



# THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

## SUMMER 2022



### Message from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Auduboners,

**SAS, birds, and the environment suffered a huge loss with the death of Barry Rossheim on June 9, 2022. Barry was a true, true champion, spreading his knowledge and enthusiasm to all: his students at VHS, his friends in Audubon, and our environment, both here and overseas. His legacy is long reaching. The environmental world won't be the same without him. Greatest sympathy to wife Shala, sons, David and Matthew, and all of Barry's family. See *more below*.**

**At our April board meeting, SAS's directors voted to**

discontinue live monthly meetings at the church hall. This decision was not taken lightly. Over the last 2 years, we have been delivering our monthly meetings via Zoom. This allowed us to bring you speakers from a wider geographic range, and our attendance increased. We will continue Zooming.

What about face-to-face meetings? Well, to allow for personal contact (providing we are Covid safe), we are scheduling 3 monthly MEMBER GET TOGETHERS at the nature center: November 16, January 18, and March 15 from 2 - 3:30pm. You will have an opportunity to meet board members and find out what they do, while meeting other members too. We will also provide a short presentation from local environmental speakers.

And . . . we are now seeking a new P/T Nature Center Manager. *See below for more details.* Karen Willey relocated to Asheville, NC. Thankfully, she will still help us with Zoom, but we need someone on site to keep us running smoothly. Please send resumes and inquiries to [info@sarasotaudubon.org](mailto:info@sarasotaudubon.org)

As always, stay safe.

Jeanne Dubi and the Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

## MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

**General Meetings: 2nd Monday of the Month  
October 2022 through May 2023  
7:00pm on ZOOM  
With a new lineup of great speakers.**

## Seeking a New Nature Center Manager



The Nature Center Manager maintains all aspects of the building and grounds of the LEED Gold Certified Nature Center at the Celery

Fields. This includes operational as well as gardening tasks. This is a part time, independent contractor position. Average work time is 30 hours per month, more during winter, much less during summer when building is closed. Full description at link below.



To Apply: Send Resume and Cover Letter to  
[info@SarasotaAudubon.org](mailto:info@SarasotaAudubon.org)

[Job Description Here](#)

## Audubon Florida Intern creates Re-Wilding Video for SAS

This year we had a [Conservation Leadership Intern](#) through Audubon Florida. Michelle Read has been assisting on various projects including our new Instagram Account, manning events tables, creating events for college students and her final project the Re-Wilding the Quads video! [Learn more about Michelle here.](#)



Click the button below to view the 4-minute video explaining the plans for creating habitat at the Celery Fields Quads parcels. We will be using this later in the year to push for donations to fund the exciting change, including an endowment fund for continued maintenance.

### LEGEND

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- 9 EX-STING LAKE
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- 11 RIFVOLS PAVEMENT
- 12 GRAVEL PCH
- 13 NATIVE TREE MIX
- 14 E RD BLIND
- 15 M-104 DOWH DOCK
- 16 CROSBY WALK
- 17 PARKING
- 18 SIG AIR ROW 1 ON WITH FESTOONS
- 19 NATURE THEMED PLAY AREA
- 20 SCULPTURE (LARGE) AMERICAN RHODS
- 21 POLE SIGN STRUCTURE
- 22 PLER LARV
- 23 DONOR PLAZA
- 24 NATIVE WINE L VANEL



*Re-Wilding the Quad Parcels*



[View Re-Wilding Video](#)

## Young Intern Updates eBird for Sarasota Audubon Society



Hao Li, eBird Intern with Kathryn Young, SAS Education Director

The eBird logo, featuring the word "eBird" in a green and black serif font.

Sarasota Audubon had a large tedious project that needed to be completed. Hao Li stepped up to the job and completed it in June of 2022. The project was to enter into the historical record all of the Sarasota Audubon past field birding trips, dating back several decades. These records were diligently entered into eBIRD, a database created and managed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Our esteemed Education Director Kathryn Young was skeptical this job could be completed efficiently and on time because of the enormity of the task.

"I was wrong," says Kathryn "Hao Li not only completed the task of entering all the records into a database he was not familiar with, but did so efficiently, correctly and on time. He also did this all within a complicated database without needing any further guidance after an initial introductory session."

**Many Thanks and  
Well Done Hao Li!**

## In Memoriam: Barry Rossheim

We are so very sad and heart broken that one of our leaders passed away unexpectedly 3 weeks ago. Barry was an avid birder and a member of both Sarasota and Venice Audubon Chapters. He led many trips for us in our local communities and to far away places like the Galapagos, South Africa, Costa Rica, Cuba and Guyana.





