



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 2025



Dear Members,

As we head into November and nicer weather has started to arrive, we are kicking our activity schedule into a higher gear. We have some exciting activities this month; our first Meet and Greet of the season is at the Nature Center on Nov. 12th, our first ever mixer with Manatee Audubon is at the Nature Center on the 15th, and our first ever Birds and Brews at Big Top Brewery (a casual social meetup to discuss all things birds and conservation) is on Nov. 19th. Our goal this year was to bring the chapter together as a community more often, and November showcases this effort.

We also have a couple of new events that could use some volunteer help -- **Fly Wild!** (a large-scale festival aimed at community engagement) and our **75th Anniversary Gala**. Committees have already been formed and plans are in place

or taking shape. We could just use a few people to fill in missing positions. Those positions are listed below, and you can sign up through the volunteer link on our website under "special projects."

Additionally, sponsorship opportunities are available for Fly Wild (details below). This event should have 1000+ attendees, will have 20+ nature and conservation booths, presentations and demonstrations, bird walks, a kids' scavenger hunt, a photo contest, food trucks and trolleys taking attendees to the Raymond Rd. boardwalk and to a special preview tour of the Quads! It is sure to be an incredible outreach event for our chapter!

Finally, all members should have received an email this week with the opportunity to sign up for our new classes early and with discounted member pricing. If you didn't receive this email, please contact us. Otherwise, take advantage of the next few days before we open the classes to the public.

Happy Birding!

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



Sarasota Audubon Presents

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, 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
- Budget/ Accounting

Volunteer for Fly Wild in February or Gala Committee

Sarasota Audubon Nature Center Open!
November hours:
Daily Monday - Sunday
9 a.m. - Noon

MONTHLY MEETING INFORMATION

Monday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m. Zoom



Veery on nest
(Christopher Heckscher)

Stormy seas ahead: Can Veeries really predict hurricanes? with Dr. Christopher Heckscher

Tropical storms and hurricanes are significant impediments to southbound migrants that cross the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Because the effects of storms on migratory birds are hard



Dr. Christopher Heckscher,
Ornithologist *(Greg Kahn, National
Geographic)*

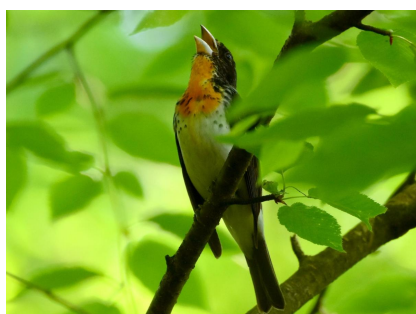
Dr. Christopher M. Heckscher, Professor of Environmental Science, Ornithologist and Natural History Explorer, will discuss his research tracking the timing of Veery Thrush reproduction and migration to and from South America.

to quantify, ornithologists have largely ignored the potential for storms to shape songbird life history.

Twenty-three years of data from a Veery population nesting in Delaware and Pennsylvania shows remarkable connections between annual tropical storms and the biology of the species. Mounting evidence, including the surprising predictive ability of Veery breeding-season data, shows annual mortality may be at massive scales.

[Register](#)

Member Meet and Greet Nov. 12, 2 p.m. Jayne Neville, Migratory Songbirds



Come on out to our first Meet and Greet of the season. **Wednesday, Nov. 12**, our members are invited to visit the Nature Center at 2 p.m. for light refreshments and an opportunity to meet fellow members.

We will have a presentation from longtime wildlife rehabber Jayne Neville, who will discuss **Migratory Songbirds and Rehabilitation**. The presentation winds up with how to attract birds with specific native trees, shrubs and flowers. It also includes bird feeding tips and how to attract specific species of birds such as, Martins, Hummingbirds, Orioles, Flycatchers, Woodpeckers and Screech Owls.

These events have become very popular, so get here early to grab a good seat. Members only -- no pre-registration required.

**Meet Up With Manatee Audubon at the
SAS Nature Center Nov. 15, 8:30 a.m.**

On Saturday, Nov. 15, the Sarasota Audubon Society will be hosting our neighbors to the north, the Manatee County Audubon Society.

We will meet at the Sarasota Audubon Nature Center at the Celery Fields at 8:30 a.m. for a day of birding, walks, fellowship and snacks. Please join us and get to know your neighbors.



