



# THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

**NOVEMBER 2023**



**Hello Sarasota Auduboners,**

This month we really need your help. This [link](#) lays out our position with regard to the sale of the Raymond Road Farm and the rezone petition submitted by developer D.R. Horton to build 171 homes on that site. Needless to say, we are deeply alarmed by this proposal. The rezone petition is currently under review with the Sarasota County Planning Commission, who will submit their recommendations to the Board of County

Commissioners for a final vote. We plan to be at that BOCC public meeting (no firm date yet). Please let the BOCC know what you think about this devastating threat to the Celery Fields and to the Raymond Road area in particular. See below for details on how to do just that.

We keep on keeping on! Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find links to sign up for:

- Our annual **Holiday Luncheon December 13** at the Palm Aire country Club
- Discount tickets **Half Price until November 7** for the **EcoSummit** December 5-6 with keynote speaker Carl Hiaasen with Craig Pittman and other Storytellers.
- For our **Meet and Greet** event on Wednesday, November 15, 2-3:30 pm, Master Beekeeper Ashley Williams will tell us about how she manages 20+ beehive sites around Sarasota, and how these incredible creatures keep our natural world humming.

Jeanne Dubi, President  
and the Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

## CALL TO ACTION: Raymond Road Farm



Developer D.R. Horton, well known for building high-density housing, wants to build 171 units directly across from the Raymond Road boardwalk. This area (and the entire Celery Fields) is critical habitat for birds and wildlife and provides access to thousands of our county's annual visitors, our residents, students, and birdwatchers from around the world.

**Our position: A high-density residential development does not belong here. It will negate and undermine all of the millions of dollars and planning invested by Sarasota County and its**

## Stormwater Division.

Many of you are asking what you can do. Click below for detailed instructions on how to write the Sarasota County Commission to state your case.

**Details about Raymond Road  
Development**

## **MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION November 13, 7:00 PM on Zoom**



© Mark Brazil

Adult Steller's Sea Eagle calling on the coast near Rausu, Japan, with the Island of Kunashiri in the background.

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

**Birds of Japan with  
Dr. Mark Brazil, from  
Hokkaido, Japan**

Ornithologist naturalist, international wildlife expedition leader and natural history author, Dr. Mark Brazil specializes in Japanese wildlife and has lived in Japan since 1998. He will share his vast knowledge of the wildlife of Japan.



Dr. Mark Brazil, Ornithologist,  
Japanese Nature Guide

## Notes from the Nature Center



Above: Visitors from Oz at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center

We're back! We opened our doors for the 2023-24 season on October 1, and we've already welcomed visitors from across the country and around the globe!

Accustomed to mainly seeing birds and birders at Celery Fields, our docents were surprised when Dorothy and her pals from the Land of Oz blew into our gardens the week before Halloween. When the volunteers investigated, it turned out that staff members from Kids Choose Us Pediatric Dentistry in Venice had stopped by to take photos to share with their young patients.



## Members Meet & Greet

Nov. 15, 2:00 - 3:30 PM

### At the Nature Center

Meet Beekeeper Ashley Williams of the not-for-profit Suncoast Beekeepers Association. She has a Master Beekeeper Certification from the University of Florida and manages more than 25 beehives spread in backyards all over Sarasota County.

Snacks and beverages will be served.

No need to pre-register, but you must be a Sarasota Audubon member to attend.

**Gift Shop update:** We're pleased that our visitors have embraced the new merchandise available in our Gift Shop. Some new earrings are already on re-order, Audubon t-shirts in bright colors are practically flying out the door, and children's binoculars have been especially popular with our young guests. Stop by soon to treat yourself or someone you love.

Kim Sullivan, Building Manager



There's more: [Read Full Text of Kim's NOTES](#)

**November Featured Artist  
Braulio Castillo Photography**



Local photographer Braulio Castillo will have his art featured at the Nature Center during the month of November. The exhibit consists of 20 photographs of various sizes, all framed in wood, metal, or canvas. The subjects of the photos are Florida landscape scenes and birds. Don't miss this display of Florida's beauty and our local member's talent.



## Volunteer Opportunities



## Celery Fields **Bird Naturalists** Expand Offerings

Bird Naturalist Volunteers will now be available! We are not only looking for **Palmer Blvd.** and **Raymond Rd.** Naturalists, but also in the **Gardens and Gazebo.** Now is the time to volunteer for the season, which runs through May.

