



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

DECEMBER 2025

Happy Holidays!

SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY



Dear Members,

Happy Holidays! We are looking forward to spending a lovely afternoon with you on Dec. 10th for our Holiday Luncheon. It's always a great treat to have such an engaging event to gather together for the holidays. Don't miss the lightning talks (4 speakers, 5 minutes each) including an update on the Quads! Click the ad below to purchase tickets.

We will be completing our annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 27th. For those of you who have never participated, this is an annual bird survey of Sarasota County and gives us a comparative read year over year on the health of our avian population. If you would like to participate in this year's bird count, please reach out. It's a wonderful day outdoors in nature with a team that is of vital importance to the organization.

Dec. 2nd was Giving Tuesday, thank you to all who answered our call to donate!

Tuesday was not a deadline, but the beginning of the Giving Season. Feel free to donate any time and any amount.

100% of **Giving Tuesday** gifts will help our re-wilding campaign complete the planting and installation of more than 3,000 trees, shrubs and flowering plants in the SE Quad Parcel. If you've driven down Palmer Blvd, you've already seen the transformation taking shape on the SE Quad: hundreds of plants installed, pathways and trails laid out and a growing diversity of native trees, shrubs and flowering plants taking root.

These gifts can come at any time, not only on Giving Tuesday. Gifts of \$250 or more will be honored on the Quads Donor Tree just outside the Nature Center.

We have come this far because of you. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the resident and migratory birds and wildlife that depend on the Celery Fields.

Happy Holidays!

Sara Reisinger

Sarasota Audubon President

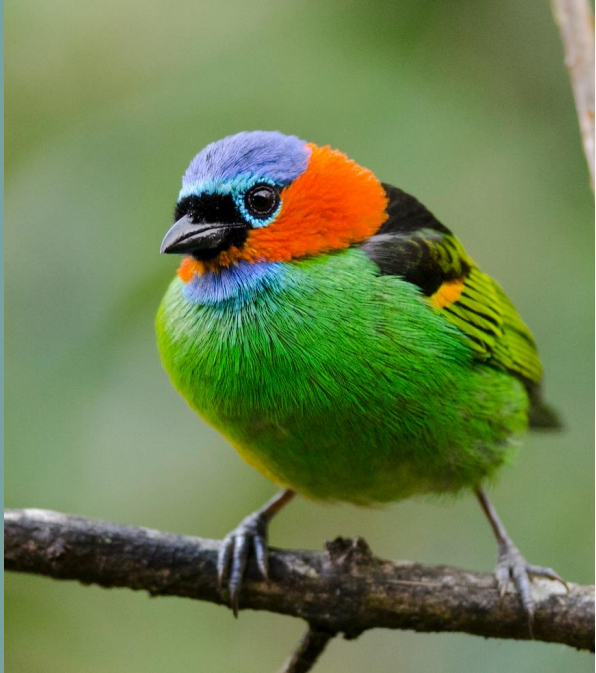
On behalf of the Board of Directors

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

Monday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m. Zoom

The World's BEST Birds with Forrest Rowland, Rockjumper Tours

From ornithologist Rowland:
Of the 10,000+ species of birds in the world, there are many that are near and dear to us. For reasons varying from "spark bird" reminiscences to "most iconic," or even nearly extinct, for decades I have been asked the question "What are the world's best birds?", often accompanied by



Above: Red-necked Tanager

Below: Forrest Rowland,
Ornithologist, Rockjumper Tours



"what is your favorite bird?". My answers always change with my experiences.

In this presentation, I will talk about which 10 birds I consider to be the world's best birds, and why. After 8,000 species seen, and 84 countries birded in, I hope my selection inspires these questions in you! I look forward to sharing some of the most beautiful and fascinating birds of my life, iconic to the different eras of science, discovery and my personal journey.

[Register](#)



Sarasota Audubon Presents

Fly Wild

A Day of Birds, Nature & Exploration

Mark your calendars for

Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026, 9 a.m - 2 p.m.

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, using the button below.

If you wish to sponsor our event, please click here.

Detailed Sponsorship Information for Fly Wild!

