



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

March 2025



Above: Families enjoying Sarasota Audubon Day on Feb. 22

Dear Members,

I want to thank everyone who came out for our first annual **Sarasota Audubon Day** on Feb. 22nd. It was a beautiful day, and a few hundred people turned out to enjoy the bird walks, sale tables, activities and food trucks. We got to see so many members and many new faces too! If you missed this fun event, we will be doing another similar one to celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 26.

We are also starting to plan our annual chapter birding trip for 2026. We will be going to Panama in February of next year with Holbrook Travel. There will be an information session for this wonderful opportunity at 7 p.m. on March 19 at the Nature

Center. I encourage you to attend and learn more.

If you are interested in volunteering with us, we have a few positions open. We need docents to work at the desk in the Nature Center. If you are a good birder who loves educating and sharing your knowledge with others, we need bird naturalists to work the boardwalks in the morning and Purple Martin team members on Thursday and Sunday mornings, and we also are looking for a historian to keep a record of our activities. Come join us!

Finally, do not forget to renew your membership! If you did not receive an invitation from the system, please contact us at members@sarasotaudubon.org. If you do not want to use the online system, you are welcome to come in to the Nature Center or mail in a check to 999 Center Rd., Sarasota, FL 34240.

Happy Birding,

Sara Reisinger
Sarasota Audubon President
On Behalf of the Board of Directors

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

Monday, March 10, 7 p.m. on Zoom



Jared Del Rosso, Writer,
Birder, Sociologist, Educator

The Lonesome Whip-poor-will: The Untold Story of America's Most Iconic Bird, with Jared Del Rosso Monday, March 10

With their famous songs and nocturnal lives, Nightjars (like Eastern Whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks) are among the most iconic birds in the U.S. For centuries, they've shaped our songs, poetry and literature.

But despite their importance, nightjar numbers are declining. Most birders sense this, as it's becoming increasingly difficult to see and hear them.

Based on research for his in-progress book on Whip-poor-



wills, cultural sociologist Jared Del Rosso takes you behind the legend, lore and lives of America's nightjars.

**Register March 10
Zoom**

Above: Eastern Whip-poor-will
(Tom Murray)

Notes from the Nature Center



Above: Volunteers from Temple Emanu-El at the Nature Center in February

Take the win: We are overjoyed with the vote by our Sarasota County Commissioners to deny rezoning of the Raymond Road agricultural property. People of all ages wrote letters and attended the hearing in February to express how much this natural area means to them. With a vote of 5-0, the Commission took one more step to preserve wildlife habitat and prevent the parcel from being turned into more than 100 homes. Many thanks to everyone who helped in this vital effort! We remain vigilant as appeals by the developer can continue.

Members Meet & Greet: Learn about the new *Sarasota Audubon: An Historical Perspective* book with author Raymond Young on Wednesday, March 19, from 2 to 3:30. We

invite our members to the Nature Center for snacks and conversation with fellow Auduboners. If you're not a member yet, you can [join online](#) or at the event. Hope to see you there!

Historian Wanted: We're in search of a Sarasota Audubon Volunteer Historian to help keep track of all the activities our organization is involved in. Ours is a particularly active Audubon chapter, so we need someone with energy and computer skills. Archiving experience is a plus, but we will train. Please visit our website and [fill out the volunteer application](#).

Earth Day on April 26, Save the Date: Sarasota Audubon will celebrate with activities for kids and adults as well as food trucks and guided tours, all based at the Nature Center.

Sarasota Audubon Day: On Feb. 22, hundreds of guests came to Celery Fields for nature walks, presentations, crafts for kids and food trucks. The weather was perfect, and we enjoyed pizza and ice cream while Nanday Parakeets called from the trees. A congregation of Sandhill Cranes even joined the party by soaring in and landing on Mount Celery.

New in the Gift Shop: We've just restocked our wildly popular Mount Celery t-shirts! Both men's and women's sizes are available right now, so stop in soon to get yours. No, we don't ask for proof that you climbed Mt. Celery in order to buy a shirt, but if you want to take a selfie when you're up there, you can show it to the docent who checks out your purchase. Also, remember to ask about the discount for members.

