



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2024



Plein Air Artists of Sarasota in our Native Gardens

Hello, Sarasota Auduboners,

January has been young people's month. On January 15, 58 students, teachers and chaperones from the **Mangrove School** came to the Nature Center to work and play. *(More below)*. Thanks to Pine View students Sophia Haakman for leading the students out to the Palmer Boardwalk to ID birds in the wetland and Shanthi Marmash for assisting with herb and Earthbox planting.

Another group of 18 (kids and chaperones) from **Temple Emanu-El** laid down pine straw on all the paths. *(More below)*.

And yet another group: **Florida Young Birders Club** is well under way to becoming expert birders. Sophia Haakman is a mover and shaker on this project, working hard to get young folks interested in birding. So far, there have been several enthusiastically attended field trips to the Celery Fields. (*See below for their next trip to Oscar Scherer State Park*).

Thanks to all these young people for spreading the bird and nature word!

Jeanne Dubi, President

and the Sarasota Audubon Board of Directors

Time to Renew Local Membership



New!
Student
Membership
Only \$10

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

Thank you to our local members who have made a
commitment to the birds and our community!

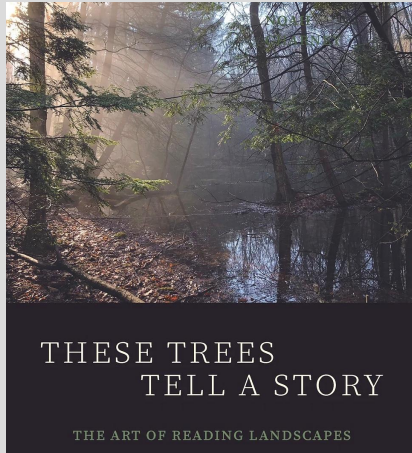
MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION
February 12, 2024, 7:00 PM on Zoom

General Meeting
Monday,
February 12th
7:00 pm on ZOOM

**"These Trees Tell
a Story"**
with Dr. Noah Charney



Dr. Noah Charney, University of
Maine Conservation Biologist



Dr. Noah Charney, Assistant Professor of Conservation Biology, University of Maine, will talk about his fascinating new book, *These Trees Tell a Story: The Art of Reading Landscapes*.

Dr. Charney's stories will provide anyone with the necessary investigative skills for looking at a landscape, interpreting it, and telling its story—from where it started as rock or soil to the plants and animals that live on it. Charney's goal: by critically engaging with the landscape we will become more connected with nature and more fully able understand ourselves.

Register

Notes from the Nature Center



Above: Landscape Designer Pamela Callender with Sarasota Garden Club Members

What's happening at the Nature Center these days? It would probably be quicker to list what *isn't* happening at the Nature Center. With our season in full swing, we've been hosting adults, kids, seniors, groups, singles, families, photographers, birders, picnickers, hikers, and everyone else you can imagine. It's been a blast!

Extended Hours: The Nature Center is now open extended hours through mid-April to accommodate a large number of visitors. In addition to being open from 9 a.m. to noon every day, we also stay open until 3 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. That means you can sleep late on weekends, and still come visit us.

Members Meet & Greet: The January Members Meet & Greet was attended by over 50 of our members, who gathered for snacks and socializing. The meeting's speaker was Christine Johnson from Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast. She explained the basics of conservation easements and told a fascinated crowd about how Conservation Foundation acquires development rights to protect open

land in perpetuity. The final Members Meet & Greet of this year is scheduled for March 20 from 2-3:30 at the Nature Center.

January Wildlife Rescue Presentation: Wildlife rescuers Sandy Ulrikson, Roger Riehm, and Laurie Riehm from the Wildlife Center of SW Florida were on hand in January to share their extensive knowledge about rescuing wildlife. For years they have used their skills to rescue injured or abandoned birds and other animals. They also demonstrated some tools of their trade, including nets, traps and cages for transportation to rehab facilities. A large crowd braved the morning chill to learn what to do when they encounter an animal in need of help.

January Sarasota Garden Club Visit: Sixteen members of the Sarasota Garden Club visited the Nature Center in January. They toured the LEED Gold-Certified Nature Center, including the gift shop. Then Native Plant Landscape Designer Pam Callender took them on an educational tour of our native gardens.

