



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

May 2025



Above: Volunteers make the world go 'round! Sarasota Audubon Earth Day with Beth Salyers, Stacy Perry and Christian Dillon.

Dear Members,

It has been a momentous season at Sarasota Audubon. We broke ground at the Quad Parcels. We fought a development within 200 feet of the Raymond Road boardwalk, and we won. We prepped for and recovered from three storms. All in one year! None of this would have been possible without all of you. Your donations, passion and volunteer hours made everything come to life.

If you haven't renewed your SAS membership, please consider doing so. We are creating a variety of member-only events and many opportunities for members to have first crack at signing up for events. Please don't miss out. It's a great way to support the daily operations of our chapter with lots of benefits for you!

Enjoy your summer! It will be so fun to hear of everyone's

adventures and all of the amazing rare species from around the world you see when we gather in the fall.

Best,

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

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

Monday, May 12, 7 p.m. on Zoom
Megan Suau, Gorilla Conservation in Rwanda



Megan Suau, Architect

Gorilla Conservation in Rwanda with Megan Suau Monday, May 12

Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

Megan Suau, architect, speaks about her gorilla conservation work on the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund in Rwanda.

The Ellen Campus, which opened in 2022 near Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park – home to the majestic mountain gorillas – is the realization of a 20-year dream. This world-class research and education center honors Dian Fossey's legacy and furthers the mission to save gorillas from extinction.

The campus is open daily to the public, offering state-of-the-art exhibits showcasing nearly 60 years of gorilla conservation, serene nature trails and the opportunity to connect with the dedicated staff.



Above: Mountain Gorillas

"At the Fossey Fund, we protect gorillas, their forest neighbors and the ecosystems in which they live".
SavingGorillas on Instagram

Go Wild with Us! Join Us as We Re-wild the Quad Parcels



RE-WILDING THE QUAD PARCELS



Above: Our re-wilding vision for the SE Quad Parcel

Help Us Reforest the Quad Parcels

☐ Trees ☐ Shrubs ☐ Flowering Plants

With your funds, we can purchase and install trees, shrubs and flowering plants needed for wildlife habitat on the Quad Parcels at the Celery Fields. We are planting to draw new birds, targeting woodland species, to the SE Quad Parcel. Your donation will transform the area from grass to the enriched habitat that our woodland birds and wildlife need to survive and thrive.

The Vision: Trees. Shrubs. Flowering plants. Go wild with us! Donate today!

Please donate what you can. For a donation of at least \$250, you can have



**your name on a leaf on the
Quad tree at the Nature
Center!**

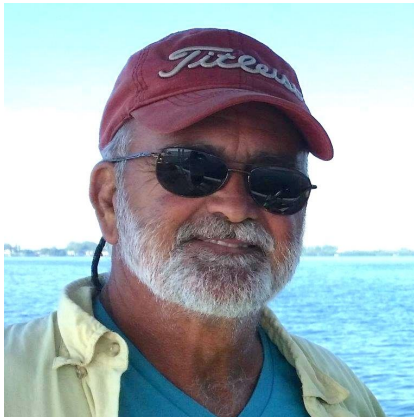
Donate to Re-Wild the Quads

Prefer a Check?

**Made to: Sarasota Audubon Society
Memo: "Quad Project" in the memo line**

Mail to: 999 Center Rd., Sarasota, FL 34240.

Questions? [Contact Jeanne Dubi](#)



**Pictured: Lee Alderman, Horticulturist,
Owner - Silver Moon Landscapes
Design & Installation**

**Currently Lee is installing the irrigation
for establishing the habitat at the SE
Quad Parcel. Watch for him as you
drive along Palmer Blvd!**

Notes from the Nature Center



Above: Sarasota Young Birders Zachary and Sophia at our Earth Day event

As another birding season draws to a close in Sarasota, many of us are experiencing the bittersweet emotions that are so common at this time of year. On the one hand, it was an exciting year, surrounded by both old and new friends – and it's difficult to say farewell to them for the next four months. On the other hand, it's relaxing to spend the summer catching up on projects around the house and visiting family up north.

Summer Wingspan: If you're one of the many fans of the game Wingspan, don't worry that you'll be cut off over the summer. We'll continue to hold games at the Nature Center on Wednesdays at 12:30 and Thursdays at 6 o'clock. See Wingspan section below for details.

Gift Shop: One of our important summer projects is to plan next year's new Nature Center Gift Shop merchandise. This summer we need to put the finishing touches on next season's original t-shirt design. Will it be Noisy Nanday Parakeets or Colorful Painted Buntings or Honking Snow Birds or...? Stay tuned to find out!