Fly Wild Volunteer needs:

- Audubon Booth Redesign Coordinator – already designed, just need to implement
- Kids Scavenger hunt committee
- Food Truck Coordinator

75th Anniversary 2027 Gala committee members needed:

- Sponsorships
- Silent/Live Auction and Chance Drawing Donations
- Entertainment
- Décor
- 75th Anniversary Merchandise

Volunteer for Fly Wild! in February or Gala Committee

New Classes from Sarasota Audubon!
For Beginners to Advanced Birders



Announcing New Classes for the 2025-26 Audubon Calendar Year

Birds of the Celery Fields: Introductory Course, \$10 Members, \$20 non
Dec. 14, 3:30 - 5 p.m. -- SAS Nature Center and Celery Fields

Learn which birds are at the Celery Fields this time of year...

Birding 101: A Beginner's Guide to Birding, FREE

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2 - 3:30 p.m. FULL

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2 - 3:30 p.m. Registration open Jan. 1

This comprehensive course covers essential birdwatching skills, including identifying birds in the field using sight and sound, choosing and using binoculars, introductions to utilizing birding tools such as field guides, Merlin and eBird and learning birding etiquette.

Birding 201: Intermediate Birding, \$10 Members, \$20 non-Members

Saturday, Dec. 20, 3:30 - 5 p.m. -- SAS Nature Center

This more advanced course is designed for birders seeking to enhance their skills. It builds upon the knowledge gained in Birding 101 and covers multiple topics.

Avian Field Methods: Advanced Field Methods, \$20 Members, \$40 non

Thursday, Jan. 15, at 2 p.m. and Saturday, Jan. 17, at 3:30 p.m. -- SAS Nature Center

This course is for experienced birders interested in practical field skills used by professional avian biologists. With the rewilding of the Quad Parcels, these skills will allow participants to quantify change-over-time outcomes of our bird populations and aid and enhance our conservation efforts.

Class Registration



Thank you to all who Donated to
the QUADS TREE FUND
on Giving Tuesday!

You are helping us to plant
native trees and shrubs
on the Quad Parcels
for the birds!

SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY



[Donate Now!](#)

Notes from the Nature Center

Sarasota Audubon Nature Center Open!

December hours:

Daily Monday – Sunday

9 a.m. – Noon



There's nothing like jumping right into the fray, and that's exactly what we're doing at the Nature Center as this season heats up. Our many activities are in full swing, including birding classes, guided walks, nature-themed talks from a variety of experts and so much more. Most of our volunteers are back from their summer nesting grounds, and they're filling up our schedules for Docents, Naturalists, Bird Feeder Fillers, Bird Box Monitors, etc. Come see us! Or better yet, join us!

SAS Meets MAS: One beautiful Saturday morning in November, a flock of birders from the Manatee Audubon Society descended on the Celery Fields. They were met by a flamboyance of Sarasota Audubon members, and they all enjoyed breakfast and birding together. The group checked out birds around the Nature Center, up Mount Celery and out on Palmer Boardwalk. It was a great experience, and now we're eager to trek up to Manatee County to explore their "patch" at Felts Preserve on Saturday, March 7 at 6 p.m.



Meet & Greet: About 40 members of Sarasota Audubon were on hand Nov. 12 to enjoy snacks and apple cider while learning about migratory songbirds from Jayne Neville. She was especially informative regarding ways to prevent birds from hitting our windows. The next Meet & Greet is scheduled for Jan. 14, when Shawn Carey will present the Birds of Tanzania, so mark your calendars! And remember to update your membership if it has expired.

Gift Shop for the Gift Season: Are you wondering what to buy for all those people on your holiday shopping list? Have no fear, the Nature Center Gift Shop is here! We have t-shirts, ballcaps adorned with your choice of roseate spoonbills or crested caracaras, adhesives designed to prevent bird strikes on windows, greeting cards, earrings, jigsaw puzzles, birding guides and lots of books and toys for kids. Stop in and see! And don't forget to mention you're a member, and you'll receive a **10% member discount on all items**.

See you at the Celery Fields!
Kim Sullivan, Nature Center Manager

[Read Full Notes](#)

**Do You Want to Recycle
Your Old Photo Equipment?**

Sarasota Audubon is looking for
donations of photo equipment and



binoculars in good working order.

