



# THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

## AUGUST 2025



Dear Members,

It's time to start gearing up for birding season again!

We have some very exciting programs we are launching this year. We will be offering a full range of classes - some free and some for a small fee. **Members will have an opportunity to sign up early** for spots in the classes before they are made available to the public. Members also receive half off each of the classes. If your membership has lapsed, make sure you renew now so you are eligible. As soon as the classes become available, members will receive an email, so be on the lookout for that in the next few weeks.

All of the bird walks for the season can be found on the online calendar already. If you have a minute, check it out. There are some



new locations we are birding this year, including Lakewood Ranch. Get them on your calendar now!

We have heard you and we will be offering more opportunities for in-person gatherings this year. We are introducing evening socials - **Birds and Brews at Big Top**. It is sure to be a great time to get together and talk about what you are seeing and learning with other birders. We will also be doing one of our monthly general membership evening meetings in person this year! Stay tuned for details.

Please see below for volunteer dates to help get the garden and the building ready for reopening - our "Fall Cleaning" if you will! It's a great time to see people you have missed all summer while helping the chapter get ready for the upcoming season.

Looking forward to a great season!

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

## Volunteers Needed in September To Prepare for Opening!



**Garden Days 7 am - 11 am**  
Wednesdays, September 10 and 17

Saturdays, September 13, 20 and 27

## **Building Cleanup Day 9 am - 11 am**

Saturday, September 20

## **Put up Bird Feeders 7 am - 11 am**

Saturday, September 27

- No need to RSVP, just show up when you can.
- Garden tasks include weeding, mulching the pathways and general sprucing up.
- Building cleanup includes deep cleaning the inside of the Nature Center: dusting, vacuuming and arranging the gift shop.

## Early Morning Bird Walk with Helen King at Selby Gardens

# THE HIGH LIFE:

Contemporary  
Photography  
and the Birds



**SELBY GARDENS**

THE LIVING MUSEUM • DOWNTOWN SARASOTA

JULY 19 - SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Screenshot



Sarasota County  
Tourist Development Tax  
Paid for in part by Sarasota County

**SELBY.ORG**

Spree Starling #1, 2019 © Luke Stephenson

## **Saturday September 6**

### **Early Morning Bird Walk with Helen King**

8 am - 10 am

Selby members: \$30; Nonmembers: \$40; limited to 25 people

Did you know Selby Gardens is a designated birding hot spot? Enjoy this unique opportunity to explore the Gardens before opening hours as we search high and low (tide) for birds! Sarasota Audubon's expert bird naturalists will lead this walk into



the avian world and help you to identify species. September is the beginning of migration season, and 160 different bird species have been documented in the Gardens over the years, so this could be your chance to add a new bird or two to your "life list"!

## Register for Sept. 6 Bird Walk at Selby Gardens

**General admission to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens is included in the fee for the talk above.**

We encourage you to stay after the program and enjoy the Gardens and their exhibition "[The High Life: Contemporary Photography and the Birds](#)" at your leisure.

**Green<sup>®</sup>Backyard**

**Provides Barn Owl Box**



Above: Lisa Sykes after putting up the new Barn Owl Box.

### Barn Owl Nest Box to Get an Inside Look—Thanks to Green-Backyard

Sarasota Audubon Society is excited to announce a new partnership with Green Backyard, which has generously donated a bird box camera for one of our Barn Owl nest boxes. This innovative tool will allow us to observe the owls up close—right from inside the box!

**Installation of the camera is planned for October 2025.** Once it's live, we'll share a streaming link with our members and supporters so you can follow along—whether the owls are roosting during the day or actively nesting and raising young. Even outside the breeding season, the box may serve as a valuable roosting site, offering ongoing insight into the lives of these

This partnership reflects Green-Backyard's mission to inspire new ways of bird observation through technology, and we're proud to bring that shared vision to life here in Sarasota. We're deeply grateful for their support and can't wait to share this unique perspective with our

community.

Interested in setting up your own nest box camera? Green-Backyard offers a range of camera systems for bird boxes—perfect for backyard birders and nature lovers alike.

fascinating nocturnal birds.

Stay tuned for updates—and get ready for an unforgettable view into our local Barn Owls' world.

**Visit Green-Backyard**

## That's Wild: A Canada Goose being raised by Sandhill Cranes in Wisconsin



by **Cynthia Carlson on YouTube**

Families come in all shapes and sizes — and sometimes species.

In Madison, Wisconsin, a pair of sandhill cranes has apparently adopted a baby Canada goose, and they're raising it as their own. This kind of cross-species adoption has only been documented a few times, including in 2011 when a goose was spotted living and behaving like a crane in Alaska.



Perhaps it's no surprise. Sandhill cranes and Canada geese are both highly adaptive species well-equipped to move through a variety of environments, including urban areas.



[Watch a heartwarming video](#) of one of the parents with the adopted gosling and a baby crane (called a colt for their long legs).

