



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

December 2022 Message from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello Sarasota Auduboners,

Another year is drawing to a close. Reflecting on 2022, we were pleased to be able to open the Nature Center on a normal schedule at last. Judging by the numbers of people who have dropped in since opening on October 1, they were pleased too. The stocked bird feeders (thanks Andy) made everything come back to life, evidenced by a steady stream of photographers from all parts of the globe.

After two hurricanes, we were thankful that the Nature Center building suffered no damage. Because it is a LEED Gold Certified structure, it meant that it was built to withstand hurricane-force winds, and its elevation at over 24 feet ensured that there was no water intrusion.

Looking forward, our Quad re-wilding plans will be our main focus of 2023. Some of you may know that the County is planning to build several buildings around the Celery Fields and their plans have an impact on ours. Half of the Southwest site was retained by the County to build one of their departments, with access through our portion. County plans have not yet been finalized, so we will be coordinating with them as both projects move forward.

On the Northwest parcel, next to the firehouse, another County building is in the planning stage. With these two County projects close to ours, needless to say, something has to happen with the traffic pattern at Apex/Palmer. We have heard that a traffic circle will be built there. This is good news since we also have responsibility for the Northeast pond-parcel, so getting pedestrians safely moving between all parcels is crucial.

Finally, the County administration building is destined for the site opposite and just east of the library. Originally planned for a Benderson distribution hub, SAS was instrumental in the creation of the linear park that abuts the Celery Fields, acting as a critical buffer.

With all this going on at once, patience is a virtue!

Take care as always,

Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION



Aaron Virgin, CEO Save Our Seabirds Photo: Observer Newspapers
Nat Kaemmerer

General Meeting
Monday, Dec 12, 2022
7:00pm on ZOOM



Save Our Seabirds
Wild Bird Learning Center | Sarasota, FL

What's Happening at Save Our Seabirds?

**"Rescue, Rehabilitate,
Release" CEO Aaron Virgin
will update us on the history
through to current future
plans for one of the biggest
bird rescue facilities, wild
bird learning centers and
living museums in Florida.**

**Self-described "Bird Guy"
Virgin has an extensive
background in wildlife and
environmental issues for
non-profits including his
tenor as philanthropy office
for Mote Marine Laboratory
& Aquarium.**

Notes from the NATURE CENTER



Another Month, Another Storm: Hurricane Nicole had devolved into a tropical storm by the time it made its windy way to Sarasota in November. Fortunately, it did no damage to the Nature Center or the Celery Fields property, apart from leaving puddles in culverts for mottled ducks to enjoy. Since hurricane season officially ends November 30, we're hopeful that Nicole will be our last big storm of 2022.

Gift Shop Update: We all know that person who's always cold – even in Florida. Well, if you're looking for the perfect gift for them, our Gift Shop has you (and them) covered. This month's hottest item is a long-sleeved unisex t-shirt printed with our striking multi-colored bird logo on light heather gray fabric. It's beautiful, comfortable, and practical with banded cuffs and a crew neck. Come get yours today!

Meet and Greet: On November 16, the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center hosted its first members-only Meet and Greet event with over 40 members in attendance. These opportunities are particularly important now that our monthly meetings are being held remotely via Zoom. **Our Next Meet and Greet** is scheduled for **January 18 at 2pm. Mark your calendars!**



Books and Bins Sale: The sale is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4 at the Nature Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. An added bonus of the sale is that the Nature Center will remain open until 3 o'clock those days instead of closing at noon as usual. See feature article below for more details!

Wingspan Play Dates: The Nature Center is hosting monthly play dates for both new and experienced players who would like to meet new people and expand their knowledge of bird habitats, nesting, food sources, and more. No birding knowledge is required, and we provide the games. Please join us on the first Wednesday and/or second Saturday of the month from 12:30 to 2:30 at the Nature Center. Email Lynn Jakubowicz at lynn234@verizon.net to RSVP.

Kimberly Sullivan
Building Manager

Featured Artist: Margaret Lanier

Margaret Lanier, our December Nature Center exhibitor, is an award-winning photographer with a passion to share her unique vision every time she views the world through her camera. Margaret is an avid birder, a member of the Sarasota Audubon Society, and a volunteer with the Florida Audubon EagleWatch program. She is an experienced photography judge, and recently received the Florida Camera Club Judging Certificate.

[Read more about Margaret at this link.](#)





*Margaret Lanier photos: Left (Top) Yellow Cardinal
Right (Bottom) Bald Eagle Pair*

Call for Member Artists & Photographers

SARASOTA
Audubon
Society



February 2023 Art & Photo Show

If you would like to participate in our annual Member Art & Photo Show, please complete and send us the "Show Entry/Prospectus Form".

The deadline to apply is January 10, 2023

All artworks and photographs should be originals and they must be framed, gallery wrapped, or metal printed and able to be hung on our display hooks. Framing specs are on the entry form.

For questions: SAS.Art.Committee@gmail.com



Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday December 13th

11:45 am

Palm Aire Country Club



RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY DECEMBER 5th - [Click Here!](#)



Give Gifts that Support Birds This Holiday Season

- Shop in the Sarasota Audubon Gift Shop
- Shop previously loved items at our Patio Sale Dec 3 & 4
- Attend **eBird Class** together on January 21, 2023
- Purchase tickets to the **Eagle Trolley** Feb 4 or 11, 2023
- Purchase tickets to the **Newtown Trolley** Feb 17, 2023
- Purchase tickets to **Carefree Learner Boat Tour** in March
- Gift them a Sarasota Audubon Membership!

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 Craig Clark - Tech Fairy

**[Click here to donate your
used tech items!](#)**



Craig Clark recently updated one of our laptop computers at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center and it runs like new. But he is best known locally for being “The Tech Fairy”. We also gave him two older, barely functioning laptops that he will make good as new to pass along.