If you are interested in being a Celery Fields Bird Naturalist at any of these locations, please register through our **Volunteer Portal.**

— S A R A S O T A —  
**A U D U B O N S O C I E T Y**

## Feeder Team Volunteers Needed!

Help us attract more birds!



**DUTIES:** Fill bird feeders at the Gardens gazebo

Sign up now at: [Volunteer@SarasotaAudubon.org](mailto:Volunteer@SarasotaAudubon.org)



Our next Palmer Blvd cleanup is coming up:

**Monday, November 13, at 9:00 AM**

Live life cleaner, make the Earth greener!

Volunteers are required to fill out and submit a county release form  
**BEFORE** arriving at the Nature Center.  
Hope to see you there!

Please complete the form before attending.

**County Release  
Form**

**RSVP to our cleanup coordinator, Shelley  
Yarosh**



## The GARDEN Gate



# Nature Center Native Garden Day



**Second Saturday of each Month 9 - 11 am**

Join us for Native Garden Inspiration with  
**Pamela Callender, Eco Artist**



**Learn how to  
create habitat for  
birds and pollinators**







# Holiday Luncheon

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 11:45am

Palm Aire Country Club

**Buy your tickets early, as this event always sells out!**

**Guest Speaker Jon Thaxton has a lot to share about our local habitats and fauna.**

**Tickets & Information**

## Calling All Wingspan Players!



We are still playing the bird-themed board game Wingspan at the Nature Center.

Don't know how to play? No problem! We have experienced players who are eager to teach you.

Please [email Lynn](#) to let her know when you will join them.

### Current Schedule

- Wednesday, November 1
- Saturday, November 18

All games start at 12:30 p.m. 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!

## CONSERVATION: Green Expo and EcoSummit

**Green Living Expo FREE**  
**December 2-3, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM**



**GREEN LIVING EXPO**

DECEMBER 2-3, 2023  
MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Explore solutions to go green at the **FREE Green Living Expo**. Demo and buy sustainable products and services from select green businesses and non-profit organizations.

**The Expo will highlight green solutions for energy conservation, waste reduction, water protection, local food, and nature conservation. It's a two-day trade show loaded with ideas and demonstrations about how to reduce our impacts on the environment.**

The event is being held in conjunction with the EcoSummit (December 5-6 at Van Wezel Performing

Arts Hall)

Admission is free with [advance registration](#) or \$5 per group at the door.

Free EXPO  
Tickets!



**Flash Sale: Half Price through Nov. 7**

## **Science & Environment Council 2023 EcoSummit**

December 5–6, 2023  
Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall  
777 N. Tamiami Tr., Sarasota

Don't miss this popular regional environmental summit for lively, solutions-oriented lectures, panel discussions, storytelling, and music. Dozens of national, regional, and local experts will share fascinating insights and future-forward innovations for recharging our environment and reducing our impacts – crucial to sustaining our coastal community's environment-based quality of life.

See article below for Jeanne Dubi's panel discussion.

[Click for Tickets Half Price Until Nov.](#)

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**Session Spotlight  
KEYNOTE Carl Haasen**

**Tuesday December 5th, 5:00 - 7:00 PM**

AN EVENING OF FLORIDA STORIES

**CARL  
HIAASEN**  
AND LOCAL STORYTELLERS



**DEC 5, 2023**

VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL

**eco-summit.org**

Enjoy an unforgettable evening with Florida's most savagely funny, riotous, and cathartic storyteller Carl Hiaasen, with emcee Craig Pittman, local storytellers & musical guest. It's an irreverent evening of stories recounting Floridians' love-hate relationship with our enchantingly wild lands, waters, and creatures.

VIP Experience, with pre-show reception and premium seating, is available at the link. EcoSummit attendees can enjoy special pricing. Learn more and register at [eco-summit.org](https://eco-summit.org).

