds:

1. Dedicates his time and energy to the gardens
2. Keeps the bird feeders in the garden full
3. Supports staff efforts at the Nature Center

Sarasota Audubon does more for birds because of YOU!
This month, we will be featuring several of our members who do more for Sarasota Audubon and share with you what they do for the birds.

Follow us on [FaceBook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Be the One to do more for Birds!
Support Sarasota Audubon April 26-27!

**Giving Challenge
Video**

BIRD OF THE MONTH

Eastern Bluebird by Pam Koepf



There are three species of bluebirds in North America — Eastern, Western and Mountain. The Eastern Bluebird is the most widespread and is the only year-round resident and breeder in Florida. Celery Fields provides several nesting boxes in a “bluebird trail” near the Nature Center for nesting bluebirds. They have had success nesting in the past, and the new nesting season is happening right now!

Full Blog Here



Notes from the NATURE CENTER



Our amazing Purple Martin monitors: Ed & Terry Suchma and Sue Guarasci

OPEN DAILY 9am - NOON

Spring is in the air! The Coral Bean (*Erythrina herbacea*) is in full glorious bloom and we are seeing ruby-throated

Hummingbirds this week in our Native Gardens. The Painted Buntings continue to grace our feeders, and a White-winged Dove has made an appearance.



It's Purple Martin nesting time! So far this year, we have a total of 108 eggs and 70 hatchlings. The earliest fledging dates are expected on or about April 18th.

Last year we fledged 179 Purple Martins - that averages 4 fledglings per nesting pair, which is a good result according to the Purple Martin Conservation Association. Survival rates can widely fluctuate year-to-year based on food supply, predators, excessive heat, and infestations.

Speaking of infestations, a Red Rat Snake was discovered in the Purple Martin house this week. Sadly the snake got a total of at 1 chick and 16 eggs. The snake was relocated far from the nest house. Additional protective measures may be taken. In addition to baffles, putty, and tacks; vaseline was added to the pole today. Nets will be next.

[Click here to volunteer to be an "on call" snake handler](#) to rescue a snake that may get caught in the net after hours.

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

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

April Featured Artists: Pam Koepf and Cyndi Bilstoft

Can you tell Pam Koepf's photos from Cyndi Bilstoft's artworks? Hint: Photos on the left, Paintings on the right. This exhibit contains original photos and artwork by both members, with several artworks by Cyndi based on photos taken by Pam. You simply must come see them!

[Click here](#) to read background info on both artists and see more photos of their work!



Audubon Florida Birdathon Apr 8-14



[April 8th - 14th](#)



[About the Birdathon](#)



[Join the Team](#)



[Donate](#)

Monthly Beach Bird Walks No Registration Required



"Ms. Sanibel" the Snowy Plover on North Siesta Key

 Audubon | FLORIDA

Join Us on North Siesta Key for a Beach Bird Walk!

Monthly walks are led on Saturdays by Kylie Wilson, shorebird coordinator with Audubon Florida. Participants will see and learn how to identify some of the protected bird species on our beach.

- April 9, 9 a.m.
- May 7, 9 a.m.
- June 11, 8:30 a.m.
- July 9, 8:30 a.m.

All ages welcome! No registration required.
For more information: kylie.wilson@audubon.org.



Black Skimmers on Lido Key

 Audubon | FLORIDA

Join Us on Lido Key for a Beach Bird Walk!

Monthly walks are led on Saturdays by Kylie Wilson, shorebird coordinator with Audubon Florida. Participants will see and learn how to identify some of the protected bird species on our beach.

- April 16, 9 a.m.
- May 21, 9 a.m.
- June 18, 8:30 a.m.
- July 16, 8:30 a.m.

All ages welcome! No registration required.

For more information: kylie.wilson@audubon.org.