See you outdoors!

Kim Sullivan, Building Manager

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

New Aldo Leopold Benches in the Butterfly Garden

Sponsor a Leopold Bench

Big thanks to Jonathan Rose for building the new benches overlooking the Mary Jelks

Butterfly Garden. We are offering the opportunity to sponsor a bench, a perfect memorial for a loved one.

The famous [**Aldo Leopold bench**](#) is perfect for observing and studying wildlife. The bench is named for Aldo Leopold, an internationally recognized figure in wildlife conservation and pioneering author and philosopher on environmental ethics and land stewardship. By sitting backward, with legs through the opening, people can use the backrest to provide sturdy support for the elbows while using binoculars or cameras to observe nature.



Contact Kim Sullivan, Building Manager, for sponsorship information.

Memorial Bench Info

Nature Journaling Workshop March 23 at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center



A nature journal is a lens that focuses your attention, enriches your experiences and develops your skills as a naturalist. This practice also enhances your observations, curiosity and joy.

Nature Journaling can consist of field notes, field sketches, observations, thoughts, feelings or anything else that captures your curiosity.

Workshop leader Jenny Cherry was a featured artist at the Nature Center in May 2023. She is a graduate of the Ringling College of Art and Design and an avid illustrator of portraits and landscapes.



Art Update: Jean Blackburn and Steven Schaefer



Above: "How Many Does it Take?" on exhibit at the Nature Center

Sarasota Audubon is very pleased to present the joint offerings of Jean Blackburn and Steven Schaefer for our March art exhibit at the Nature Center. The couple work together on their art as well as the rehabilitation of wildlife. Steven does most of the photography; Jean is the painter.

Jean and Steven have lived on 14 acres in Old Myakka for 35 years. What was mostly open pasture is now a varied native ecosystem that provides habitat for many birds and other wildlife species. The majority of the artworks in this exhibit portray life on their property and in Myakka River State Park.

Steven Schaefer's professional career included heading the Manatee County Public Defenders office. He holds an Oceans and Environmental Law degree from the University of Oregon.

Jean Blackburn completed her MFA also from the University of Oregon. She taught fine arts there and at New College of Florida, Ringling College of Art and Design and State College of Florida, Manatee.



Above: "Yellow-bellied Sapsucker" by Jean Blackburn with Steven Schaefer



The Garden Gate: Native Landscape Talks



Above: Pam Callender teaching her Native Landscaping Class in February

Pamela Callender returns with her Landscape Design with Natives class!

2nd Saturday, March 8: 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Each month builds on the previous class. March class will focus on

- **Plant Maintenance**
- **Trimming and Weeding**
- **Care of Tools**

Donations accepted.

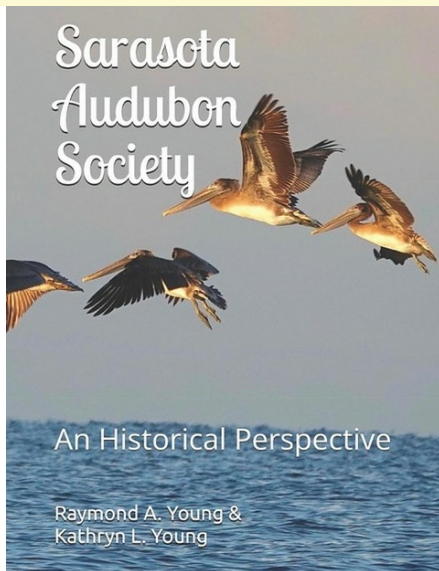
**Thank you,
Temple Emanu-El!**

On Feb. 9 more than 100 people came out to spread pine straw on the garden paths. This is an annual event provided by Temple Emanu-El, thanks



to longtime Sarasota Audubon member Barry Gerber. Barry tells us that this is their Tikkun Olam "Repairing the World" project. There was an awesome turnout this year. Thank you!

Sarasota Audubon Society: An Historical Perspective



Learn about the book from the co-authors at our Member Meet & Greet on March 19 at the Nature Center.