**Click for Tickets Half Price Until Nov.**

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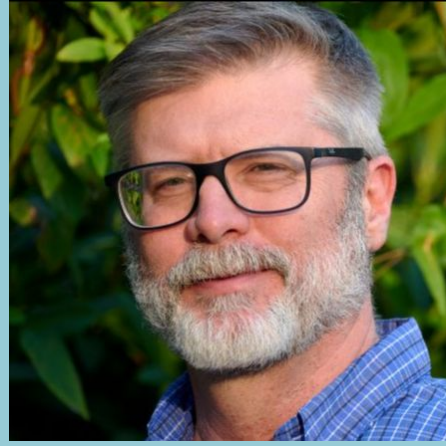
**Session Spotlight**  
**MAKING A PLACE FOR NATURE**  
**Tuesday December 5th, 3:20 - 5:00 PM**

Where have all the birds gone? Has a generation lost touch with nature herself? Our urban and suburban environments are built for people, not nature, but we can invite nature back. How could making space for nature in our urban and suburban places make us healthier and more resilient to heat and floods? We can safely regenerate and recharge natural systems right in our own backyards, neighborhood parks, and regional recreation areas to bring back water quality and wildlife.

**Featuring:**



Dr. Mark Hostetler's work focuses on design and management of "green" communities, especially how biodiversity is affected by urban landscape design and management strategies. The Green Leap is his practical guide for conserving biodiversity in subdivision development.



Dr. John Kiefer is an environmental engineer and fluvial geomorphologist with three decades of experience restoring rivers and streams. He works closely with communities to create resilient solutions for flood protection, water quality, fisheries, wildlife habitat, recreation, and economic stimulus.



Jeanne Dubi is President of the Sarasota Audubon Society and played a key role in turning the Celery Fields, a regional stormwater facility, into wildlife habitat and a world-class birding hotspot. She is recognized by the National Audubon Society for her work on bird habitat conservation.



Aedan Stockdale is a Florida native and New College graduate. He is the Education and Volunteer Division Manager for Manatee County Natural Resources Department, where he develops innovative educational and citizen science programs that help foster connections to the outdoors.

## Bird Blog: Osceola Wild Turkey



## **Osceola Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo osceola*)**

By Gabby Zaldumbide, Project Upland Magazine

**Known for their difficulty to hunt and long spurs, the Osceola wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo osceola*), also known as the Florida turkey, is one of five subspecies of wild turkey. Osceolas only occur on the Florida peninsula. Since Osceolas have such a limited geographic range, they are a challenging yet popular game bird for many hunters to pursue.**

**The Osceola turkey has one of the most limited ranges of all the turkey subspecies, occurring only on the Florida peninsula. The eastern turkey overlaps some of this range on the Florida panhandle and the Florida-Georgia line.**

**Estimates place the Osceola turkey population at 100,000 individuals in Florida. However, it is difficult to get an accurate estimate, due to the secretive nature of the species and the dense vegetation where they reside.**

[Read Entire Article Here](#)

**CLIMATE CORNER** □  
**Transition Away from Fossil Fuels to  
Protect Birds**



Tundra swans flying past wind turbines Photo: Donald M. Jones

Michael Thomas, Distilled

Fossil fuel power plants kill 35 times more birds per GWh of electricity produced than wind turbines. But even this figure understates the true harm caused by fossil fuels.

Coal, gas, and oil power plants are still far more prevalent globally than wind energy. Therefore, the total impact on bird populations—as opposed to the per-unit of electricity impact—is much greater. The Vermont Law School study's authors estimate that fossil fuel electricity generation kills 24 million birds per year.

Burning fossil fuels also causes acid rain, which directly and indirectly harms birds. As an example, a 2002 study found that acid rain caused the wood thrush population to decline in the United States by 2% to 5%.

But the greatest harm that fossil fuels cause birds comes in the form of climate change. A recent study by the National Audubon Society found that two-thirds of all North American bird species are at risk of extinction due to climate change.

All of this led the authors of the study visualized above to conclude, "The wider use of wind energy can save wildlife and birds as it displaces more harmful sources of electricity."

Put another way: The best way to protect birds is to displace fossil fuels.

[Read Full  
ARTICLE](#)

[Read MIT Article](#)

**The Last Word Is Graphic:  
The Wild Turkey**  
Bird and Moon, by Rosemary Mosco



Wild Turkeys are one of North America's greatest conservation success stories. Here to tell us more is a wild turkey.



Hey, look what I can do!



Okay, that's...Thank you.



Thanks.

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

**NOTE: Rosemary Mosco of bird and moon comics will be our Guest Speaker at the December General Meeting on Zoom!**



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AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Activity Schedule



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