Gift Shop Update: In January, SAS volunteer Jane Rufo took on the daunting task of designing a new cap for our Gift Shop. She decided to show some love for predatory birds, and the Crested Caracara cap was born! The first one sold before it was even on the shelf, and since then, they've been practically flying out the door! We have visors in the works, too, in answer to requests from visitors, and for people whose Roseate Spoonbill caps are frayed and weather-stained, a new batch of those is also on the way!



Kim Sullivan, Building Manager

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



The Garden Gate
Students in the Garden!



Mangrove School:

On Monday, January 15th, Martin Luther King Day, children and parents from the **Mangrove School**, our newest neighbors, visited the Nature Center for a morning of service. The children mulched, weeded, picked up litter, swept and cleaned. Finally, they planted vegetables and

herbs in the garden **Earthboxes**. Andy Schneider, Jeanne Dubi and Glynnis Withrington helped in the gardens, while Reenie Ram brought down the Purple Martin boxes and explained to the children the process and purpose of the Purple Martin Project. After snacks the children took off in different directions to explore the Celery Fields.

Wow! So much energy!

It was a delightful morning. The children were well-behaved, polite, and very engaged in the activities on offer. We hope to continue to develop a close partnership with the Mangrove School and look forward to many more visits in the future.



Temple Emanu-El: The Nature Center and gardens provide many volunteer opportunities for both adults and children. For example, every year since the gardens were planted, middle schoolers



from Temple Emanu-El in Sarasota have come out to beautify our gardens by spreading pine straw along the paths. This an essential task for keeping the pathways walkable for our visitors. Many of the children's parents attend the event, too, as

well as younger siblings and grandparents, making "Pine Straw Day" a truly family-oriented event. This year the weather was particularly chilly, but the children put their noses to the grindstone, and soon 80 bales of pine straw had been distributed, leaving our paths tidy and weed-free.

How to Design your Own Native Garden Saturday, February 10, 9:00 AM Register Below



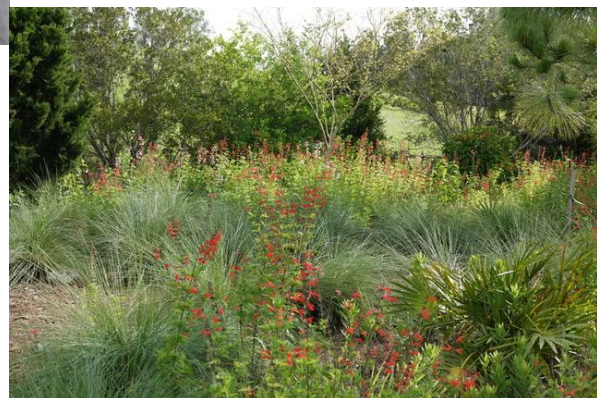
Pamela Callender, Eco-Artist
and Landscape Designer

**Landscape Design
Registration**

Presented by our Garden Doctor, Eco-Artist Pamela Callender

Sponsored by Sarasota Audubon and Serenoa Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society

Native Plant Landscape Design course running 2nd Saturdays through April from 9 am – 11 am at the Audubon's Nature Center building at 999 Center Road in Celery Fields on Palmer Blvd. **Classes are free** and open to the public. Please register by email to Pamela. Click registration button below.



Florida Young Birder's Club
Next Tour February 11 Oscar Scherer State Park

Register with QR Code for meeting place

The Sarasota FYBC chapter will hold a field trip on Sunday, February 11, at 9:00 am, at Oscar Scherer State Park. Our main goal will be to spot the Florida Scrub Jay, which is the only bird species that's endemic to Florida! We should also see a lot of other interesting birds while we're there.

Note that this is an event for young birders.

If you have friends who are interested, let them know they can join us if they become members of Sarasota Audubon or Florida Young Birders Club (or even both!).

I hope to see you there! Please tell me if you can make it.

~ Sophia Haakman, Sarasota Chapter Florida Young Birders



<https://www.fosbirds.org/birdingclubs.html>

**Join Us for a Boat Ride
March 27 at 8:00 AM**

Step on Board the Carefree Learner in March



Boat tours to Robert Bay Rookery on the Carefree Learner. See nesting herons, egrets, spoonbills and more. The boat is near downtown Sarasota, south of Marina Jack's restaurant. Take Ringling Blvd., off 41/Tamiami Trail, toward the water and into the parking lot. Our boat, the Carefree Learner, is docked next to La Barge, the big boat with mermaids and palm trees. This is near O'Leary's Tiki Bar and Grill. There is a public restroom next to O'Leary's. There are no facilities on the boat!

