



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 2023



Hello Sarasota Auduboners,

Having a strong, dedicated board of directors is the backbone of any non-profit, and Sarasota Audubon is no exception. SAS is considered to be one of the most active and successful Audubon chapters in Florida (there are 44), and we need to maintain that reputation of success. Audubon Florida refers other chapter leaders to us for advice on governance, finance, programming, and how to run a nature center.

We are looking for like-minded individuals to help lead us to the next phase of our amazing growth. We can do still more for the environment with the right vision and right leadership. If you would like to be part of a dynamic organization, please step forward.

The Governing Structure of SAS consists of 5 elected officials. After the annual election, the President and the Board appoint two Members-at-Large. These 7 individuals make up the Executive Committee and can act on behalf of the entire board. Rarely does the EC go into session to vote on behalf of the board; almost all decisions are made at monthly board meetings by all board members.

Board Elections. At the April general meeting, members present vote for officers: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary, and Treasurer. Since we now Zoom our general meetings, this year's

elections will take place just after the April 10 general meeting. A ballot will be sent out to each attendee, and the returned ballots will be tallied and results announced within 24 hours.

If you are interested in running for any of these positions, or know anyone who is, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee: [Karen Schneider](#), [Don Schneider](#), [Glynnis Thomas](#). Click on a name for email address.

Board or Committee Service. Our Board is made up of 11 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:

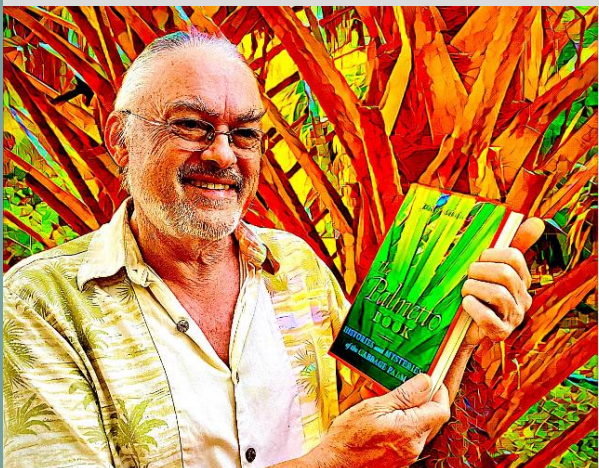
- Coordinate the annual Activity Schedule using Publisher or a similar program.
- Provide insurance advice by reviewing our portfolio to make sure we are adequately covered.
- Issue IRS tax thank-you letters to donors.
- If you have a talent, we want to hear about it!

As always, many thanks for your support and trust.

Jeanne Dubi, President
and the SAS Board of Directors

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

General Meeting
Monday, April 10th
7:00 pm on ZOOM



Jono Miller with The Palmetto Book

The Palmetto Book: Histories and Mysteries of the Cabbage Palm

Join author Jono Miller for an introduction to our state tree, the cabbage palm, *Sabal palmetto*. Where are they found? What is a bootjack? How do they grow? Are they really "grasses" as some claim? What about pruning them? Are they invasive? All this and more.

Jono Miller is a natural historian, environmental

A former Director of the Environmental Studies Program at New College of Florida in Sarasota, Jono has written **The Palmetto Book: Histories and Mysteries of the Cabbage Palm**, which contains two dozen chapters exploring varied aspects of this iconic Florida native.



Cabbage Palms *Sabal Palmetto*

educator, and activist who has worked for a third of a century to understand and protect wild places in Southwest Florida.

Jono has provided leadership on protecting over 60,000 acres in Sarasota County and for the past dozen years has been chronicling the natural and cultural history of the cabbage palm, an effort that became his Masters thesis in the Florida Studies Program at USF St. Pete.

You don't want to miss this entertaining presentation!

[Register](#)

Notes from the NATURE CENTER



were quite educational, and everyone is eager to continue them into next season.

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](#)



Members' Meet & Greet: The third and final Meet & Greet of the season was held at the Nature Center in March. More than 35 members attended and had the opportunity to chat, enjoy snacks, and hear from Dr. Katherine Clements about the variety of services provided by the

UF/IFAS Extension office. Dr. Clements also discussed some upcoming courses offered through the Extension.

Shorebird stewardship workshop: Kylie Wilson from Florida Audubon made multiple appearances at Sarasota Audubon during the month of March. She was the special guest on our monthly members' Zoom meeting, then a few days later, she led a face-to-face presentation at the Nature Center. On both occasions, she explained the importance of protecting beach-nesting shorebirds and invited interested volunteers to join her in the vital effort. Training for shorebird stewards starts this month. If anyone would like to get involved in shorebird stewardship this season, please contact Kylie.Wilson@Audubon.org.



Calling all Wingspan Players:

The monthly Wingspan play-dates have attracted dozens of SAS members to the Nature Center since they started last summer. They'll continue through this spring



and summer as a way to help our members stay connected, hone their game-playing skills, and learn more about birds of the world. Even when the Nature Center is closed during Sarasota's hottest months, we'll be opening our air-conditioned facility to gamers a couple of days every month.

Renew your membership and reserve your spot for a little fun and games.

April Schedule:

- **Wednesday, April 5**
- **Saturday, April 8**

- **Wednesday April 26**

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](mailto:lynn@audubon.org) so we know how many tables to set up!

