



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 2023

Hello Sarasota Auduboners,

Board Elections. Yes, it's that time of year again when we vote for Sarasota Audubon's five elected officers: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary, and Treasurer. Elections will take place just after the April 10 general meeting. If you are interested in running for any of these position, or know anyone who is, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: [Karen Schneider](#), [Don Schneider](#), [Glynnis Thomas](#).

Board or Committee Service. Our board consists of 10 dedicated volunteers, two of whom are cycling off at the end of May. Many of us have served for 10 or 15 years, or even longer, and we need to look to our future to ensure the stability and viability of our chapter. The board is, and always has been, task-oriented; everyone performs a critical function. If you have skills that could help us continue our vital work, you can contact [me](#) or any other board member to find out how you can contribute. Here are some ideas:

- Coordinate the annual Activity Schedule using Publisher or a similar program.
- Provide insurance advice by reviewing our portfolio to make sure we are adequately covered.
- Support the Secretary by issuing thank you tax letters and taking minutes at our board meetings.
- Social Media: keep FB and Instagram up to date.

Sarasota Audubon is one of the most vibrant chapters in Florida -- and indeed in the country. Audubon Florida refers other chapter leaders to us for advice on governance, finance, programming, and how to run a nature center. With your help, we can continue to be the leader we have worked so hard to become.

Jeanne Dubi, President

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

**General Meeting
Monday, March 13th
7:00 pm on ZOOM**

Protecting Nesting Shorebirds on Sarasota Beaches



Sarasota native Kylie Wilson has worked as the Shorebird Monitoring and Stewardship Coordinator with Audubon Florida since March 2018. Her job includes monitoring our local beaches for imperiled beach-nesting species such as Snowy Plovers, Black Skimmers and Least Terns. Kylie also trains and coordinates volunteers to educate beachgoers about these species to prevent disturbances to their reproduction and nesting.

Don't miss this enlightening talk about the risks these birds take every summer on our beaches.

**From top Kylie Wilson.
Snowy Plover on eggs.
Black Skimmer with chicks.**

Register



Notes from the NATURE CENTER



Top: Pam Callender speaks at Garden Day. Bottom center: Around the Bend Nature Tours and Purple Martin Volunteers. Bottom left and right: Member Artwork.

It has sure been busy at the Nature Center this season! The beautiful weather brought thousands of visitors from around the world to the Celery Fields for birding, hiking, and environmental education. Breeding birds are busy nest building, while wintering birds are still delighting visitors and photographers.



Purple Martin Update: One notable species is Purple Martins, which began returning in January and are inhabiting the “condos” erected for them. On February 23, our team of volunteers began checking nests. By the 26th, one egg was found and by March 2nd, there were three, so egg laying has begun!

Every Thursday and Sunday at 11 am, volunteers will be checking on the birds, and visitors are welcome to watch. Come check out these fascinating birds that feed in mid-air!

Members Are Vital: You can renew your membership quickly online at the Sarasota Audubon's website (click button below) or you can join in the Nature Center at 999 Center Road, Sarasota, 34240 every Monday through Friday from 9 am to noon and weekends from 9 am to 3 pm. If you're using GPS to find us, please add the zip code 34240 to our address because there's a Center Road in Venice too. Our memberships run from January through December, so if you haven't renewed in 2023, then please stop by to get updated.



[Renew or Join](#)



Upcoming Members Meet & Greet: Once you've renewed your membership, make sure to put our Meet & Greet on your calendar. On **Wednesday, March 15, at 2:00 pm** we'll be hosting our final face-to-face members' event of this season at the Nature Center with Dr. Katherine Clements of UF/IFAS Extension Service Sarasota. Snacks and beverages will be provided. No pre-registration is necessary.

Beach Nesting Monitoring Workshop

Audubon Florida's Kylie Wilson will be back at the Nature Center on **Thursday, March 16, at 1:30 pm** to discuss the vital work of monitoring vulnerable shorebirds along Sarasota County beaches. Please join us for an informative presentation, along with the opportunity to become a volunteer shorebird steward. No registration needed. A donation of \$5 per person is requested, payable at the door.



Calling all Wingspan Players:

Want to know what all the fuss is about with this engaging board game that's taking the world by storm? Why not come find out for yourself? No experience necessary, and we supply the games.