March 18 Carefree Learner

Reservations are required for this event.

\$30 per person

11:30-1:30

March 27 Carefree Learner

www.SarasotaAudubon.org

March 18 tour is FULL
Plenty of seats left on the March 27 boat!

[Carefree Learner Tickets](#)

**February Featured Artist
Members Art Show**

SARASOTA AUDUBON PRESENTS

ANNUAL MEMBER ART & PHOTO SHOW

Opening Reception Saturday,
February 3, 2024 - 4:00 to 6:00 PM

999 Center Road
Sarasota, FL 34240



February 1-29, 2024

9 AM-12 PM Mon-Fri

9 AM-3 PM Sat-Sun

For More Details:

SAS.Art.Committee@gmail.com
941-312-6533

Opening Reception:

- 50:50 Raffle
- Best in Show Art Committee Award
- Light Refreshments
- Open to the Public

Stop by the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center during the month of February to see the amazing works of our member artists!

Opening Reception February 3, 2023, 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Join us on Saturday, February 3, at 4 pm to recognize the best in show. Participate in the raffle for lovely prizes. Enjoy the artwork!

Guided Tours with Sarasota Audubon



Above: Red Bug Slough Preserve - SAS Tour February 29

Did you know that Sarasota Audubon Society leads several birding tours each month at various parks and preserves around Sarasota County?

These tours are free! Bring your own binoculars.

Here are just a sampling -- click button below to check the calendar.

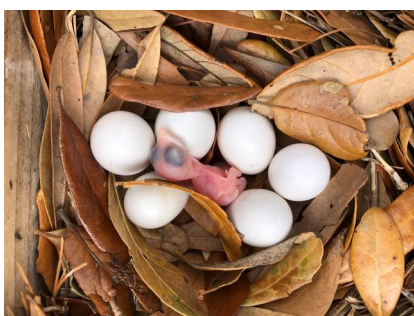
Each tour has different start time and leader.

- Celery Fields, 1st & 2nd Monday, 3rd & 4th Thursday
- Purple Martin Nest Check at the Nature Center, Sunday & Thursday
- Oscar Scherer State Park, 3rd & 4th Thursday
- Plus many other tours - check Event Calendar

RED BUG SLOUGH Tour rescheduled to Feb. 29 (Leap Day!)
due to Grand Re-Opening of the Preserve Feb.14

[Sarasota Audubon Event Calendar](#)

Purple Martin Volunteers Needed!



Join our Team!

This fun group manages the Purple Martins from January to mid July. You can join for a few weeks or for the duration.

Terry says: "We need strong bodies! The Martin Houses have been erected, and we are monitoring twice a week. Every hand helps!"

Joining the group, you will learn about the management of the Purple Martin, America's beloved bird and the Nature Center's avian ambassadors.

Contact me! "Keep 'em Flying!"

Terry Suchma

**Volunteer with Purple Martin
Team!**

Celery Fields Cleanup with Audubon!



Our next Palmer Blvd. cleanup is coming up:

Monday, February 12, 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**

Calling All Wingspan Players!



The popular bird-themed board game Wingspan will be continuing in 2024 at the Nature Center.

No, you don't have to know how to play, and you don't even need to know anything about birds. Our experienced players are happy to teach you the rules and give you tips for success, and the game itself teaches new facts about birds.

If you're going to attend, please [RSVP to Lynn](#)

February Game Dates

- Wednesday, Feb. 7
- Wednesday, Feb. 21

All games start at 12:30 pm 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!

Bird Blog: New Visitor to Our Lake by Glynnis Withrington

Last week we had a call from Sandy Ulricksen of the Wildlife Center of Southwest Florida. They had a Lesser Scaup they were ready to release, and our lake seemed exactly right.

