



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

JANUARY 2023 BIRD YOUR PATCH

Hello Sarasota Auduboners,

From December 14th until Jan 6th more than 2600 CBC's (CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS) are conducted throughout the US.

Our coordinator, Stu Wilson, will give a detailed report in a future newsletter, but here are some thoughts about birding in the Sarasota area.



You have seen several articles lately about the health benefits of getting outside, but there is an additional benefit that you, as an observer, can contribute to the overall health of birds. Many SAS members were participants in this recent important annual survey, and most decried the loss of habitat leading to fewer birds, and certainly fewer vulnerable bird species.

What can we do? Find a patch and monitor the bird population. Keeping on top of declines/increases in bird populations can inform us and lead us to action.

Start with your own backyard. Wherever you can, plant native plants. The Nature Center and its gardens are a living laboratory of how plants can attract and increase wildlife - from insects to birds to mammals. We have an expert who can advise you on what to do! Our new Garden Consultant, Pam Callender, will be at the Nature Center the second Saturday of every month from 9 until 11am starting on January 14 to teach and advise.

Start keeping a bird list of your patch or backyard. Over time, you will be amazed at how many birds you see. Observations over time reveal their habits, and their breeding and nesting behavior. Nature is endlessly fascinating.

If your patch is a park or reserve, get involved. Learn how the patch is managed; maybe you can provide suggestions for improvement, or help the staff to better understand birds and their habitat.

However you do it, get outside and observe. Our wonderful wildlife world will amaze and calm you.

Here's to a happy, healthy and peaceful 2023. Take care as always.

Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION



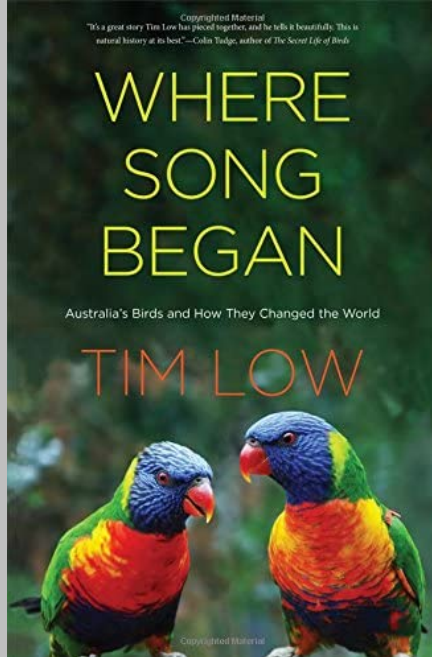
Tim Low, Australian Field Biologist

General Meeting
Monday, Jan 9, 2023
7:00pm on ZOOM

Where Song Began:
*What Dinosaurs, Australian
birds, and South America
Have in Common*

Australian field biologist and environmental consultant Tim Low will speak to us from Brisbane Australia on the subject of his best-selling highly-acclaimed seventh book published by Yale University Press.

Cutting-edge genetic research now all but proves that the ancestors of American song birds and parrots originated "down under." Tim Low puts



it all together. Don't miss this fascinating talk on Australia's birds and how they changed the world!

Register

Notes from the NATURE CENTER



Happy New Year from the SAS Nature Center! January is arguably the most beautiful month of the year in Sarasota, so we hope you'll take advantage of it. We're open longer hours to accommodate our increased number of visitors during this popular season. In addition to being staffed from 9 a.m. to noon each day of the week, we're also keeping our doors open until 3 p.m. on weekends during January and February.

Classes, Tours, and Activities: Winter is the perfect time to get

outdoors and enjoy all that Sarasota has to offer. The Sarasota Audubon Society organizes many classes, tours, and activities to entertain and delight you this season. Please check out the offerings listed on our website and in the pink Activity Schedule brochure that's available at the Nature Center. Some events require pre-registration and a fee, while others are available without registration or a fee.

