



# THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

## November 2022 Message from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello Sarasota Auduboners,

**Hurricane Ian Aftermath:** We hope that those impacted by Hurricane Ian are recovering and restoring. Northern Sarasota County (the bailiwick of Sarasota Audubon) was relatively unscathed, as was Manatee County. Those in South County (the bailiwick of Venice Area Audubon) were not so fortunate, and our neighbors in Charlotte County were hit hardest. Our thoughts go out to all of you as you work to return to normal living.

**Afternoons at the Nature Center:** When COVID hit, we had to scramble to keep in touch. We (as many did) pivoted to Zooming our monthly meetings. As you know by now, we decided to continue this practice. However, some were concerned at being unable to see each other on a consistent basis, so we came up with an idea. We would create in-person get togethers at the Nature Center. The dates for these are **Wednesdays: Nov 16, Jan 18 and March 15, from 2pm to 3:30pm**. It is an opportunity to meet board members, to get to know each other, and to listen to speakers on a variety of topics of local environmental interest. Light refreshments too.

To kick off the series, on Nov 16, **Chris Meyer, Land Manager of Myakka Islands Point, Walton Ranch, Oak Cathedral, and Warm Mineral Springs** for Sarasota County Natural Resources will tell us how these parks fared during the hurricane, and what he and the County is doing to repair and restore them.

**Sad News:** We lost three members recently. Sue Hamilton, Bob Jones, and Norma Schatz. Valued members and nature lovers, all three were active in a variety of ways, with SAS and beyond. We will miss them.

Take care as always,

Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

# MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION



**General Meeting  
Monday, Nov 14, 2022  
7:00pm on ZOOM**

## **Predicting Bird Conservation Behaviors Among Birders**



**Terry Rich, Ornithologist  
Researcher of Birder Behavior**

**There is a huge opportunity for bird conservation initiatives to increase communication directly to birders.**

**Idaho Ornithologist Terry Rich shares his national survey of birders and the actions they are taking for birds.**

**There is a serious disconnect between birder interests, the needs for bird conservation, and public policies for bird conservation in the United States. An estimated 45 million Americans feed and/or watch birds. One finding was that bird conservation messages were important, but those from conservation organizations were much more effective than those from public agencies.**

**Register**



# Notes from the NATURE CENTER



Despite wind and rain from Hurricane Ian battering the area last month, our Nature Center stayed on schedule and opened its doors for the season on October 1. Our docents were excited to once again greet guests from all over the world and catch up on summer bird sightings. Be sure to stop in to say hello! We're open every day from 9 a.m. to noon.

When you're at the Nature Center, please check out the works from our artist of the month, Susan Hurwitch. If you see something you love, the works are for sale, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit the Sarasota Audubon Society.

This season brings a wide variety of events to the Nature Center, so there's sure to be something for everyone. Check out the Sarasota Audubon Society website for a full list of upcoming events. Some require preregistration and possibly a fee, like instruction in using Merlin and eBird apps for bird identification. Others are free to all members without registering, like guided walks at area parks and state preserves. The website includes updates if any weather-related or other changes are necessary.

Kimberly Sullivan  
Building Manager

## Featured Artist: Susan Hurwitch

Susan's use of color and texture has become an integral part of her signature style. Her mixed media and collage pieces are informed by the color and richness of the environment, while paying homage to Florida flora and fauna. With planning and purpose, she infuses her work with a hint of playfulness and whimsy in order to achieve

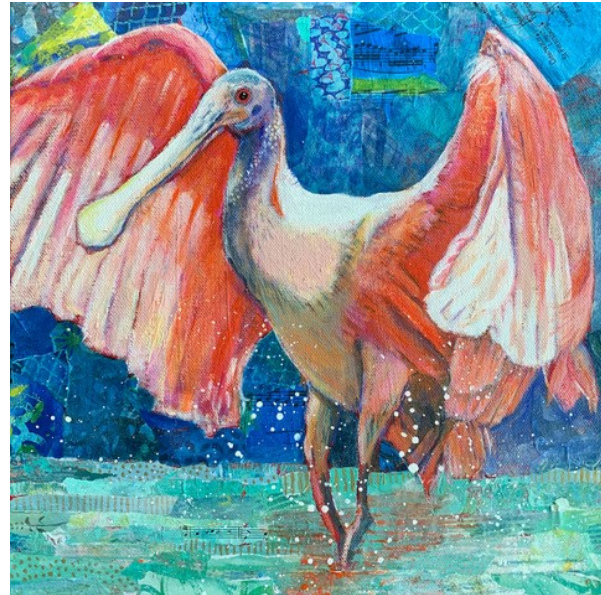


a happy and joyful spirit in her art.