[Click Here to Watch](#)

## Calling All Potential Wingspan Players! Wednesday Afternoons for All, Thursday Evenings 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.

### Daytime Schedule for Summer (newbies welcome):

- Every Wednesday at 12:30 pm

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

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

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**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 pm Experienced players only at these sessions, please.

### Evening Schedule for Summer (experienced players):

- Every Thursday at 6:00 pm

All games start at 6 pm in the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center at the Celery Fields: 999 Center Road, Sarasota

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

## The Last Word Is Graphic: Loafing Birdword from Cornell Lab by Rosemary Mosco

**loafing**

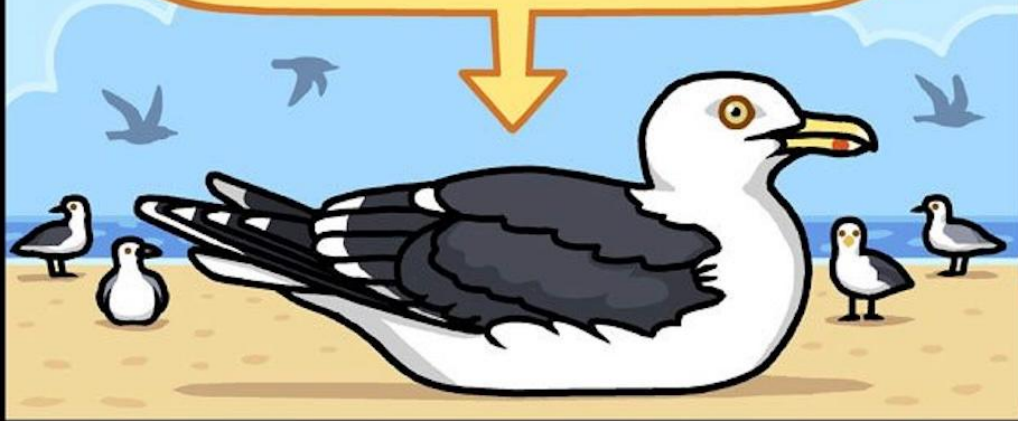
*verb*

Sitting or standing around for a period of time without engaging in feeding or breeding activities. Many birds gather to do this in dedicated loafing areas.



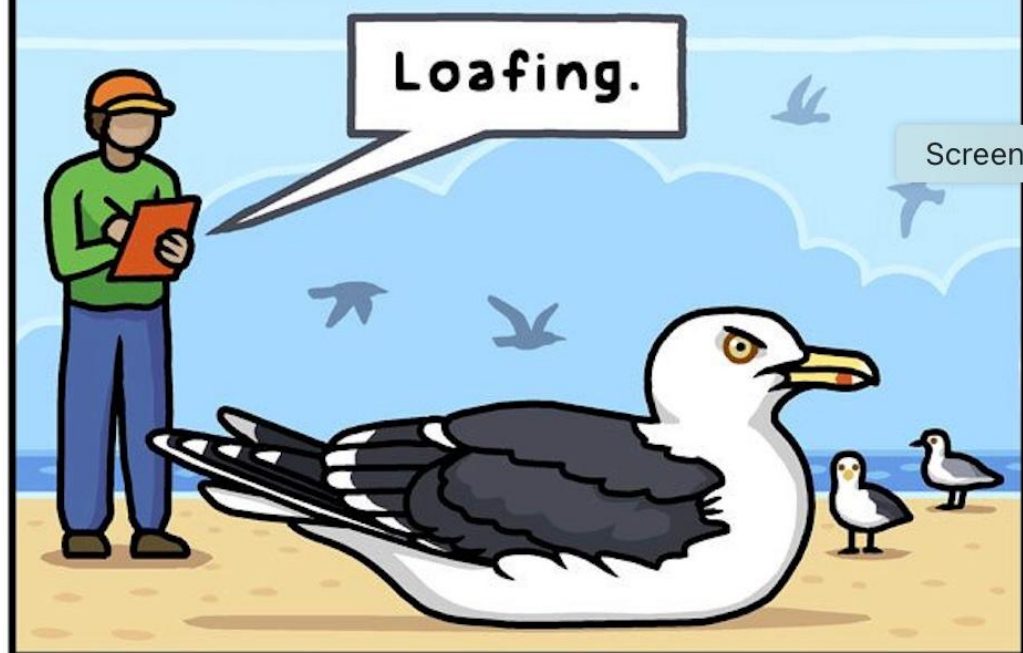
## What This Bird Is Doing

Plotting the next great American novel: A sweeping tale of a lovelorn barnacle set against the backdrop of the ocean acidification crisis.



## What Ornithologists Say This Bird Is Doing

Loafing.



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SARASOTA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Membership

Membership Platform

Member benefits include:

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

**Support your Local Sarasota Audubon Chapter!**



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Activity Schedule

Contact the Editor



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