Last month's **Books, Bins & Other Thin's Patio Sale** was a huge success! Many thanks to everyone who donated items, visited the sale to find almost-new treasures, and volunteered to help at the event. We couldn't have done it without all of you! The proceeds from the sale will be used to purchase seed for our bird feeders at the Nature Center. So next time you're birding at the gardens, give yourself a pat on the back for helping attract and feed all those beautiful species.

Gift Shop Update: Charley Harper's in the house! We're thrilled to announce new Gift Shop merchandise from popular artist Charley Harper. These colorful bird-themed mugs, coasters, and puzzles make perfect gifts for friends and family, or a special treat for yourself. Hurry in for best selection.

Members-only Meet and Greet: scheduled for January 18 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Nature Center. It's an opportunity to chat with fellow members, volunteers, and the SAS board while enjoying light refreshments. These events give our members a way to keep in touch with one another now that we hold our monthly meetings remotely via Zoom. As an added bonus, **John Ryan of Sarasota Bay Watch** will be updating us on efforts to clean up the bay. In December, over 40 attendees came out to the Nature Center for our first-ever Meet and Greet. The event was both fun and educational. Mark your calendars!

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: Timothy Mark Smith



Tim Smith Photo above: Osprey Family

Tim Smith, our Nature Center exhibitor for January, is a wildlife photographer from Nokomis, Florida with a portfolio emphasizing local wildlife, right in his hometown. Ideally, the pursuit is for compelling images, meaning animals involved in interesting interactions and activities that are often difficult to approach.

An extremely sharp and vividly detailed subject is the standard. Images are processed as seen naturally without Photoshop manipulations in the image or background, with the preferred medium being sublimated metal. Tim's work since becoming a photographer in 2019 has resulted in numerous awards from contests both locally and internationally. Tim's work is presently found in "The Cottage Art Gallery" in Nokomis and on Instagram at the address



Tim Smith photos: Left (Top) Burrowing Owl
Right (Bottom) Great Egret



The GARDEN Gate



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY



Celery Fields Nature Center Garden Day Second Saturday of the Month

9:00am - 11:00am

Join us for Garden Education & Enhancement



Creating bird habitat

- Come early to learn
- Stay to assist



On Saturday, January 14 we're starting our monthly Second Saturday Garden Day. Local native plant expert Pam Callendar will be guiding the effort. Join Pam at 9am to learn about habitat creation for birds. Afterward, you can stay (if you wish) to assist with garden maintenance. This is your chance to contribute to the

beauty and sustainability of our gardens while learning about our native flora.
Hope to see you there!

e-Bird Class January 21 at the Nature Center

eBird

Join Kathryn Young for a class in exploring Cornell Lab of Ornithology's vast database of bird sightings. You've entered the birds into eBird, now learn how to explore and summarize your data, print checklists and hotspots and target species for travel destinations, understand confirmed vs unconfirmed sightings and much more.

Requirements for class—have a basic understanding of eBird, and your own eBird username and password.

Saturday, January 21, 2023 .
1:00pm – 4:00pm at The Nature Center

Register for eBird Class

Myakka Christmas Bird Count Report



A cool clear morning followed by a warm mostly clear afternoon

resulted in a good day of birding. Hampered access, due to tree downfall and high-water levels from Hurricane Ian (September 28), resulted in some teams covering less area than in previous years. What started with low expectations ended with a miraculous record of 126 species, just one shy of the highest number recorded in 1996.

A few highlights included four Northern Bobwhite north of the upper lake and along SR 72, the first time since 2013. Great Crested Flycatcher (5) were observed in the hammock by four parties. Eight Crested Caracara were recorded by five parties Since 2013. regular sightings of this species indicate that several families are established in or near the park.

This marks the 123rd National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count, the 76th year for the annual park count. On the day of the count the park also reopened to visitors for the first time since the hurricane.

Rain and wind made areas birded for decades unrecognizable. It will be interesting to watch how the land and wildlife respond to these changes.

**Full Species
List**

Full Myakka Report

Holiday Lunch a Huge Success!