Each piece is designed from conception to execution using paint color selection and incorporating paper and mixed media materials to add a textural quality. Central to this process is the foundational layout utilizing Susan's unique hand-painted and printed papers before all the selected elements are merged into a cohesive composition.



**[Read more about Susan and her artwork at this link.](#)**



## The GARDEN Gate



**Thank you Garden  
Volunteers!**

Hurricane Ian's high winds and inches of



rain caused damage to our native garden. Fortunately, the vast majority of our trees survived the storm without incident, and even most of the damaged trees were not beyond hope.

Sarasota Audubon put out a call for help, and a crew of about a dozen hardworking volunteers pitched in to get the gardens back to their former glory.



In addition to local SAS members, our friends from the Sweet Bay Nursery in Parrish and our neighbors in the Micro-forest: Veterans for Common Sense Fund came out with their extensive knowledge of native plants and plenty of equipment to help in our recovery efforts.

The volunteers used straps and stakes to anchor damaged trees in upright positions, handsaws to remove dead limbs, and wheelbarrows to carry off loads of sticks, branches, and leaves. After spending an entire Saturday morning working on this vital project, the crew returned the following week to complete the job. By the time they were finished, the hazards of exposed tree roots and fallen debris were gone, and our gardens were re-opened to the public. Many thanks to everyone who participated! Your time and effort are greatly appreciated.

Kimberly Sullivan, Building Manager

**WE NEED YOU!**  
**Renew Now Before Rates Go UP**

# Time to Renew

**Sarasota Audubon Dues  
Go UP ↑ January 2023**



**TOGETHER WE WILL  
SAVE BIRDS**

## **Volunteer Spotlight Don & Karen Schneider**

### **ONLINE Birding Hotspots**



Big THANKS go out to Don and Karen Schneider for once again updating the [Online Birding Hotspots](#) guide! They started this process 4 years ago, and update it each year so it is the best it can be for visiting and local birders.

Says Don, "Rather than simply updating the printed version, we followed the lead of other Audubon chapters by converting much of the booklet to an online version for use not only on computers at home, but also for use on cell phones in the field. New features, unfeasible for incorporation into a printed version, are easily included in an electronic format; features like up-to-date data about recent bird sightings via links to eBird, enlargeable trail maps, current site fees, hours-of-operation and other site amenities, as well as interactive driving directions from any starting point. Contributions of site knowledge and "insider's tips" from some of our best local birders, plus the magic of SAS web managers in creating

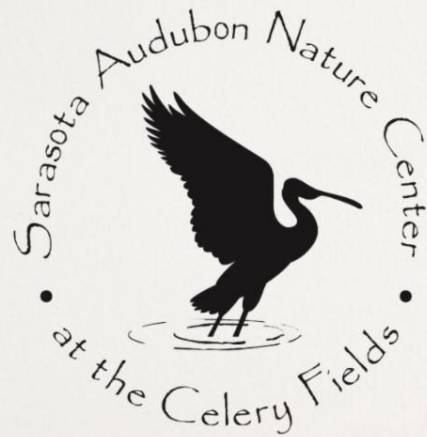
an appealing and efficient design, have produced an *[Online Guide](#)* to Our Favorite Local Birding Hotspots that we hope proves useful to visitors and resident birders alike."

[Read Don and Karen's Full Story HERE](#)



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Just in time for the Holidays we are  
having a Nature Center patio sale**





# BOOKS, BINS & OTHER THIN'S



December 3 & 4, 2022

9am - 3pm at the Nature Center

**Sarasota Bay Watch Fishing Line  
Cleanup November 27**





## Sarasota Bay Watch: *Flocksgiving* Weekend Annual Fishing Line Cleanup



**Who:** Volunteers showing gratitude for feathered friends

**When:** Sunday, November 27 at 8:30 - 12:30

**Where:** Gathering at Sarasota Sailing Squadron

**How:** Sign up at [Sarasotabaywatch.org](http://Sarasotabaywatch.org)

**Registration:** Required at [www. Sarasotabaywatch.org](http://www.Sarasotabaywatch.org)

A light lunch available after the cleanup for participants

Community Service available for student volunteers

[More Details](#)

[Registration](#)

## CLIMATE CORNER ☐ New US State of the Birds Report



Peregrine Falcons made a dramatic comeback after biologists identified the driver of declines (DDT) and innovated a new technique for breeding

Peregrine Falcons in captivity and releasing them into the wild. Applying science and conservation can help bring birds back before they become endangered—a smart and cost-effective strategy for preventing extinction.

Photo: State of Birds Report.