We have a buyer who will purchase the equipment from Sarasota Audubon to raise funds for the upcoming photo competition for the Fly Wild! Festival on Feb. 21. Proceeds will underwrite promotions and prizes.

Please deliver all items to the Nature Center no later than Friday, Dec. 12.



Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025
11:30 a.m.
Palm Aire Country Club
www.SarasotaAudubon.org to RSVP

Holiday Luncheon Program:
Four and Twenty Blackbirds

Four very special speakers will each have 5 minutes to present 10 slides on their birdy topic -- which totals...
Twenty minutes!

- Kylie Wilson -- Ecologist
- Forrest Rowland -- Bird Guide
- Steve White -- Artist
- Jeanne Dubi -- Quads Update

Holiday Luncheon Tickets

Buy your tickets now – sales end Thursday evening!

Art Update: Nature Photography of Lynn Wiezycki



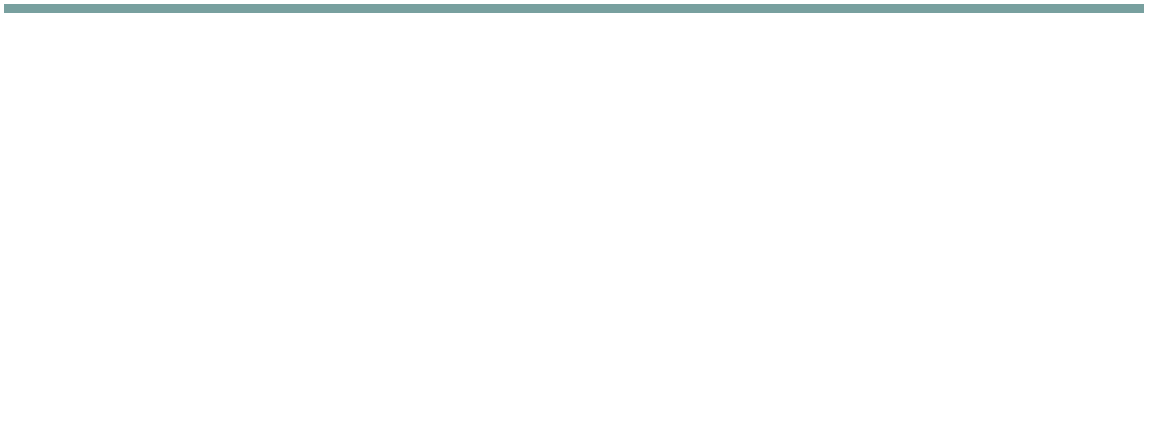
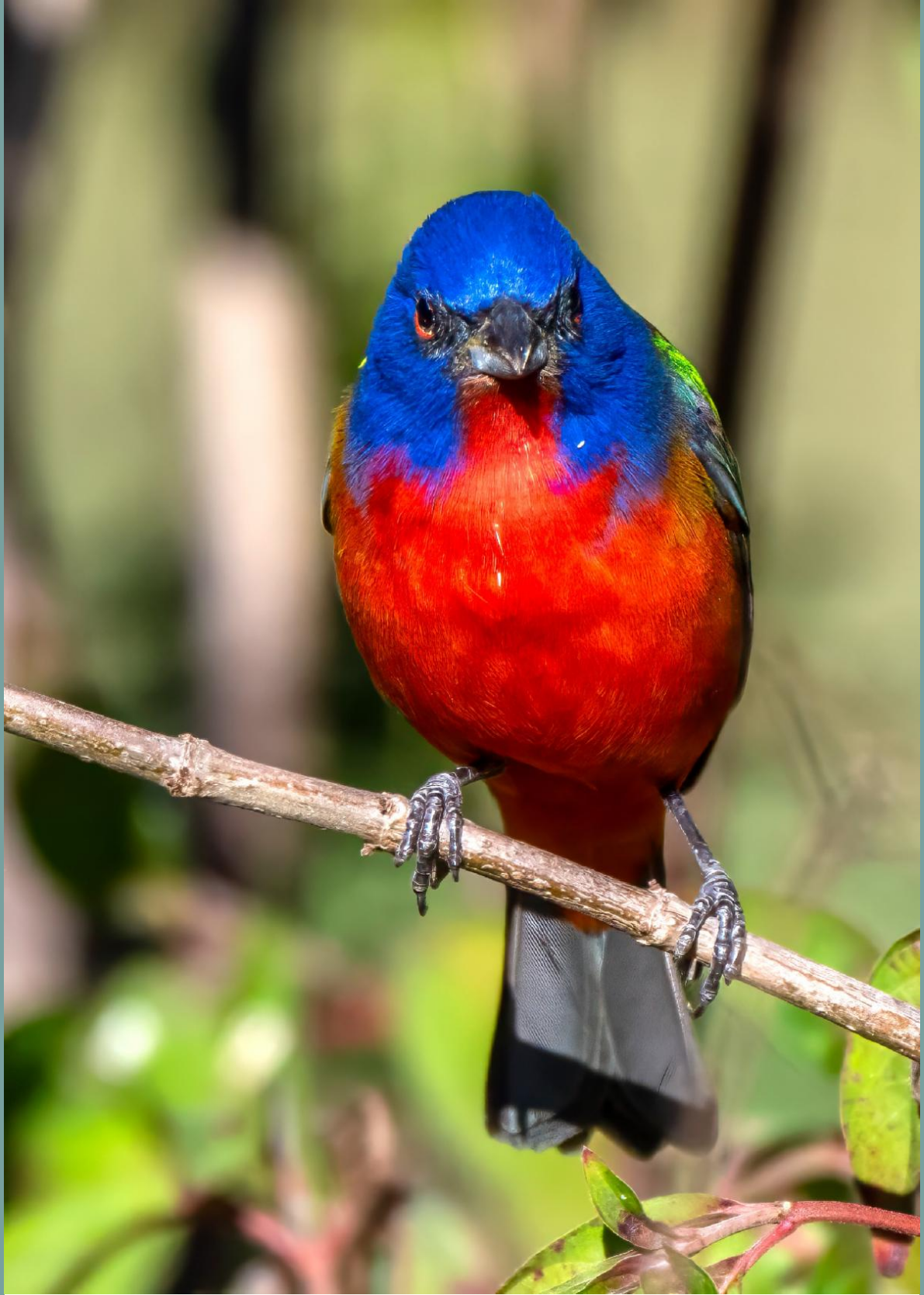
Above: Northern Harrier (*Lynn Wiezycki*)