The book is now available in our Gift Shop or on [Amazon!](#)

Purchase at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center Gift Shop so that more of the proceeds benefit our Society!

Purple Martin Nest Checks Begin! Thursday and Sunday Mornings

11 a.m. Sunday and Thursday

Join us at the Nature Center at 11 a.m. on Sunday or Thursday mornings to learn about the fascinating lives of the Purple Martin. Soon there will be babies to count!

Also, if you are interested in becoming a part of the Nest Check Team, click below to let Terry know you can help!

[Nest Check Volunteer](#)



Volunteer Spotlight: All Call!



Volunteers Needed!

As always, we're looking for volunteers to help us in our important work on behalf of the birds. We have opportunities for:

- Docents in the [Nature Center](#)
- Gardeners in our [Native Plant Gardens](#)
- Bird Naturalists on our [Boardwalks](#)
- Bluebird Team for the [Bluebird Data](#)
- Purple Martin Team for [Nest Monitoring](#)
- Sarasota Audubon [Historian](#)

[More information on Purple Martin Team](#)

Click the blue link to email team lead for more information.

Volunteers receive a volunteer t-shirt along with the satisfaction of being an integral part of our Celery Fields team.

--> If you're a brand new volunteer, please start by filling out the application on the [Volunteer Portal](#) page of our website. If you have questions, email our Volunteer Coordinator at the button below.

[Volunteer
Portal](#)

[Contact the Volunteer
Coordinator](#)

Celery Fields Cleanup – March 10, 9 a.m.

The final cleanup opportunity for the season is Monday, March 10, 2025, at 9 a.m. at the Nature Center



You can find the county release form at the link below. Please fill it out and submit before coming to the cleanup.

Information for the form:

Affiliation: Sarasota Audubon Society

Location: Palmer Road between Bell Road and Tatum School

Please let us know if you are planning to volunteer. Thanks!

[RSVP to Shelley](#)

[County Release Form](#)

Panama February 2026 Tour Information Session Wednesday, March 19 at 7 p.m.



When it comes to birds, Panama boasts the highest diversity of species in Central America; the country's advantageous location at the convergence of two continents makes it the prime place of respite for migratory birds

from both North and South America.

Spend time birding in two distinct regions—the tropical rainforests bordering the Panama Canal, and the midlands and highlands of Chiriquí Province in western Panama—for the chance to see a multitude of species at varying elevations.

On this eight-day adventure, join SAS Board Member Aaron Virgin, an acclaimed ecotourism birding leader, as you explore public and private reserves, visit noteworthy birding hotspots, witness the Panama Canal's Miraflores Locks in action and spend eight days immersed in the country's inviting culture and natural landscapes.

Join Aaron Virgin and Holbrook Travel on March 19

at 7 p.m. at the Nature Center to learn more about this awesome birding tour opportunity.

[Contact Aaron for more information](#)

Galveston Birding Opportunity -- Photography Workshops in Stevenson Woods



Above: Catbird and Rose-breasted Grosbeak face off while a male Painted Bunting watches. *Alan Murphy*

Galveston Ornithological Society is opening up **Stevenson Woods**, the incredible "warbler" yard in Galveston, Texas, this spring to bird photographers to shoot in **five-day workshops**. This is the site made famous by Alan Murphy and Brian Small for twenty-five years!

Two five-day sessions offered in the heart of the songbird migration are April 23-27 and April 28-May 2. Be sure to note that you are from Sarasota Audubon Society when booking the tour.

Even if you are not interested in the tour, be sure to click the button to see all the amazing birds in this yard!

[View the Birds at Stevenson Woods with Photo Tour Information](#)

Below Left: Canada Warbler Right: Scissor-tailed Flycatcher



Calling All Potential Wingspan Players! Thursday Evenings Added for Experienced Players



Come join us for the popular board game that has everyone rolling dice and hoping for a rat. Or grain. Or maybe fruit. If you've never played, you might not understand what that means, but show up for one game and we'll teach you the ropes.