The duck arrived and was released in the afternoon. It quickly joined the group of five



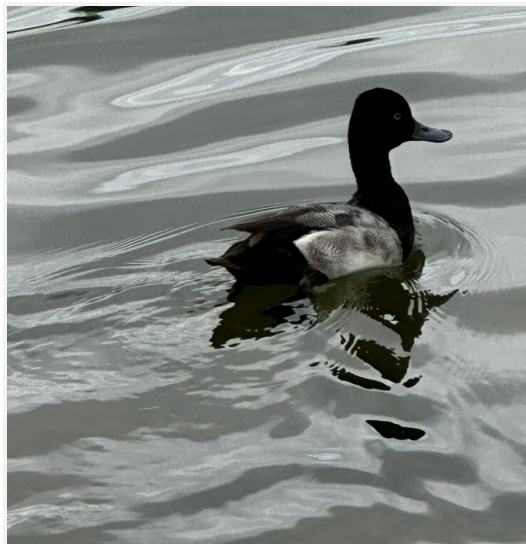
and all looked as if it was going well. However, about an hour later it was on the bank alone engaged in a big preening session.

Early the next morning I had my binoculars trained on the lake. There were the usual five, but no sign of the released bird. About half an hour later, we looked again, and yes, there were

six scaup!

This little guy was very lucky. Someone found him in their yard, half-starved and under the weather. Fortunately someone had the presence of mind to call the Wildlife Center, where he was taken good care of until he returned to full health. All ended well for him. Click Below to read entire Bird Blog

So, at this point I want to make a real plug for these amazing volunteers and this incredible organization, the Wildlife Center of Southwest Florida. Click the button below to learn more and donate if you wish.



[Wildlife Center of Southwest Florida](#)

[Read Entire Bird Blog Here](#)

CONSERVATION: Oyster River Ecology

Restoring Habitat Today



Oyster River Ecology's mission is to restore ecosystems and preserve ecological functions while increasing the understanding of the natural systems on which we all rely. ORE is a results-focused organization of ecologists, restoration practitioners and environmental educators. They are

dedicated to the habitat restoration, stewardship, beautification, and understanding of the environment to benefit quality of life for humans and wildlife alike, both now and for generations to come.

The following is from Sarasota Magazine By [Matthew Gutierrez](#)

At some point, everyone who loves our natural world experiences a punch-in-the-stomach realization at just how much environmental damage humans have caused. For Damon Moore, that moment came during the **2018 red tide bloom** that engulfed Florida's west coast. At the time, Moore was working in Manatee County's parks and natural resources department. He watched a video showing aerial views of places he'd fished with his father, Dave, as a kid. The area was dotted with dead fish.

"I know some habitats repair themselves, but that level of destruction for our natural systems—and for fishing, such an important part of our economy—made me really sad."

It also drove Moore to commit to making a difference. Among his fondest childhood memories were family trips to local preserves, which made him fall in love with Southwest Florida's beauty, from its native plants to its **mangroves** and wetlands. Moore developed a burning desire to protect it.

Today, Moore, 44, runs **Oyster River Ecology**, a new nonprofit centered on large-scale habitat restoration projects.

[Read Full Story Here](#)

Beach Nesting Birds and Climate



by Emily Reed, Program Director for New Jersey Audubon's Nature Center of Cape May (Editor's Note: this is true in Florida as well.)

Several species of beach nesting birds, including Piping Plovers, Least Terns, and Black Skimmers, occupy the beaches of Cape May during the breeding season. Their nests are quite vulnerable, often just a scrape in the sand. It is important that we protect our beaches from the impacts of climate change like sea-level rise for the sake of the birds, along with the humans who live near the beaches or visit them for vacation.

When we burn fossil fuels, we are releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere that continues to build up overtime. The carbon dioxide acts like a blanket over the world, trapping in heat and warming the earth and oceans. This trapped heat is melting glacial ice and increasing ocean temperatures and volume, leading to sea level rise. With higher sea levels we are more prone to coastal flooding and greater storm surge. These conditions can wash out entire colonies of beach nesting bird sites, putting a strain on their populations.

We need to rethink our society's reliance on fossil fuels. New Jersey is the most densely populated state in the U.S., and by working together to reduce our CO₂ emissions we can really make a difference. One solution is to walk or bike to the beach instead of driving. Not only does this action reduce CO₂ emissions from transportation but it also provides exercise and saves money on parking and gas. Cape May County has an extensive bike path and beautiful boardwalks, making it a very pedestrian-friendly community. There are several bike rental shops around town and bike racks all along the beachfront. If you are traveling to Cape May from far away and walking/biking is not an option, consider carpooling with family and friends

or taking a bus to limit the number of vehicles in use.

Our actions can help protect beach nesting birds from the destruction of their nesting sites caused by coastal flooding and storm surge. Let's work together to protect and preserve our beaches for the well-being of our feathered friends and fellow beachgoers.