We are pleased to announce a new exhibit at our SAS Nature Center for the month of December by nature photographer **Lynn Wiezycki**.

Lynn has been viewing the world through her Nikon camera lens for over 20 years. Since retirement, it has become a daily passion. She has photographed landscapes, cities, flowers and so much more across the U.S. and Europe, but back at home in Florida, her favorite subject is birds!

She has photographed birds all over Florida, at all the great birding areas that the state has to offer, with the Celery Fields being a favorite.

Below: Painted Bunting male (*Lynn Wiezycki*)



EAGLE NEST TOURS

REGISTER NOW BEFORE THEY FILL UP!

Join a Bald Eagle specialist
for a bus tour & see eaglets at
different stages.

Limited scopes and
binoculars (please bring your
own if available).

Meet at the Nature Center.

Upcoming Tour Dates:

- Feb. 7
- Feb. 14

Cost \$ 60



Eagle Trolley
Tickets

Fight for Flight Campaign
by Ringling College Students



Above Ringling student team Katherine Adams, Veronika Khakimova, Sara Reisinger (SAS President), Allison Ghorbani and Jeanette Ahn

Fight for Flight Campaign by Ringling College Students

Ringling College of Art & Design students Jeanette Ahn, Katherine Adams, Veronika Khakimova and Allison Ghorbani worked together on a project they called the Fight for Flight campaign. The campaign was part of the Ringling Business SE Project, a semester-long project that pairs students with non-profit organizations to contribute to their cause. The learning goal is applying strategic management techniques to the challenge of fundraising within one semester.