**Sarasota Bay Seagrass Survey
Saturday APRIL 30, 10am-1pm
Volunteers Needed**

SAVE THE DATE

2022

Seagrass Survey

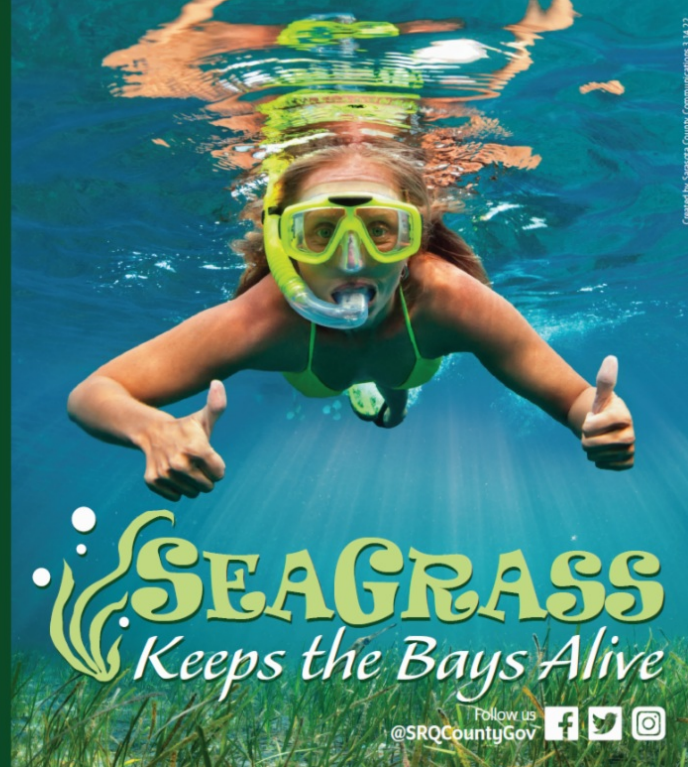
**Saturday, April 30
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Sarasota Sailing Squadron
1717 Ken Thompson Parkway**

Register at
2022SeagrassSurvey.eventbrite.com



Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities. View the complete policy at www.scgov.net (keywords ADA).



Come out and learn about Sarasota Bay from the perspective of many environmental organizations.

Sarasota Audubon will be tabling at this fun annual event starting at 10am. If you can join us to assist Contact Karen.

**Serenoa Chapter Native Plant Sale
Saturday APRIL 23, 9am-3pm**



Serenoa Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
**SPRING Wildflower Festival
& Native Plant Sale**

Saturday, April 23 9:00am-3:00pm

Sweetbay Nursery
10824 Erie Road, Parrish

LARGE SELECTION!!!

Native trees, shrubs, grasses, blooming
wildflowers Flori-mulch for sale

Members get 15% off plant purchase!
Join onsite to receive your discount!

For more information call
941-776-0501

CONSERVATION

Our Local Loons are Struggling by Stu Wilson



Common Loon stretching its leg in Sarasota Bay. Photo Credit: Kathryn Young

For the first time in its history Save our Seabirds in Sarasota is performing necropsies on Common Loons. Dr. Passarelli's findings are that all of the birds were emaciated and most of them were infected with aspergillosis, a fungal infection of the respiratory system. One of the two samples she submitted for toxicology had

elevated levels of brevetoxins, which are the harmful substances produced by red tide (*Karenia brevis*). Both of the samples also had very high levels of mercury and selenium, which are harmful heavy metals that can accumulate in fish. As alarming as these findings may sound, it's important to recognize that they don't yet point to a single, definitive cause of local COLO mortality. That goal will require additional study.

[Read entire article with more photos here.](#)

Birds of the Snowy North: Winter Trip, Upper Peninsula Michigan

by Rick Greenspun

Went to Michigan in late February with pals Gary, Paul and Betty to do some winter Brrrrrrding in northern Michigan. The most challenging thing to cope with besides temps that ranged from a low of -16°F to a high of 21°F, was driving snow and high winds. Hands were cold no matter what type of glove I was wearing (with hand warmers to boot). It was difficult keeping lenses on binoculars and cameras dry, since the snow was coming in sideways, and eyes were constantly tearing up from the wind.

The first two days we journeyed from Detroit all the way up to the upper peninsula, to Marquette. Our targets there were various passerines that included: Pine Grosbeaks, White-winged Crossbills(which have a very limited range in the lower 48s) Bohemian Waxwings, Hoary and Common Redpolls. Some of the access to forested areas were completely snowed in and closed off for birding. Those first two days saw over 18 inches of snow.



Photos top to bottom:

CLIMATE CORNER Sports in a Heating World

CLIMATE CHALLENGES Sports

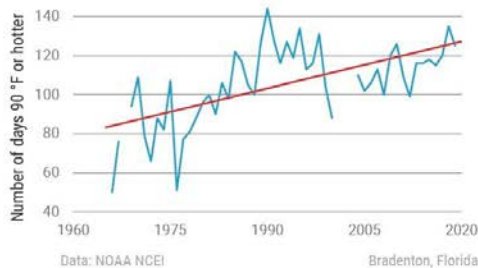
Sarasota & Manatee Counties, Florida

Southwest Florida's subtropical climate supports individual and team outdoor sports throughout the year, including tennis, golf, track and field, cross country, baseball, football, and soccer.

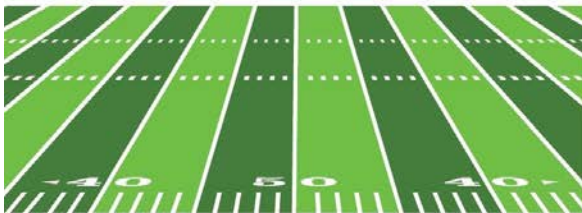


Since 1966, there are 42.5 more days a year with temperatures at or above 90° F in Bradenton, Florida. Rising greenhouse gas emissions will continue to drive this warming trend.