Barry was a generous friend, a teacher you would wish to have, a leader of the highest quality and a very fun and giving friend. I will miss Barry as I know all of his friends here at Sarasota Audubon will. Thank you Barry for making a difference to countless young people. Your soul and your footprint will forever be felt. Take care Friend, and save me that spot in Bird Heaven that we always talked about with amusement. ~ Kathryn Young

[Click here for Barry Rossheim's Obituary](#)

## Purple Martin Update



We are still monitoring the two Purple Martin houses we have at the Celery Fields on Sundays and Thursdays at 10 am. On a recent Thursday I found Beth, Glynnis, Evelyn, and Reenie tending to the babies still in the nests. First they bring down the house, next they plug nest holes so birds close to





**fledging don't decide to jump out when the pole is being raised or lowered, then they open the nest doors, count the babies, and finish with cleaning (insects).**

**All this must be done quickly as the adults are waiting close by to jump back in and attend to their young martins. On June 23 the Martin House crew counted 22 young birds waiting to fledge or make their first flight, and 0 eggs (the count changes each week.)**

**Many thanks to Terry Suchma and Sue Guarasci for heading up and managing this project - 6 years and counting!**

## **Notes from the NATURE CENTER**



### **Summer in the Nature Center Native Gardens**



**The Nature Center is closed for the summer, but the gardens are always open!**

**Our small but mighty summer crew of weeders are doing a fantastic job this year. This is our tropical rainy season and the invasive weeds will take over without great vigilance. Thanks to Linda Kitch, Marti Ramos and Courtney Milton, with major assistance from Andy Schneider, our gardens are more welcoming than they have ever been in the summer**





**Above: Summer garden glory**

**Below: Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillar eating parsley and fennel.**



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



growing season. Great job team!

The butterflies are multiplying at the nature center, especially the Eastern Black Swallowtails, but also Monarchs and Sulfurs. Check out this short [munching video](#) from Education Director Kathryn Young.

Keep the humidity in mind: the heat index can be 10-15 degrees hotter this time of year. A typical 95-degree day hovers over 105 degrees with the heat index. Stay hydrated and in the shade!

*Karen Willey (from Asheville, NC)*

## Beach Nesting Bird Update

Text and Photos by Kylie Wilson,  
Shorebird Coordinator



This beach-nesting bird season has had its ups and downs, as is the case each year. The Black Skimmer colony on Lido is the largest it has ever been with over 1100 adults in the colony, 314 peak nests but only upwards of 130 large chicks.



We have a colony of Least Terns and Black Skimmers at Longboat. The Least Terns produced about 20 fledged chicks before the colony mysteriously abandoned, presumably due to an unidentified predator.

For the first time in the five years that I have been working as the Shorebird Coordinator, there are no Snowy Plovers nesting in all of Sarasota County. Hopefully our colonial nesters will continue to persevere and be successful this 2022 season.

**Full Beach Nesting Blog with Photos  
Here**

**Monthly Beach Bird Walks**  
**No Registration Required**  
**Final Walks: July 9 Siesta, July 16 Lido**



"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](mailto:kylie.wilson@audubon.org).





Black Skimmers on Lido Key

## 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](mailto:kylie.wilson@audubon.org).

## Wingspan Play-shop



## Join Us for a Bi-monthly Wingspan Play Date!

Taking the "game" world by siege, birders and non-birders alike love Wingspan. Learn about birds and their habitats, food, nesting, etc. while playing a competitive game.

Sarasota Audubon Society is happy to offer "Wingspan Play-dates" to our members. The workshops will be held at the Nature Center. Allow several hours for gaming.

Upcoming dates:

- Wednesday July 6, Noon
- Wednesday July 20, Noon
- Saturday July 30, 1:00 pm

We can follow up with more workshops during the summer, depending on demand.

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

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

## Conservation: Polk Forever



Polk Forever is a group of conservation minded volunteers working to provide a greener future for our county (and counties in our watershed) by protecting some of Polk's remaining wild and working lands.

Polk County, Florida had an Environmental Lands Acquisition Program for twenty years, from 1995 to 2015, but it ended in 2015. It was created with a ballot initiative, passed 51% to

49%. A close call. Voters will have a chance to support this effort in the November general election with a ballot initiative. If passed, it will provide funding through a dedicated 0.2 mil property tax for twenty years.

Polk County was able to acquire some great places during those 20 years. Let's help them do it again by spreading the word to anyone you know in Polk County. Or you can donate to the group to help them spread the word.

[Polk Forever Website](#)

## Conservation: Birds & Pesticides from the American Bird Conservancy



*American Goldfinch. Photo by Betty Rizotti. [abcbirds.org](http://abcbirds.org)*

The dangers of pesticides like neonics and chlorpyrifos have been well-documented over the years.

Birds are among their common casualties: One recent study showed that increased use of neonics had led to significant reductions in bird biodiversity. Even worse, chlorpyrifos poses a lethal threat to pollinators and birds, including Endangered species like the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow and the Great Lakes' Piping Plover, while also harming farmworkers and contaminating drinking water.



Here are two actions you can take to help:

1. Instead of defending birds and people, and safely regulating these pesticides, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has continually allowed chemical manufacturers to ignore the disastrous impacts of their products by exploiting legislative loopholes.

The Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act (PACTPA), reintroduced in the Senate last year, would cancel neonicotinoids and the organophosphate chlorpyrifos, and transform the way pesticides are regulated in the U.S.

**Ask your Senators to support this important legislation and ensure proper oversight of dangerous chemicals!**

2. Take flight from lawn pesticides. The American Bird Conservancy has compiled some great ideas to help you create a bird-friendly yard.

### **Tips For Organic, Bird-Friendly Gardening**

## **SAVE THE DATE: Florida Birding & Nature Festival, Apollo Beach**



When: October 20-23, 2022.

Where: FWC's Youth Conservation Center in Apollo Beach.

Offering early bird registration this year!

Now through July, registration is only \$75. Starting August 1 it will be \$100.

[Visit our website](#)

[Registration](#)

## **The Last Word is Graphic: Watch out for Flycatchers!**



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birdandmoon.com



SARASOTA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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