



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 2025



Dear Members,

The Nature Center is back in full swing Fridays through Sundays in October. We had a very successful opening weekend, with many people stopping by.

The activity calendar is posted online, and paper copies are available to pick up at the Nature Center as well. We have many new programs this year, and in the next few days members will have the opportunity to register first for classes. You will need to do this through the new membership system, MemberPlanet. An email will be sent to members with a link to the registrations and you should log into your member account to take advantage of discounts.

We rolled MemberPlanet out last season to ensure more security and more benefits for our members. The system has a more robust payment platform that protects all your personal information in a much

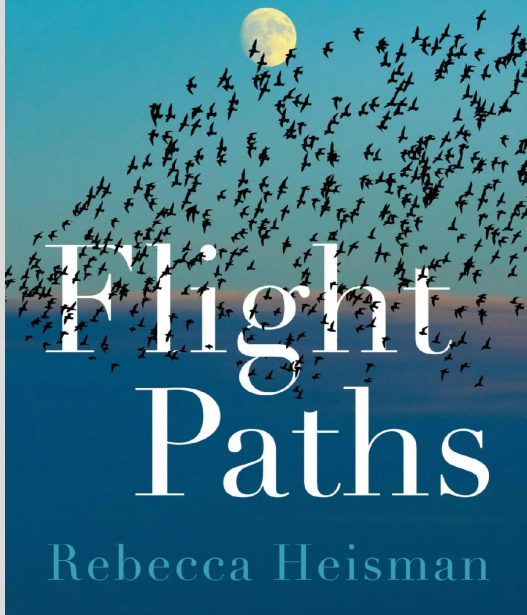
better fashion than our previous system. This system also gives you a full year membership from the date you paid. It will send you reminders when it is time to renew, and you can click on the link provided at that time and pay, or come into the Center to pay, or mail in a check. We have been working through the bumps as we encounter them. If you are having any issues with MemberPlanet, please let us know and we will troubleshoot them with you. Our goal is never to frustrate anyone and to offer more to our members in a more secure manner.

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

Sarasota Audubon Nature Center Open!
October hours:
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
9 a.m. - Noon

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION
Monday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Zoom

How a Passionate and Quirky Group
of Pioneering Scientists Solved the
Mystery of Bird Migration



Flight Paths with
Rebecca Heisman

***Flight Paths: How a
Passionate and Quirky
Group of Pioneering
Scientists Solved the
Mystery of Bird
Migration***

We've all heard amazing facts about bird migration — the long distances that birds travel, the ways that they navigate, etc. But did you ever wonder how we figured all of this out?

While working for the American Ornithological Society, Rebecca Heisman became fascinated with the varied and creative techniques that scientists have used to study bird migration,



Rebecca Heisman, Freelance
Science Writer

Rebecca Heisman is an award-winning science writer who lives in Walla Walla, Wash., and has worked with organizations including the Audubon Society, the American Bird Conservancy, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the American Ornithological Society. *Flight Paths* is her first book.

and this eventually became the basis for her book *Flight Paths: How a Passionate and Quirky Group of Pioneering Scientists Solved the Mystery of Bird Migration*.

In her talk, Rebecca will share some surprising stories from the history of bird migration research and discuss why understanding migration is so crucial for bird conservation.

Register

New Classes from Sarasota Audubon! For Beginners to Advanced Birders





Announcing New Classes for the 2025-26 Audubon Calendar Year.

Sarasota Audubon is thrilled to welcome Jamie Rotenberg to the team! He is heading up our Education Program with a full roster of classes for birders of all levels, from beginning to advanced. Jamie is working with many of our esteemed members to share their knowledge as instructors in this expanded class list.

Jamie Rotenberg is an Emeritus Professor of Ornithology in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He received his Ph.D. at the University of California, Riverside, specializing in community ecology. When out in the field, Jamie has conducted avian monitoring and research projects in Central America, Mexico and the Carolinas and has worked on habitat restoration for bird communities.

Look for an eBlast on upcoming classes -- at the Nature Center and in the field -- in your inbox soon.