MORE HOT DAYS



Rising temperatures combined with Florida's high humidity reduce the body's ability to cool itself through sweating, and increases risks of heat exhaustion and heatstroke. Heatstroke is a life-threatening medical emergency that requires immediate attention.



CLIMATE SOLUTIONS Sports

Sarasota & Manatee Counties, Florida

Conserving energy and transitioning to renewable energy sources will slow climate change, but we still need to adapt to warming already underway and prepare for more frequent high heat days.



Heatstroke is the 3rd leading cause of sudden death in teen athletes.

Tips to prevent heat-related illness

- **Work up.** Slowly acclimate to high temperatures over weeks during training.
- **Lighten up.** Wear light colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- **Drink up.** Stay hydrated with water and electrolytes.
- **Stay up.** Schedule evening games in the summer.
- **Wise up.** Learn to recognize symptoms and how to immediately care for heat related illness.

Watch Now!

CLIMATE STORIES VIDEO SERIES ScienceAndEnvironment.org/Climate

Featuring local experts:

**STEVEN
WEEKS**
Suncoast Sports Club

**DR. MONA
VISHIN MANGAT**
Bay Area Allergy &
Asthma



Watch Short Video
Now



Have you heard about the popular board game **Wingspan**?

It is taking the “game” world by siege, birders and non-birders alike. Learn about birds and their habitats, food, nesting, etc. while playing a competitive game.

Sarasota Audubon Society is happy to offer a “Wingspan Workshop 101” to our members. Because of the need for the actual game and teachers to help each table learn the game, you must RSVP.

The workshops will be held at the Nature Center. Allow several hours for gaming.

Possible workshop dates: Wednesday, April 13 1:00 pm

Thursday, April 21 1:00 pm

Friday, April 22 1:00 pm

Friday, April 29 1:00 pm

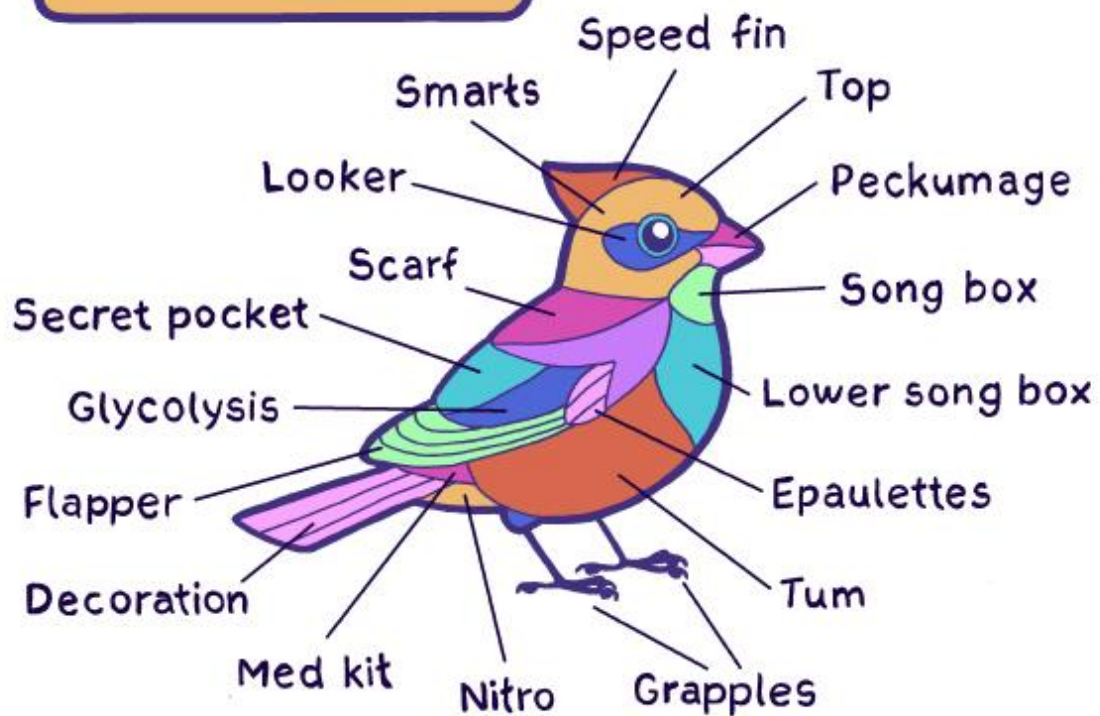
We can follow up with more workshops in May, and even during the summer, depending on demand.

RSVP to [Lynn Jakubowicz](#) and specify your availability.

Yes! You may come more than once. Let's Play!

**The Last Word is Graphic:
Parts of the Bird**

Parts of the Bird



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Contact the Editor