Florida Young Birders Club: Under 18? We haven't forgotten about you. If you're 9 to 17 years old, you can join the [Florida Young Birder's Club](#) and meet other young birders. We love the energy that young people bring to Sarasota Audubon!

Earth Day: On April 26, we welcomed scores of visitors for our Sarasota Audubon Earth Day celebration at the Nature Center! Children and adults enjoyed the many events that were going on

throughout the day, including nature walks, birding at the boardwalks and gazebo, arts and crafts at the Nature Center and a native plant sale on the patio.

Farewell for now: No matter their plans, we wish all of our volunteers and members a relaxing summer, and we look forward to welcoming them back in October when we reopen for another season. Make sure your Sarasota Audubon membership is up-to-date so you'll receive notification of our 2025-2026 calendar of events as soon as it's available. You don't want to miss anything when we reopen.

See you outdoors!

Kim Sullivan, Building Manager

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

Art Update: Jean Blackburn and Steven Schaefer Exhibit Extended through May



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

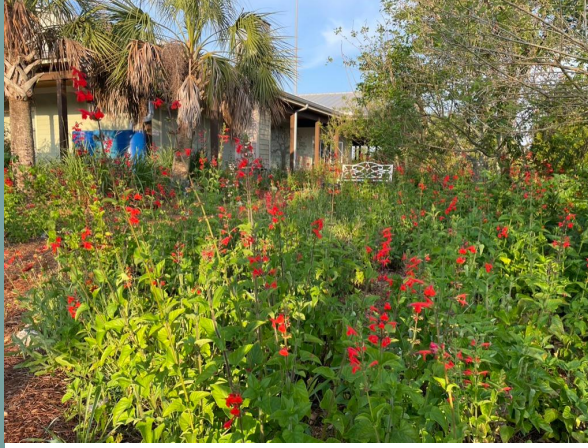


How many does it take?



The Garden Gate:

Keep 'em coming: Just because the Nature Center will be closed, that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the Celery Fields and our Native Plant Garden. Slather on sunscreen, grab a wide-brimmed hat and come take a



walk. Or get up early to visit before the sun gets too intense. The property is open every day of the year from dawn until dusk.

Volunteers still needed:

Even though the Nature Center will be closed for four months, we still need gardeners to keep our native plant gardens looking their best. Our [Garden Manager Stacy Perry](#) will be happy to show you what needs to be done. Email her with any questions.



Stacy Perry, Garden Manager

Report Roseate Spoonbill Sightings!

Give Scientists a Leg Up!

 Audubon | FLORIDA



Report Banded Spoonbill Sightings

Learn more at audubon.org/florida/spoonbills

Photo: Andrew McCullough/Audubon Photography Awards

Audubon Florida's Everglades Science Center team is calling on bird enthusiasts across the state to search for Roseate Spoonbills and report banded birds. Each band re-sight will win a special sticker and contribute to critical population data for this iconic Florida species.

This is especially important in our area because as sea-level rise transforms South Florida's fringe of wetlands into open ocean, Roseate Spoonbills are moving north.

**Report A
Sighting**

Learn More Here

**Member Exclusive: A Tour of Jean Blackburn's Ranch
and Studio**



On March 26 a group of 15 Sarasota Audubon members joined artist Jean Blackburn at her ranch for a tour of the area. Many birds were seen along with early spring wildflowers. Click below to view all images and eBird list.

Photos of Jean Blackburn's Ranch

Time to Renew Local Membership



Join by end of May to get full
benefits of membership.

- Early Registration for Events
- Discounts in Gift Shop
- Member-only Events

**Support your Local Sarasota
Audubon Chapter!**

Renew Membership Now

Purple Martin Nest Checks Continue 10 a.m Thursday and Sunday Mornings

**10 a.m. Sunday and
Thursday**

Note the earlier start time, as
the weather warms up, we protect

ourselves!

Join us at the Nature Center at 10 a.m. on Sunday or Thursday mornings to learn about the fascinating life cycle of the Purple Martin.

Earth Day participants got a treat with a rare Saturday nest count. Chicks were almost ready to fledge!

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Nest Check Team, click below to let Terry know you can help! We need volunteers until the birds move north, through mid-July.

**Volunteer to Check
Nests**



Volunteer Spotlight: All Call!



Above: Julia Winters and Harma Nyhof selling surplus books

Volunteers Needed - See new items below.