March Schedule:

- **Wednesday, March 1**
- **Saturday, March 11**
- **Friday March 24**

All games start at 12:30 in the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center at the Celery Fields: 999 Center Road, Sarasota, FL 34240. If you'd like to join the fun, please [email Lynn](#) so we know how many tables to set up!

March–April Members Nature Exhibit features Bald Eagle photographs taken by our members. The exhibit is designed to highlight the birds while identifying dangers that pesticides pose to these majestic symbols of our nation. Visitors will learn about safe options that can be used to eliminate home and garden pests, such as rats, without harming predatory birds. We hope everyone will visit the Nature Center to enjoy this beautiful, informative display.



Kimberly Sullivan
Building Manager

March Featured Artists Sun Outdoors Sarasota Art Guild



This month the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center is featuring Members of the Sun Outdoors Sarasota Art Guild.

These artists, also members of Sarasota Audubon, will be exhibiting their lovely paintings of birds, flora and fauna.



The GARDEN Gate



Pine Straw being laid by Temple Emanu-El Middle Schoolers. Bird feeding area at the gazebo.

Pine Straw Day: Middle school students from Sarasota's Temple Emanu-El turned out in force last month to spread pine straw along the trails in our native gardens. These enthusiastic workers brought along parents and siblings to enjoy a morning of fresh air and fellowship. When they were finished, the trails through the gardens were covered with a thick layer of pine straw that will inhibit weed growth for months to come.

Donations for Birdseed, Please: Whether an avid birder is hoping to spot a rare migrating species, a photographer is angling for the perfect shot, or a first-time visitor to

the Celery Fields just wants to enjoy the soft cooing of a Mourning Dove, the feeders at our gazebo are the place to be. But feeders are expensive to keep full these days. That's why we're asking our visitors to help us by making a donation to purchase quality birdfeed that will give our birds the nutrition they need for striking plumage and healthy reproduction. Dollars in the donation box in the Nature Center will help ensure that birds can count on us for a fill-up on their long migration, or keep up their energy for an elaborate courtship ritual. If the Nature Center building is closed when you visit, you can make an online donation at our website; use the button below to access that page. Any amount you can spare will be greatly appreciated.

[Donate for Bird Seed](#)



Garden Day with Pam Callender: On the second Saturday morning of every month, native plant expert Pam Callender shares her wealth of knowledge with Sarasota Audubon Society members in our Nature Center gardens. In February, Pam's presentation coincided with a meeting of the Florida Native Plant Society. They met on the Nature Center patio to enjoy Pam's presentation and conversation with fellow native plant enthusiasts. Join us this month when Pam returns on Saturday, March 11, to "plant" more garden

knowledge.

Photo Credit Leslie Harris-Senac www.SarasotaFilmAndVideo.com

To learn more about what our "Plant Doctor" Pam Callender does, check out this great video from WEDU:

[Pam Callender Video: Planted in Art](#)



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

Gardens Day!

at the Celery Fields Audubon Nature Center



2nd Saturday of the Month

9:00am - 11:00am

**Join us for Native Garden
Education & Enhancement**

Learn to garden for the birds!



Bird Blog by Naomi Deutsch: Eastern Towhee in Sarasota Springs



© Bill Everitt

Female Eastern Towhee Photo Credit Bill Everitt, IntownHawk.com

Eastern Towhee in Suburban Sarasota by Naomi Deutsch

For the last three months I have had a female Eastern Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) visit both my back yard and front yard 'jungles'. I moved one of our security cameras into a position to record her. I have seen her multiple times on the camera and sent a video to Jeanne Dubi, president of Sarasota Audubon. Her reply was, "That is absolutely amazing. They are all but extirpated from suburban Sarasota. We have to go way out east to find them now. Thanks!"

Unbeknownst to me, there had not been an Eastern Towhee for the last two years on the Sarasota Christmas bird counts. There has been an enormous amount of building construction throughout Sarasota. Did the Eastern Towhee find my plethora of native plants so appealing?

[Full Blog with Photos](#)

Siesta Key Bird Walk Report by Mary Heinlein



The Siesta Key bird walk on February 7 was a great success, with more than 30 participants, many of whom were beginning birders.

Gulls and terns dominated the bird list with Laughing, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, plus four Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Black Skimmers were present in huge flocks, swirling, landing and loafing on the beach. Royal, Sandwich and Common Terns were seen, with a notable lack of Forster's.