The Holiday Lunch returned this year after a



four year hiatus. Ninety Nine attendees (a record!) dined at Palm Aire Country Club. They enjoyed the good food (rave reviews for the chef), good company, door prizes and a festive atmosphere. It was an enjoyable afternoon for all.

After lunch there was a presentation by Christine Johnson, President of the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast, and Sarasota Audubon Society President Jeanne Dubi on our joint progress toward re-wilding the Quad Parcels. These are approximately 27 acres adjoining the Celery Fields. Plans for the properties include wildlife-friendly plantings, walking paths, a bird blind, ponds and more. The project will be community friendly with parking, bathrooms and a playground in a separate quad from the conservation lands.



CLIMATE CORNER ☐
Saving Land is a Climate Solution
by Sam Valentin, Conservation Foundation
of the Gulf Coast



Saving land, whether it be tidal wetlands, mangrove forests, or inland ranches and marshlands, is our best natural defense against flooding, and a powerful tool to help protect communities against the impacts of our changing climate.

When humans burn fossil fuels like coal, natural gas, and oil, we're creating what's known as "rampant" carbon dioxide. Regular carbon dioxide is used and created by normal life processes, but the rampant carbon dioxide we create by burning fossil fuels is building up in the atmosphere and ocean. The atmosphere acts like a heat-trapping blanket surrounding the earth, and when rampant carbon dioxide is added, it thickens the blanket. The thicker the blanket gets, the more heat is trapped beneath. This additional heat is warming the ocean, causing water to expand and ice sheets at the poles to melt.

Take, for example, Conservation Foundation's recent protection of the Bobby Jones Golf Complex, a nearly 300-acre property located in the middle of a densely populated urban area....

[READ Entire Article Here](#)

CONSERVATION: Harsh Mountain Winters Have Made Chickadees Smarter



A Mountain Chickadee in its conifer home. *Photo Pravosudov Lab, University of Nevada.*

A series of studies led by Vladimir Pravosudov and his graduate students at the University of Nevada at Reno examined the drivers of elevation-related cognitive differences among Mountain Chickadees in the Sierra Nevada. The chickadees at higher elevations exhibited better spatial memory (a key for caching and recovering food during harsh winters). These high-elevation birds also had slightly different brain structures than their counterparts at lower elevations, such as a larger hippocampus and greater neuron density.

[Read Entire Article Here](#)

The Last Word is Graphic:

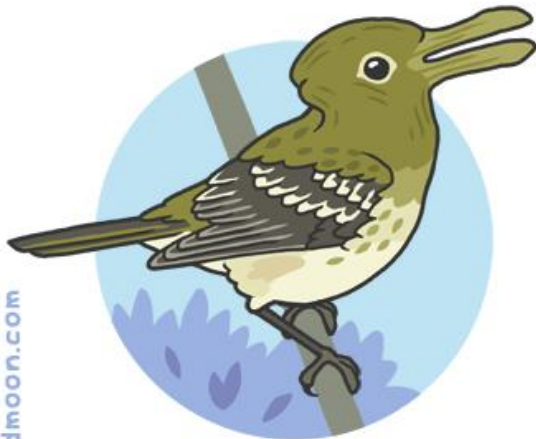
Increasingly Confusing Fall Warblers



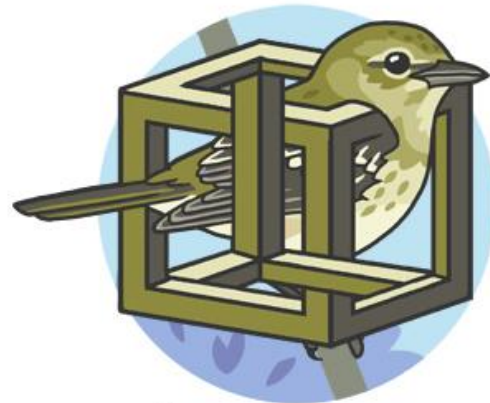
Bay-breasted or
Blackpoll



Bay-breasted or Blackpoll or
Canada or Ovenbird



Duck or Rabbit



Sibley's Impossibility Cube

birdandmoon.com



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Activity Schedule



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