Notes from the Nature Center



We're back! And not a moment too soon, either. We've got dozens of volunteers who want to share their vast knowledge of birds, native plants and gift shop merchandise, but with the Nature Center closed, they had no guests to share it with. That's about to change! The bird feeders are filled, and the native gardens are blooming. Come see us!

Activities: Looking for something fun and educational to do this

season? We've got you covered! Our activity schedule for the 2025-26 season is available on our website [CLICK HERE](#).

Wingspan: Admit it, your brain might have gotten a little soft over the summer when you were hiding inside watching true-crime mysteries in the air-conditioning. It's time to get the old noggin back in shape with a rousing game of Wingspan. Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. OR experienced players only on Thursday evenings at 6. Details are [on the calendar](#) and in the activity schedule. Members only, please!

Membership: Is your membership up-to-date? Membership at Sarasota Audubon Society has many benefits, including invitations to our Meet & Greet events, priority sign-up for high-demand events and a discount in our Gift Shop. All this and more for only \$35 for a whole year of birdy fun. [JOIN HERE](#).

Gift Shop: The Gift Shop is back for another season of exciting gifts, outdoor supplies and bird-themed merchandise. Come see for yourself. And don't forget to ask for your membership discount!

Volunteers Wanted: If you're interested in meeting great new people and learning new skills, consider volunteering at Sarasota Audubon. There are plenty of options, including Docents in the Nature Center, Gardeners, Bird Feeder Fillers, Bird Naturalists, Bird Box Assistants, and more. Visit <https://www.sarasotaudubon.org/volunteer/>. Then fill out the volunteer application and submit it to get started.

Welcome back! It's going to be a terrific season!

Kim Sullivan, Building Manager

**Read Full Notes from the Nature
Center**



SAVE THE DATE: Fly Wild with US!
FEB. 21, 2026



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

Fly Wild

A Day of Birds, Nature & Exploration

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026** when our community will once again come together to connect with nature in new and exciting ways. This year's festival highlights: guided nature walks, a community bird-a-thon, a photo contest, a children's scavenger hunt, nonprofit booths with family-friendly activities, interactive exhibits and expert talks.

This event aims to:

- Expand engaging, hands-on learning for children and adults.
- Keep programs accessible through free and low-cost activities.
- Support conservation efforts that protect the habitats our birds depend on.

We will need lots of volunteers. If you wish to help out, contact Kim Sullivan, our Volunteer Coordinator.

Audubon Assembly Oct. 16 – 18 Power of Birds, Power of Us!



Power of Birds, Power of US

Oct.16–18, 2025

Howey-in-the-Hills, near Orlando

- This year's theme is Power of Birds, Power of Us: Science and Joy as Catalysts for Conservation.
- Keynote Speaker is Rosemary Mosco, acclaimed author and illustrator whose work is found at the bottom of this newsletter each month.
- Our own President Sara Reisinger will sit on a panel discussing Local Conservation Action -- check it out Oct. 18 at 2 p.m.

**Reserve Tickets to Audubon
Assembly**

**Wings in the Wild Backpack Launch
Available at Sarasota County Libraries**



The Sarasota County Libraries successfully launched Wings in the Wild Backpacks at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center on Saturday, Oct. 4th. Conceived by Don and Karen Schneider and funded by the John Ginaven Fund of Sarasota Audubon, the backpacks are part of a series of Nature Backpacks and are available to check out at various library branches.

"Recent studies show that time in nature builds confidence, promotes creativity and imagination, teaches responsibility, provides stimulation, gets children moving, makes them think and reduces stress and fatigue.

In this kit, you will find activities designed to help investigators of all ages get outside and explore their world. The activities can be done in any environment, from your neighborhood and backyard to a natural area, such as your local park. Find any type of green space and start investigating!"

**Request a
Backpack**

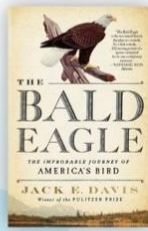
Sarasota County Libraries go to the Birds



OFF THE PAGE



Jack E. Davis

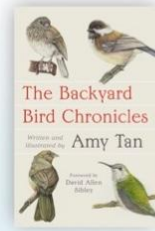


Thursday, Nov. 6 | 1p.m. | North Port Library

Pulitzer Prize-winning environmental historian Jack E. Davis writes acclaimed nonfiction such as "The Gulf" and "The Bald Eagle," blending American history, nature and cultural identity.