Shorebirds were scarce with only Sanderlings and five Snowy Plovers. The beginning birders enjoyed learning how to ID gulls and terns. The gulls and terns added to the fun by appearing in all their various plumages from immature to adult, some still in their winter plumage, and others in various stages of molt.

CONSERVATION: Coastal Water Quality Report Available Online

In case you missed it, the February
17 [*Coastal-Water Quality: Challenges,
Solutions, and Economic Impact*](#) global

webinar is available for viewing at this [LINK](#); the linked article gives an in-depth synopsis of the webinar. PPT presentations are available for download within the article.



Webinar panelists – Dave Tomasko (SBEP), Jon Thaxton (GCCF), Christine Johnson (CFGF), and Sandy Gilbert (HPC) – gave impressive presentations on how the Sarasota-area community works in collaboration, with successful results. With a well-orchestrated plan, via the Water-Quality Playbook (a project of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation), community organizations can help prevent water contamination from land use, and cleanse contaminants in the water.

Dave ended his final presentation with cautious optimism on Sarasota Bay’s healthy water-quality status.

Be sure to read/view through the Q&A session – it showcases the Sarasota-area community’s leadership and pioneering role in restoring and maintaining healthy water quality.

[Water Quality Report](#)

[Webinar Full Video](#)

California Condors Return to the Sky After a Century



Condor A0 Northern California Condor Restoration Program

Photo Credit Patrick Myers/Yurok Tribe

Missing for a Century, the California Condor Flies Over Yurok Ancestral Lands Again

by **Becca Cudmore, NRDC**

A California condor known as A1 bounced around his metal enclosure in the coastal mountains of northern California and then lifted off to the sky to circle with three companions, the first of their breed in a century to soar over those lands. Part of a

larger effort of the Yurok Tribe, the Yurok Condor Restoration Program seeks to rewild a temperate rainforest ecosystem.

Two feet taller than bald eagles, the condors once soared over the West, but by the mid-1800s had greatly diminished due to habitat loss, pollution, shooting, lead poisoning and ingestion of trash. By 1982 only 22 California condors remained, and when the Fish & Wildlife Service brought the remaining birds into captivity, the species became extinct in the wild. A successful captive breeding program at two California zoos followed, and the 550 California condors alive today all descend from the original 22 “founders.”

[Read Entire Article](#)

ABA Bi-Monthly What's This Bird? LIVE!



**What's
this Bird?**
Live



with Greg Neise and Nate Swick

Did you know you can join American Birding Association's Greg Neise and Nate Swick every other Friday at 1:00 pm ET to discuss ID challenges and get your bird ID questions answered on **What's This Bird LIVE!**

Set your calendar for the next LIVE installment on **March 10, 2023**.

What's This Bird LIVE! can be viewed on any of the following ABA social media platforms: [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), and [Facebook](#).

Have questions about the show? ABA members can find Greg and Nate in the [What's this Bird?](#) group at [ABA Community!](#)

CLIMATE CORNER

Planting for Birds Protects them from Climate Change



Why Native Plants are Best for Birds

by Marina Richie from *Audubon*

The habitat provided by native plants can help birds adapt and survive amid a changing climate. More than half of North American bird species are [threatened by climate change](#), and native plants can help increase their resilience by giving them food and places to rest and nest.

To survive, native birds need native plants and the insects that have co-evolved with them. Most landscaping plants available in nurseries are exotic species from other countries. Many are prized for qualities that make them poor food sources for native birds—like having leaves that are unpalatable to native insects and caterpillars. With 96 percent of all terrestrial bird species in North America feeding insects to their young, planting insect-proof exotic plants is like serving up plastic food. No insects? No birds.

[READ Entire Article Here](#)

2023 SW Florida Climate Summit March 15 - 16 in Fort Myers



This regional public event will gather experts, policymakers and the public to share knowledge, showcase resiliency efforts, engage leadership across sectors, and mobilize collaboration throughout the Central & Southwest Florida region. Topics include Federal, State, & Local Resiliency Efforts, Impacts to Economy and Food Supply, Coastal and

Freshwater Resiliency. The event is being hosted by the Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership, and sponsored by WGPU Public Media.

Agenda, registration, speaker bios and other information are available on the [2023 Southwest Climate Summit webpage](#). Seats are limited and advanced registration is required, so we encourage you to sign up at your earliest convenience.

[Climate Summit Registration](#)

The Last Word is Graphic: Keep your Cats Indoors!



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Activity Schedule



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