Wingspan is free to play, and we have plenty of copies of the game for everyone to participate. All Sarasota Audubon members age 18+ are welcome. If you're not a member yet, you can join at the Nature Center when we're open, or [join online at this link](#).

If you'd like to participate, please [email Lynn](#) before the next game to let us know you're going to be there.

Daytime Schedule for March (newbies welcome):

- **Wednesday, March 5**
- **Friday, March 21**

All games start at 12:30 in the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center at the Celery Fields: 999 Center Road, Sarasota

Wingspan Evening Sessions: For you night owls or holders of day jobs, Stacy Perry will be hosting Wingspan games on Thursday evenings at 6 pm. Experienced players only at these sessions, please.

Evening Schedule for March (experienced only):

- **Thursday, March 6**
- **Thursday, March 13**
- **Thursday, March 20**
- **Thursday, March 27**

All games start at 6 p.m. in the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center.

If you'd like to participate, please **email Stacy** before the next game to let us know you're going to be there.

Calling All Bird Stewards! Beach Nesting Season Is Coming...

Beach Nesting Stewards play a vital role in protecting beach-nesting birds at Siesta Key, Lido Key and Longboat Key. Educating the public through outreach at these nesting sites will bring awareness to the importance of sharing the beach with these imperiled species.

If you are interested in becoming a steward, please reply with your preferred volunteer location.

**Reply to Steward
Coordinator**



SRQ Bird Alerts Continues as SRQ Bird News



Allyson Maiolo, SRQ Bird Alerts

I'm here to help, and I look forward to fostering a community where we can share our love of birds. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or suggestions for the group. Happy birding!
Allyson Maiolo
SRQBirdNewsOwner@gmail.com

Dear Sarasota Birders,

As many of you know, Peter Rice, who managed and owned SRQ Bird Alerts for many years, sadly passed away. After some conversations with Sarasota Audubon members and leadership, I have stepped in to take over the group's ownership.

For those who don't know me, I'm Allyson Maiolo, a third-grade teacher, backyard birder, beekeeper and nature enthusiast living in North Port. My husband, Jason, and I are members of the Venice Audubon Society, and we've been following SRQ Bird Alerts since the Yahoo group days. You might have seen my posts about the Eastern Screech Owl nest that pops up in our yard every spring.

If you think you've been dropped from SRQ Bird News (previously SRQ Bird Alerts) or if you are interested and want to subscribe to the group, simply click below to send an email to join!

[Join SRQ Bird News](#)

**The Last Word Is Graphic:
Zugunruhe
Cornell BirdWord by Rosemary Mosco**

zugunruhe

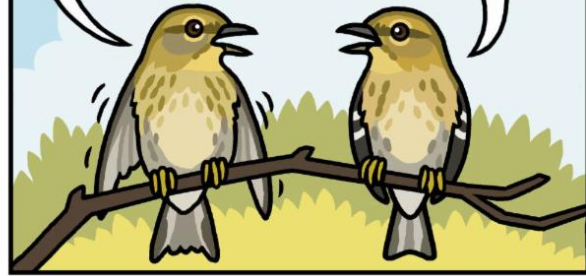
/ˈtsuːkˌʊnrʊːə/ [German]

noun

Migratory restlessness; when songbirds are ready to migrate, they literally cannot sit still.

I'm so antsy lately! I wonder what that means?

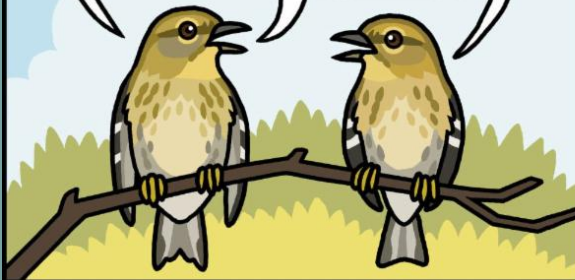
It means you're about to fly thousands of perilous miles over land and sea.



Uh, no. That's preposterous.

It's true!

Hah! Sure. We'll see about that.



Later that night...

Well darnit.



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