Craig collects used laptops, tablets and occasional newer vintage desktop computers to rehab. He replaces the hard drives and cleans up any problems. Then

he goes around town giving them away to people he meets, children and adults, who are in need of a computer for school and/or work, but can't otherwise afford them.

[Read Craig's Full Story Here - Including how to donate your old tech](#)



THIS WEEKEND! December 3 & 4 ~ 9am - 3pm Sarasota Audubon Patio Sale At the Nature Center



For months, SAS members have been dropping off donations of “gently used” items at the Nature Center for our patio sale. The sale is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4 at the Nature Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tables set up on the patio will hold a variety of items for sale, including books, binoculars, household items, artwork, and even some of the tables themselves. The estate of Barry Rossheim has donated his entire collection of books!

Please take a minute to stop in and get a great deal on something you didn't even know you needed, while at the same time supporting the Audubon Society in its mission to promote birds and birding in Sarasota County.

An added bonus of the sale is that the **Nature Center will remain open until 3 o'clock** those days instead of closing at noon as usual.



Local Birders Published in Birding Vol 54, No 7

Congratulations to Bill Pranty, John Groskopf, and Valeri Ponzo for their article "Unusual Crested Terns in Florida" in the December 2022 issue of *Birding* (American Birding Association), Vol 54, No 7. This extensive 10-page article with multiple photographs documents the occurrence of Elegant, Cayenne, Cabot's, and hybrid terns on Florida's beaches. From *Birding*:

"A crested tern glides across December's cover. Can you tell what species? In Florida, vagrant & hybridizing terns have introduced an array of fun identification challenges. Bill Pranty, John Groskopf, and Valeri Ponzo bring us this month's Featured Photo, and explain in fantastic detail what tern species are typically present in Florida, which species have shown up unexpectedly, and how to tell them all apart. You can [click here](#) to flip open to their analysis."



On the December Cover of *Birding* Magazine: Elegant Tern, Charlotte Co., Florida, May 22, 2022. Photo by © Reinhard Geisler

American Birding Association

CLIMATE CORNER ☐ Recap of COP 27 in Egypt



COP stands for United Nations, Conference of the Parties. It is the annual international meeting on global climate change. This article links to the mixed bag of successes, failures, delays, and ambiguities. The topics might make you more interested in these deliberations than you'd expect.

A quick capture of things you missed (or maybe wish you had) concerning the Egypt COP meeting by Sueellen Campbell of Yale Climate Connections

[READ Entire Report Here](#)

CONSERVATION: New Tool "eBird Trends"



Wood Thrush Photo Credit: Peter Schreck, Macaulay Library

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology announced the release of a game-changing tool called eBird Trends in November. It is being touted as the most expansive and detailed set of visualizations ever produced to show the trends of bird populations.

For the first time, people around the world, including conservationists, can zoom in to within an 8-mile radius to see exactly where each of 586 bird species is increasing or decreasing – providing localized insights needed to restore rapidly declining bird populations and habitats.

Trend maps for 586 species are currently available, mostly for the

United States and Canada, where the necessary data exists. That number will keep growing as more data comes in from more locations through eBird, the Lab's massive global database of bird observations.

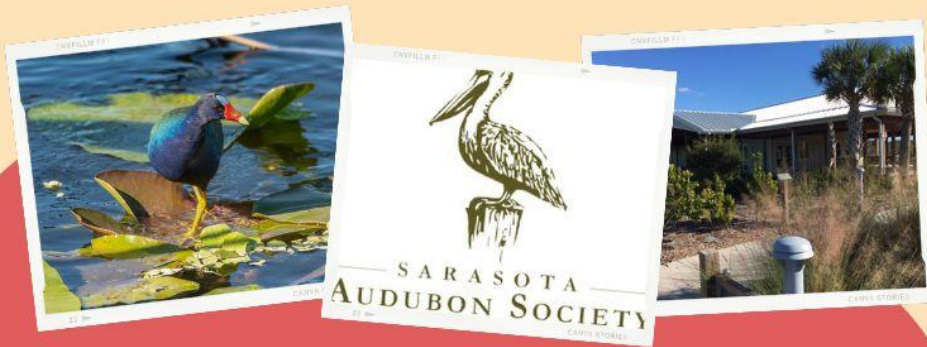
"We'll be adding more functions to eBird Trends moving forward," Auer said. "It's a credit to all eBirders that we were able to create this level of localization, to make a daunting environmental issue something that individuals can understand and influence simply by reporting their backyard birds."

[Explore eBird Trends, learn how your favorite birds are faring](#)

[Read Entire Article Here](#)



SAS FACEBOOK ADMINISTRATOR NEEDED



**In search of social media savvy member
volunteer to be our Facebook Administrator**

CONTACT US:

info@SarasotaAudubon.org

The Last Word is Graphic:

Bird Photography Tips

Good Bird Photo



- excellent lighting
- subject in focus
- field marks clearly visible

Great Bird Photo



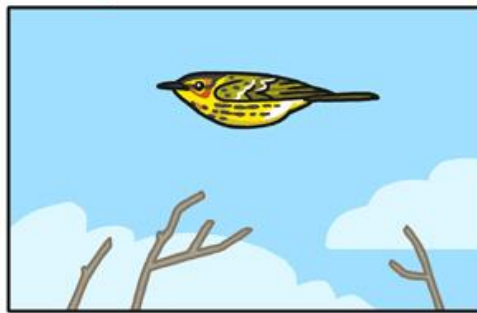
- peerless athleticism
- levitation??
- powerful

Excellent Bird Photo



- borb
- round
- a good bird

Exceptional Bird Photo



- nyooooom

birdandmoon.com



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Contact the Editor

Activity Schedule