The students said that they surpassed their fundraising goal and were able to assemble 75 goodie bags, which were delivered on Tuesday Nov. 25th. These will be prizes for the Children's Scavenger Hunt at the Fly Wild! Festival on Feb. 21st at the Nature Center.

Don't Miss Monthly Guided Walks!



Did you know that Sarasota Audubon volunteer guides provide guided walks at area parks? Some occur every month, others are for specific groups such as Young Birders. Don't miss out on the benefits of birding with an expert.

Check out opportunities on our online [Events Calendar](#). The calendar is continually updated and offers the latest on tour guide changes.

Note on today's tour to Myakka: Stu Wilson is ill this week and will not be able to attend. Cathy Paris is out of the country. Helen King and Lisa Sykes will lead you on an awesome tour Dec. 3!

Sarasota Audubon Events
Calendar

Christmas Bird Count
Volunteers Needed Dec. 27, 2025

Christmas Bird Count

Charley Harper

We celebrate the 75th annual Sarasota along with the 126th consecutive national Christmas Bird Count (CBC) -- the longest-running citizen science project in the world!!!

**In Sarasota we'll be counting on
Saturday, Dec. 27, 2025.**

Head Birder Aaron Virgin coordinates 15 Area Leaders throughout Sarasota County. They are always looking for spotters and recorders to aid each Area Leader. If this interests you, please volunteer! Contact Aaron Virgin by clicking the button below.

Volunteer for CBC

Calling All Wingspan Players!



We love playing the competitive board game Wingspan with fellow

Sarasota Audubon members all year round. 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, Dec. 3**
- **Wednesday, Dec. 17**

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

- **Resume Jan. 8**

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.

Save the Date: Wingspan TOURNAMENT

What: Wingspan Tournament

When: Sunday, Jan. 11, 3 p.m. -- finish (probably around 7 p.m.)

Where: Sarasota Audubon Nature Center, 999 Center Rd.

Why: To have fun, socialize and raise a few dollars for Audubon!

How: We will play 2 games; scores added to determine top 3 players; using all expansion cards including Asia

What to expect:

- Randomized tables for each game; 4-5 players per table
- Light refreshments between games; filtered water available, so please bring a refillable water bottle.
- Entry fee is \$20; pre-registration by Jan. 9 is required; we must

have 12 players minimum for tournament.

NOTE: Registration not set up yet.

- Top 3 players will be rewarded with gift certificates to the Audubon gift shop.

The Last Word Is Graphic Reindeer Alternatives Bird and Moon by Rosemary Mosco

HEY SANTA: PLEASE CONSIDER THESE

~ Reindeer Alternatives ~



Humpback Anglerfish

PRO: Very shiny nose

CON: Can't fly



Peregrine Falcon

PRO: Extremely fast

CON: Not a team player



Flying Squid

PRO: Jet-propelled

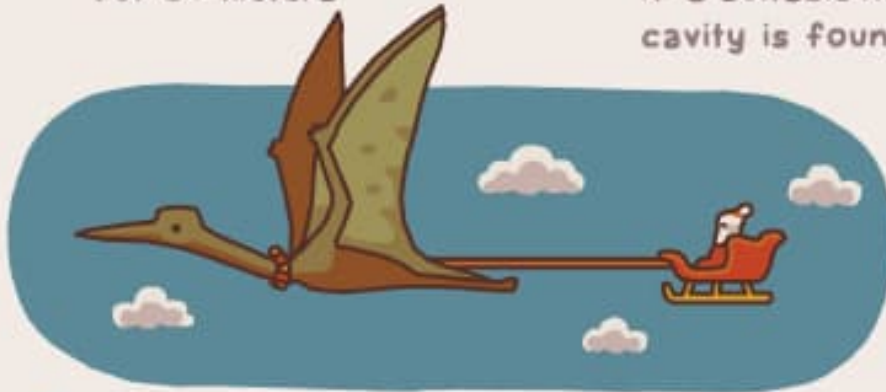
CON: Can only fly
for 30 meters



Honeybee Swarm

PRO: Team players

CON: Will stop flying
if a suitable nest
cavity is found



Quetzalcoatlus

CON: Extinct

PRO: You only need to clone one

birdandmoon.com



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AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Activity Schedule



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