**Get Together for Birds & Brews
Big Top Brewing ~ Nov. 19, 6 - 8 p.m.**



Wednesday, Nov. 19

6:00 - 8:00 PM



BIRDS & BREWS

Meet your friends at Big Top Brewing
3045 Fruitville Commons Blvd, Sarasota

**New Classes from Sarasota Audubon!
For Beginners to Advanced Birders**



Announcing New Classes for the 2025-26 Audubon Calendar Year

Registration is open FOR MEMBERS ONLY through Nov. 5th for classes through the end of December 2025.
And look for more classes coming in early 2026!

Birding 101: A Beginner's Guide to Birding, FREE
Saturday, Dec. 20, 3:30-5 p.m. -- SAS Nature Center

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
Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2-3:30 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 topics such as a quick review of key concepts, an overview of bird taxonomy and classification, learning the language of birds through song and calls, understanding bird behaviors for identification and exploring the reasons behind bird migration.

Avian Field Methods: Advanced Field Methods, \$20 Members
Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. and Nov. 8 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.



Things are starting to heat up at the Nature Center, just as the weather is starting to cool down. It's a perfect time to come check out all of our new activities and programs. Sure, you'll still need sunscreen, hats and water -- this is Florida, after all -- but the cooler temperatures and lower humidity make for much more pleasant birding, hiking and picnicking.

Boardwalks: Don't forget to visit our Bird Naturalists out on the Raymond Rd. and Palmer Rd. boardwalks every day starting Nov. 1 from 8:30 to 10:30 in the morning. They have the spotting scopes to help you pick out bird species and the knowledge to identify what you're seeing. Who knows? Maybe you'll even spot a "lifer."

Activity Schedule: Sarasota Audubon has so many great events and ways to enjoy the outdoors. The Activity Schedule is available on our website. [Click Here](#) or you can pick up a paper copy at the Nature Center. Make plans now to attend the events that interest you most.

Wingspan: One of the most popular events at Sarasota Audubon Society is our Wingspan games. Both experienced and new players are invited at 12:30 on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, and experienced players are welcome on Thursday evenings. Members only, please. Not a member? [Then it's time to join!](#)

Welcome back for a brand-new season at Sarasota Audubon Society!

Kim Sullivan, Nature Center Manager

Read Full Notes from the Nature
Center



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025
11:30 a.m.

Palm Aire Country Club

www.SarasotaAudubon.org to RSVP

Holiday Luncheon Program:
Four and Twenty [bird talk]

Four very special speakers will each have 5 minutes to
present their birdy topic - which totals...

Twenty minutes!

Save the Date: Giving Tuesday, Dec. 2



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

Bringing People Together
for the Birds

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



Bird Blog: Fort De Soto Birding
by Forrest Rowland



Photo above taken while still in the parking area at Boyd Hill (*Lisa Sykes*)

Fort de Soto Field Trip with Sarasota Audubon by, Forrest Rowland

We had a great time at lovely Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas County, during the height of migration. We started by meeting up at the gate at 7:30. It was an unfortunate, inauspicious start to the day when I was greeted by a sheriff's truck (and deputy attending) blocking the roadway. There was a triathlon planned for that day, which was not listed on the events for Pinellas County.

Alas, the sheriff's deputy and park supervisor would not budge, so we took the short drive over to Boyd Hill Nature Park and birded the entrance area and habitat around the parking lots. Though not the start we had planned, we were treated to some fun birds like American Kestrel, Nanday Parakeet, a vociferous Eastern Phoebe that serenaded us for a time, some feisty Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, a Vireo that eluded identification (though we suspected a rare Philadelphia!), fabulous views of the large snail-eating Limpkin which perched wonderfully close for us, and the always-lovely Yellow-throated Warbler, among others.

As the clock approached 8:45, we hit the road back to Fort De Soto, which was open at last. We headed straight to the estuarine area of North Beach. It was fantastic! In the parking lot we were treated to a beautiful Prairie Warbler, several Palm Warblers, one Yellow-rumped Warbler, several

Osprey, Belted Kingfisher, more Gnatcatchers and Phoebe, before diverting towards our main goal of the visit: Shorebirds & Pelicans. They were both aplenty!!

Another unique phenomenon that occurs for only about a week or two in mid-October is the congregating of American White Pelicans at Fort De Soto. Photographers and bird enthusiasts alike flock to the park for close approach to these fantastic, huge, impressive birds. Our timing was spot on for their peak as well, with the flock numbering at least 300...probably closer to 400! Later in the morning we had big squadrons of these massive beauties come cruising over into the bay to forage.

Click below for full report listing all 66 bird species recorded.

[Complete Report: Fort De Soto Birding](#)

Christmas Bird Count Volunteers Needed Dec. 27, 2025



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.

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, Nov. 5
- Wednesday, Nov. 12
- Wednesday, Nov. 19

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, Nov. 6
- Thursday, Nov. 13
- Thursday, Nov. 20

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.

UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County

UF IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Sarasota County



Join UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County
for a night of open discussion
with local experts
on relevant environmental solutions.

This month's featured speakers:

- Dr. Ryan Gandy, executive director, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program
- Damon Moore, executive director, Oyster River Ecology

Who: General public
When: Nov. 04 (Tue), 5:45-7p
Where: Calusa Brewing
5377 McIntosh Road, Sarasota
Cost: \$10 (plus fees)



QUESTIONS? sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/sarasota | sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu | 941.861.5000

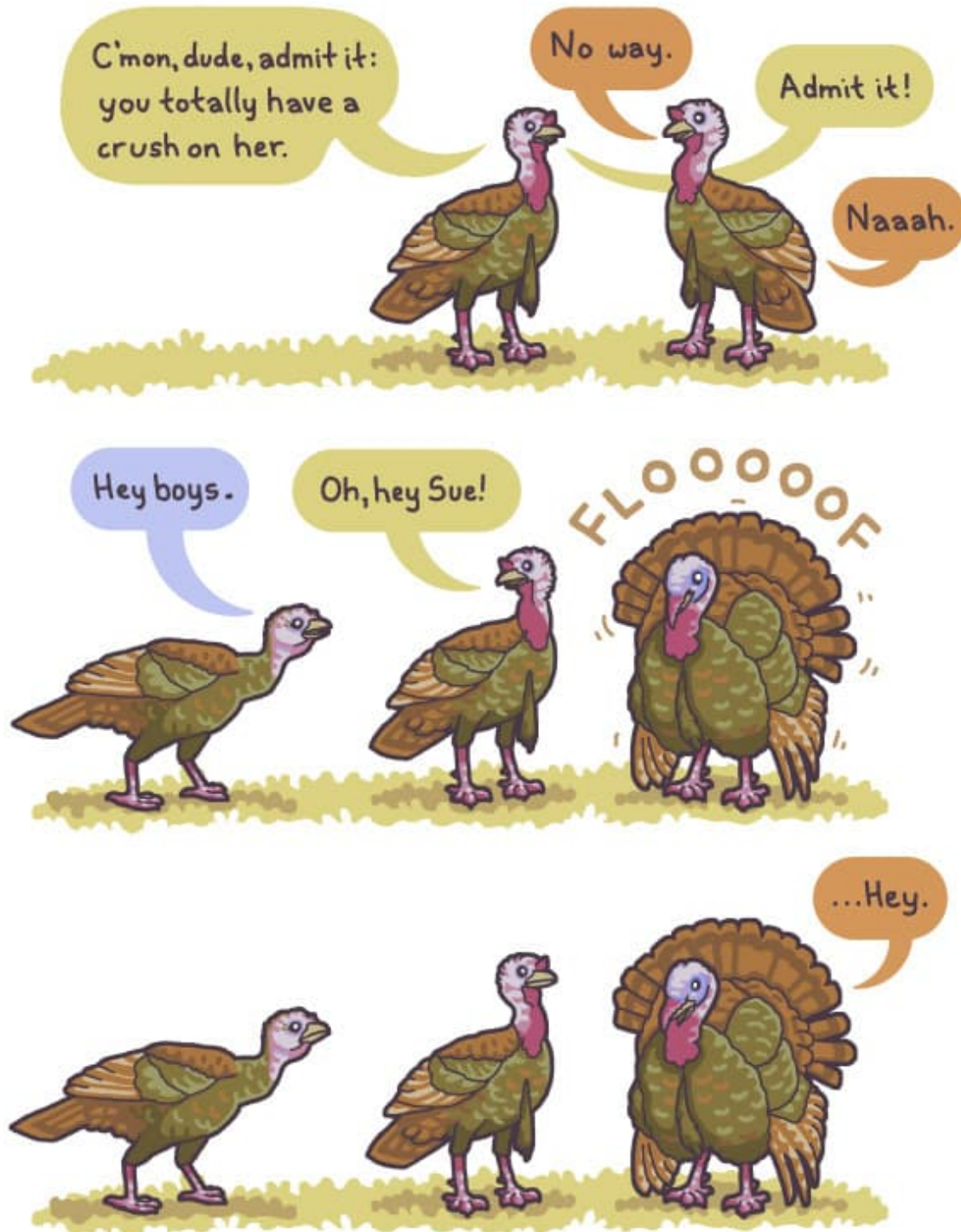
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The Last Word Is Graphic Crush

Bird and Moon by Rosemary Mosco

crush

birdandmoon.com



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

Contact the Editor

Activity Schedule



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