## Report States Our Best Chance for Success Is NOW

**The 2022 US State of the Birds report presents data on changes in bird populations across habitats of the United States in the past five decades. These changes are shown for the groups of breeding species that are most dependent on each habitat and for which long-term monitoring data are available.**

**Population rebounds of waterfowl show that when investments in habitat conservation are made, we can bring birds back. At the same time, continuing declines in other habitats show the critical need to restore ecosystems under stress.**

**The Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list, mandated by law and updated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, identifies 269 migratory nongame bird species that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act.**

[READ Entire Report Here](#)

## CONSERVATION: New Hybrid Grosbeak-Tanager Discovery!





This healthy, 1-year-old male offspring of a rose-breasted grosbeak and scarlet tanager is the first-ever documented hybrid of its kind. The two species have such divergent nesting preferences that they have been on independent evolutionary trajectories for at least 10 million years — until now.

Photo Credit: Stephen Gosser

**In June of 2020, Stephen Gosser, a self-described “diehard birder,” was out in the woods of western Pennsylvania when he thought he heard the song of the elusive and strikingly beautiful scarlet tanager. The blood-red bird with black wings and tail is a favorite among birders for both its beauty and rarity, as the birds prefer to stay hidden high in the forest canopy.**

**When Gosser finally located the songbird, he saw what appeared to be a rose-breasted grosbeak, but it sounded just like a scarlet tanager. He took some photos and called for backup—a team from the National Aviary in Pittsburgh arrived soon after to catch the bird and obtain a blood sample.**

**To follow up on Gosser’s tip, a team of researchers led by Penn State was able to use a combination of genomic sequencing and song analysis to identify the specimen as a rare hybrid bird, whose ancestors haven’t shared the same breeding location or lineage for 10 million years. Their work was recently published in the journal Ecology and Evolution.**

## MERLIN CLASS AT THE NATURE CENTER NOVEMBER 12 & 19

Identify the birds you see or  
hear with Merlin Bird ID

Free global bird guide with photos,  
sounds, maps, and more.



Common Yellowthroat by Brad Imhoff/Macaulay Library

Join Jean Brewer for an in-depth look at how to use Merlin and eBird in the field. Both apps developed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology and will help ID birds by calls and photos. eBird stores your bird checklists, audio and photos.

Merlin is unlike any other bird app—it's powered by eBird, the world's largest database of bird sightings, sounds, and photos. Merlin offers four fun ways to identify birds. Answer a few simple questions, upload a photo, record a singing bird, or explore birds in a region.

**November 12 & 19 8am - 11am**

**Cost: \$25 for 2 classes**

**[Registration Required](#) [click below](#)**

**Questions? click name: [Contact Jean Brewer](#)**

**Register for Merlin  
Class**

## BIRD BLOG: American Bird Conservancy





## The Black Rail "Marsh Mite"

The Black Rail is the smallest of its family in North America. It measures just three-quarters of an inch longer than the Saltmarsh Sparrow, with which it shares Atlantic Coast marshland, and weighs about as much as a Semipalmated Sandpiper. This enigmatic bird skulks and scurries behind dense screens of vegetation. It is most often detected during breeding season, when males' distinctive calls pierce the night.

In addition to being "shy as a mouse," what else does this mysterious bird have in common with tiny rodents?  
Click link below to find out!

[FULL BIRD BLOG WITH PHOTOS](#)

**The Last Word is Graphic:  
What Your Favorite Migratory Warbler  
Says About You...**

## What Your Favorite **Migratory Warbler** Says About You

**Northern Waterthrush**



No matter how nice your outfit is, your boots are always covered in mud.

**Yellow Warbler**



You're a source of joy and light. Everyone is terrified to cross you.

**Wilson's Warbler**



You like anyone who is wearing a tiny hat.

**Painted Redstart**



Your personal style is beguiling to your lovers and terrifying to your prey.

**Cerulean Warbler**



You got good looks at a Cerulean Warbler one time and you won't ever let anyone forget it.

**Orange-crowned Warbler**



You're too cool for the rest of us and you know it.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**



You're the helpful friend who always has a clean tissue in your pocket.

**Black-and-white Warbler**



You enjoy parties but you often get shy and duck behind furniture.

**Blackburnian Warbler**



You like scented candles because they're a socially acceptable way to set small fires.

**Mourning Warbler**



You were emotionally overwhelmed by the return of MCR.

**Blue-winged Warbler**



All you want to do is talk, loudly and often, about bees.

**Whatever Warbler You're Looking At**



You are correct.

[birdandmoon.com](http://birdandmoon.com)



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AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Activity Schedule