Amy Tan



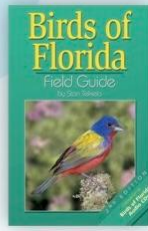
Friday, Nov. 7 | 7p.m.

Riverview High School Performing Arts Center

Amy Tan is the author of seven New York Times bestselling books, including "The Joy Luck Club," "The Kitchen God's Wife" and her latest, "The Backyard Bird Chronicles," which debuted at No. 1 on the New York Times and Indie bestseller lists.



Stan Tekiela



Friday, Nov. 14 | 1p.m. | William H Jervy Jr. Venice Library

Over the past four decades Stan Tekiela has authored more than 200 field guides, nature appreciation books and wildlife audio CDs for nearly every state in the nation.



Join the conversation with

#OffThePageFL

More Information "Off the Page"

Only a Few Spots Remain on Panama Trip



Birding Panama 2026

With
Aaron Virgin
and
Holbrook Travel

Barú Volcano
Photo by Fran Whitlock



On this 8-day adventure, join SAS Board Member Aaron Virgin, an acclaimed ecotourism birding leader, as you explore public and private reserves in both the north and south of Panama.

In a region of birding superlatives, Panama boasts the highest diversity of avian species in all of Central America. Both novice and seasoned birders will appreciate this chance to experience its richest hotspots. Your 8-day itinerary visits two different locations for three nights each, followed by one night in Panama City.

Don't miss out on this adventure of a lifetime. Click below to learn more and register.

Panama Trip Information

Calling All Wingspan Players!



We love playing the competitive board game Wingspan with fellow Sarasota Audubon members all year round, but when it's sweltering outside, it's especially enjoyable to relax in the cool Nature Center. We've got plenty of games, plenty of players who are eager to teach newcomers and plenty of candy to help keep you going. If you want to play, please [email Lynn](#) to let her know your preferred schedule.

Current Schedule for Wednesdays:

- Wednesday, Oct .15
- Wednesday, Nov. 5

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!

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 Thursdays (experienced players):

- Thursday, Oct. 9
- Thursday, Oct. 16
- Thursday, Oct. 23
- Thursday, Oct. 30

All games start at 6 p.m. 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.

Online Birding Guide Updated!



Sarasota Audubon Society's **Online Guide:** *Our Favorite Local* *Birding Hotspots*

A new, substantial update for the Fall 2025-Summer 2026 birding season has been completed. The update adds four new Sarasota County birding favorites -- bringing the total number of favorite Sarasota locations to 28 -- and encompasses about 50 eBird Hotspots! The update also refers birders interested in locations in Manatee County to the Manatee Audubon Society's excellent hotspot web page.

[Click Here for Online Guide](#)

Connect to Our HaikuBox



Haikubox is an artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled device that automatically and continuously identifies backyard birds using their vocalizations. Haikubox was developed locally by Sarasota Audubon members at Loggerhead Instruments,

which also develops and manufactures bioacoustics equipment for oceanographic research.

A record of birds visiting the Sarasota Nature Center gardens is available when you connect to the HaikuBox website. On the site you will:

- See stunning images of identified species
- Listen to a recording and see a spectrogram of each bird visit
- View daily counts plus hourly breakdowns
- And more!

You can hook up to the SAS Haikubox to learn what birds have been active at any given time. Click below to see!

Connect to SAS HaikuBox

The Last Word is Graphic Crypsis

Cornell Lab BirdWord by Rosemary Mosco

crypsis

noun

Patterning or coloration that allows a bird to remain concealed by blending in to its environment.

Effective Crypsis



Ineffective Crypsis



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

999 Center Road
Sarasota, FL 34240
941-312-6533

Contact the Editor

Activity Schedule



Like us on
facebook



Follow us on
Instagram

Sarasota Audubon Society | 999 Center Road | Sarasota, FL 34240 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!