Avian all-star postcards: Our visitors have been asking for postcards of their favorite Celery Fields birds, and we've answered the call. Our first postcard features a gorgeous male painted bunting photo that was taken here in the Celery Fields gardens by talented local photographer Jim McCarty. It's an oversized card that makes a perfect souvenir from your visit or a nice way to make the folks back home envious of where you've been.



Male Painted Bunting Postcard

Photo: Jim McCarty

Kimberly Sullivan
Building Manager

**March Featured Artist
Claudia Daniels, Photographer**



Claudia Daniels is an acclaimed photographer, photo instructor, and guide whose work has been featured in magazines, newspapers and online publications. She is originally from Mainz, Germany. She loves to travel the world, experience different cultures and learn new and creative techniques. Claudia teaches photography workshops where she shares her enthusiasm for photography, especially landscapes and wildlife.



The GARDEN Gate



April in the Gardens can be glorious - Come visit!

**CONSERVATION: Everglades
Restoration is Working!**



Egret Nest Squabble Photo: Charles Lee, Audubon FL

In 2021, the Everglades Experienced its Second-highest Nesting Effort for Many Wading Bird Species in 80 Years

Audubon Florida Report

Wading birds are important indicators of ecosystem health in the River of Grass, and each year the South Florida Water Management District – in collaboration with Audubon Florida and other partners – synthesizes wading bird survey data from across the Everglades to examine system-wide trends. When wading birds nest in large numbers and fledge chicks most years, they tell us that our efforts to improve the hydrology of South Florida ecosystems are successful.

“Well-timed rainfall in the Central Everglades resulted in big nesting efforts for the region's iconic wading birds—proof that if we get the water right, the birds will respond. The data tells us that if we restore habitats, birds can succeed, and it is our duty to give them a fighting chance,” says Kelly Cox, Audubon Florida’s Director of Everglades Policy. “Thanks to extreme rainfall, Wood Storks shared in these successes—an outlier as they still struggle in most years to raise chicks to fledging, especially in Southwest Florida's over-drained landscape.”

Climate change-induced trends in seasonal rainfall patterns, including stronger and more frequent storms, will continue to negatively impact wading bird nesting.

Click the button below for full story with links to reports.

[Full Story with Report Links](#)

CLIMATE CORNER
**Arctic Birds Fail to Breed Due To
Extreme Weather Conditions**



Extreme snowstorms lead to large-scale seabird breeding failures in Antarctica

by Melissa Breyer *Tree Hugger Magazine*

Polar seabirds are adapted to withstand the Antarctic's uniquely harsh conditions—but it's not easy. They somehow manage to exist in the [land mass that takes the prize](#) for being the coldest, driest, highest, and windiest continent on Earth.

But even so, the extremes delivered by climate change are proving too much for them to bear. A new [study](#) reveals that from December 2021 to January 2022—during prime time for Antarctic birds to breed—researchers did not find any nests in areas where colonies are generally comprised of hundreds of thousands of birds.

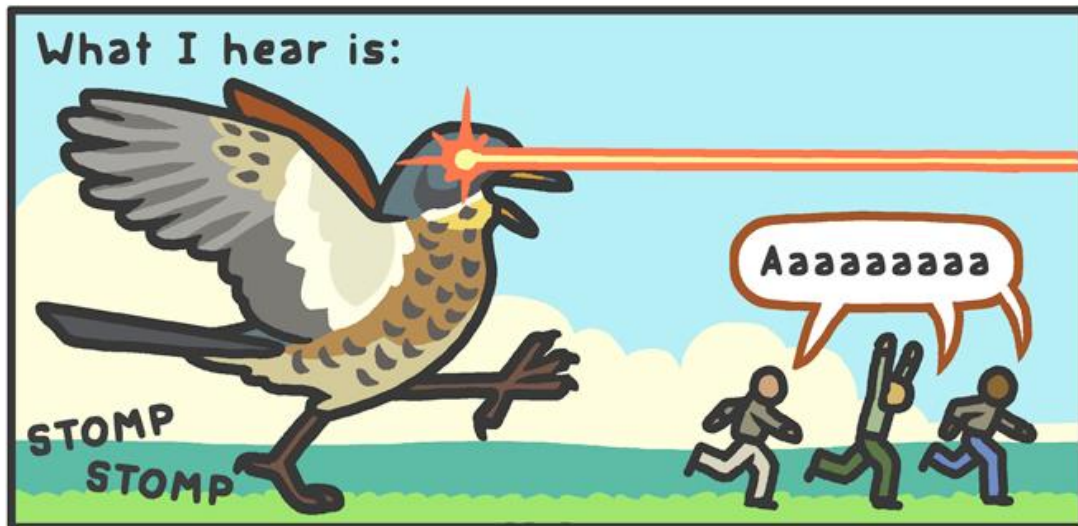
“We’re talking about tens if not hundreds of thousands of birds, and none of them reproduced throughout these storms. Having zero breeding success is really unexpected.”

Exceptional storm activity in Dronning Maud Land (DML), Antarctica, in the austral summer of 2021/2022 caused almost complete and large-scale breeding failures of the area’s three most common seabird species — Antarctic petrel (*Thalassoica antarctica*), Snow petrel (*Pagodroma nivea*) and South polar skua (*Stercorarius maccormicki*).

[Read ARTICLE](#)

[Read STUDY](#)

The Last Word is Graphic: What is a Mega?



birdandmoon.com



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Contact the Editor

Activity Schedule



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