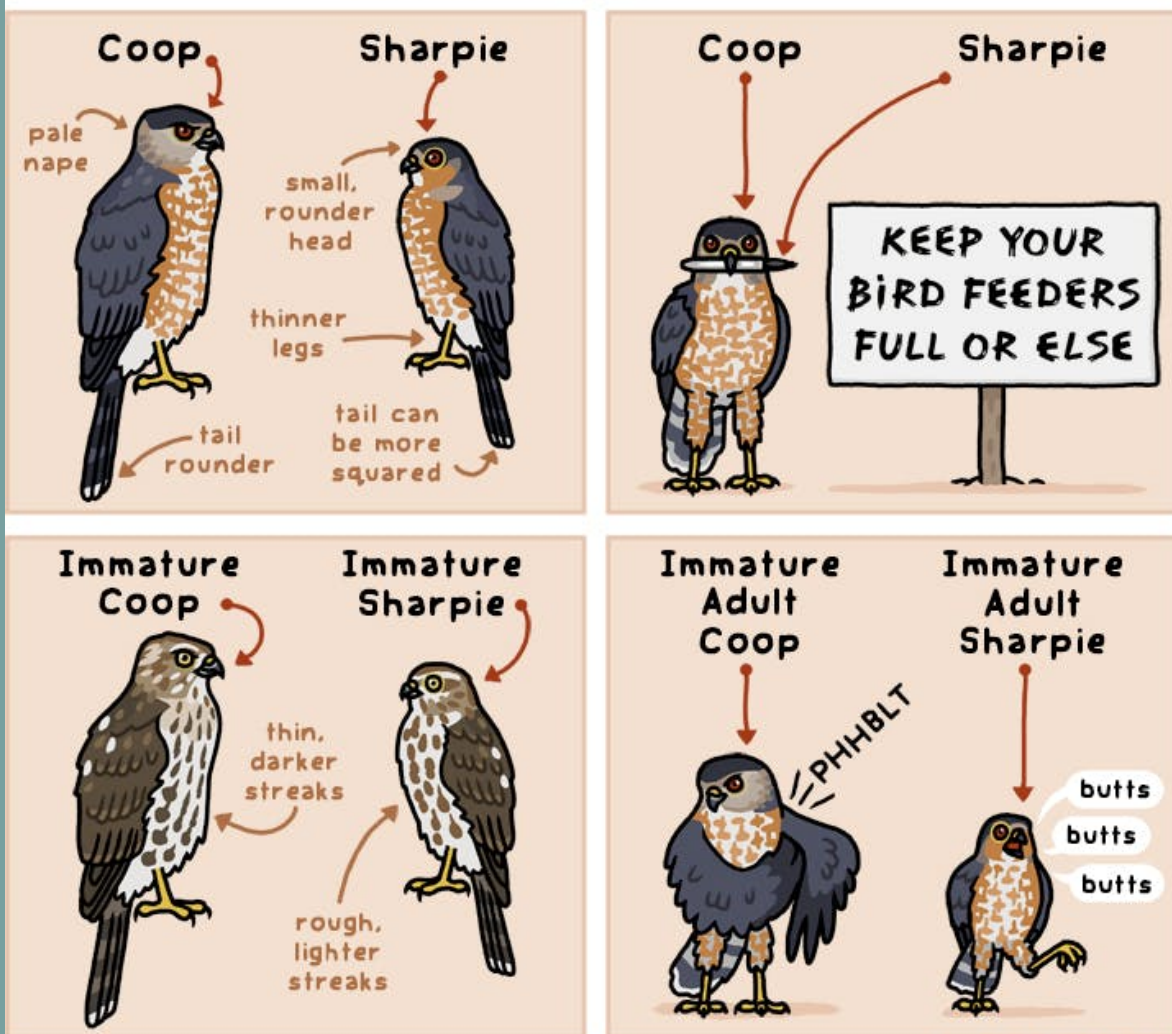
The Last Word Is Graphic: Coop or Sharpie

Bird and Moon, by Rosemary Mosco

This is referring to two hawk species, click on name for info:

Coopers Hawk Sharp-shinned Hawk

Coop or Sharpie: A Guide



birdandmoon.com



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

999 Center Road

Contact the Editor

Sarasota, FL 34240
941-312-6533

Activity Schedule



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