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

- Youth Education Activities for **Tabling Events**: We need some hands-on fun, engaging activities for when we are at events for kids. Bring on the new ideas!
- Audubon Day in February **Festival Committee**: Plan ahead for a super exciting day next February with multiple food trucks and vendors.
- Sarasota Audubon **Historian**: Guide us into the future based on our past events. Keep track of events, attendance, photos, provide re-cap at the end of the year for future planning.
- Summer Gardeners in our **Native Plant Gardens**
- Purple Martin Team for **Purple Martin Monitoring**
[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**

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



Come join us for Wingspan, the Game. Show up for the afternoon session and we'll teach you the ropes. Evenings for experienced players only.

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, May 7
- Wednesday, May 21

All games start at 12:30 in the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center at the Celery Fields: 999 Center Road, Sarasota
In June we will begin playing every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

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

Evening Schedule for March (experienced players):

- Thursday, May 1
- Thursday, May 8
- Thursday, May 15
- Thursday, May 22
- Thursday May 29

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 evening game to let us know you're going to be there.

Join the
**Dawn Chorus
for Forests**
May 4th



OUR FORESTS. OUR STRENGTH.



Did you know that in other parts of the world the first Sunday in May is Dawn Chorus for Forests Day? People around the world make time to listen to the sweet sounds of birds singing at dawn.

Let's celebrate here in Sarasota! Listen in the early morning on Sunday May 4th. To get you ready, click below to learn about a few common Southeastern songbirds.

[Sing us a Song!](#)

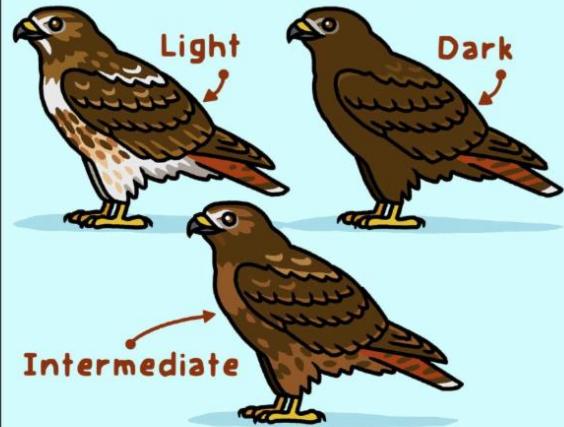
**The Last Word Is Graphic:
Polymorphism**
Bird Word by Rosemary Mosco

polymorphism

noun

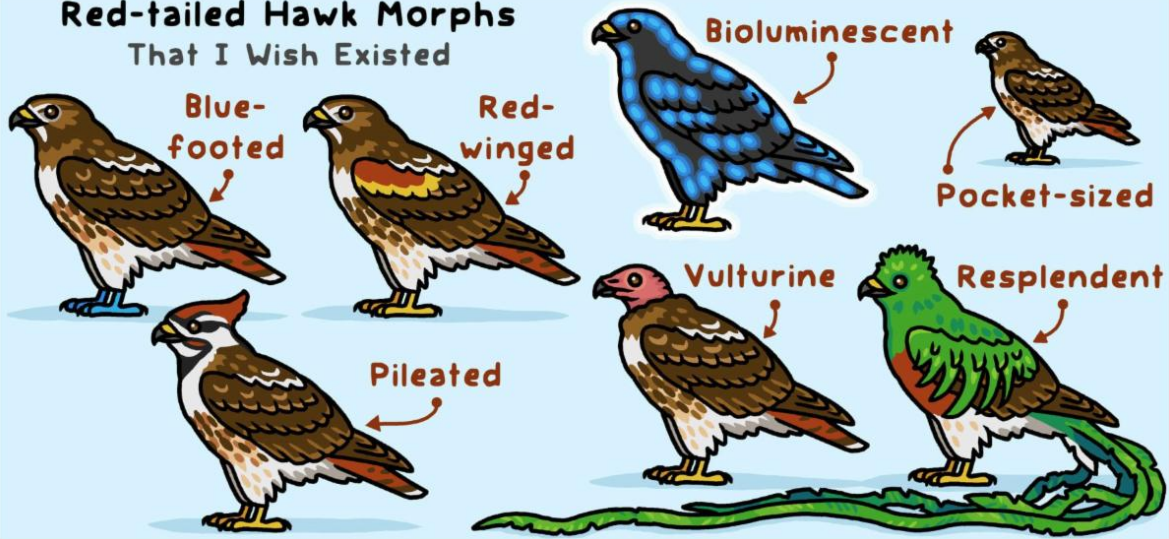
When one species contains two or more types of individuals (morphs) that differ by color or other physical characteristics unrelated to sex, age, locality, or season.

Red-tailed Hawk Morphs (*calurus* subspecies)



Note: these fall on a spectrum.

Red-tailed Hawk Morphs That I Wish Existed



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