



THE BROWN PELICAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SARASOTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

SUMMER 2023 Edition



Left to Right: Julie Wraithmell, Audubon Florida Executive Director; Ingrid Milne, National Audubon Chief Financial Officer; Jeanne Dubi, Sarasota Audubon President; and Elizabeth Gray, National Audubon Chief Executive Officer/Director.

Sarasota Audubon "knocks it out of the park" with National Audubon Visit

As summer arrived on June 21 so did the leaders of National Audubon, accompanied by the leader of Audubon Florida. They came to witness first-hand how local chapters make the world a better place. National Audubon Director Elizabeth Gray and CFO Ingrid Milne joined the Sarasota Audubon Board at their June monthly Board Meeting and had a tour of the nature center and native gardens. According to Julie Wraithmell, Executive Director of Audubon Florida, they were "absolutely dumbstruck by how much you do!".

**Special Summer MEETING
INFORMATION**

Summer Meeting
TUESDAY, August 1st
7:00 pm on ZOOM

Zero to 10,000: A Lifetime of Birding



Peter Kaestner will share moments on his journey to reach the 10,000 bird species goal.

Always a birder, Peter's first international trip was at age nine in 1962, when he visited the Bahamas. A passionate world lister, Peter represented the United States for 36 years as a U.S. Foreign Service Consular Officer overseas. He is now retired and working as a part-time tour leader for Rockjumper Birding Tours.

Peter Kaestner is a world-renowned independent birder who has spent a lifetime sharing his passion for birds with others. Since his retirement in August 2016, Peter has become a full-time birder, striving to be the first person to see 10,000 species.

Along the way, he has birded in 181 eBird "countries" and currently holds eBird's longest world life list (9,678). Peter is also recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records as the first person to see a representative of every bird family in the world.

[Register](#)

Notes from the NATURE CENTER



Closed for Summer: So many of our volunteers go north with the birds we do not have enough assistance to keep the Nature Center open in the summertime. We will reopen in October, however, feeling reinvigorated and enthusiastic. Remember Nature is always open! Come on out to the glorious native gardens anytime. See you indoors in the fall, after October 1.



Calling all Wingspan Players:

The monthly Wingspan play-dates have attracted dozens of SAS members to the Nature Center since they started last summer. **They continue through this summer every Wednesday at 12:30 pm.** This is a great way to help our members stay connected, hone their game-playing skills, and learn more about birds of the world.

If you are in Sarasota this summer and want to play, please [email Lynn](#) to let her know you will join.

Summer Schedule: Wednesdays at 12:30pm

- July 12
- July 19
- July 26
- August 2...

All games start at 12:30 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!

Being Around Birds Is Associated with Better Mental Health

Washington Post, Brain Matters

By Richard Sima

Birds appear to be a specific source of the healing benefits of nature. They are almost everywhere and provide a way to connect us to nature. And even if they are hidden in trees or in the underbrush, we can still revel in their songs.

"The special thing about birdsongs is that even if people live in very urban environments and do not have a lot of contact with nature, they link the songs of birds to vital and intact natural environments," said **Emil Stobbe**, an environmental neuroscience graduate student at the Max Planck Institute for Human



Read the full article with links to current brain research and yes, actual birdsong!

[Read Full Article](#)

Development and author of one of the studies.



Living with a Bird Nerd A True Story by, Sheri Nadelman



When you're lucky enough to share your interests with your partner and they become as passionate about it as you are, it enriches the way you see and experience life. It is no secret that "My Artie" got me a camera and I've become privy to a whole new way of looking at the world, one frame at a time.

Artie is an avid bird enthusiast and is involved with several organizations, which makes me "bird nerd adjacent." Fun fact: upon announcing that he was going to become a "naturalist" I immediately thought to myself, "he doesn't even like to go shirtless at home." Imagine my relief when he explained that it meant he would be **volunteering as a Bird Naturalist at the popular Sarasota bird watching haven, The Celery Fields.**

Photography has given us the opportunity to meet so many interesting people who share their passion and expertise. Some love the challenge of looking for hard-to-find species, some like to take photos, and others just want to enjoy the outdoors.

Let me preface this by saying that it is humbling and gratifying to photograph the majestic Bald Eagle, especially during mating season. If the pair are successful and the eggs are viable, they take turns building and staying on the nest during and after the 35-day incubation. The babies will grow, eventually becoming strong enough to fledge at about 10 to 14 weeks.

Sometimes, however, circumstances and nature dictate otherwise. This was the case recently when one of two eaglets had fallen from its nest.

[Read Entire Eagle Story Here](#)

CLIMATE CORNER

How Climate Change Is Affecting Birds



American Redstart Sandy & Bob Sipe, Macaulay Library

A basic primer from Nature Canada

Climate change is now affecting bird species' behavior, ranges and population dynamics. Some bird species are already experiencing negative impacts. In the future, climate change will put large numbers of birds at risk of extinction.

The article points out changes in the following, with specific examples:

- Egg laying is occurring earlier
- Migration times are shifting
- Bird behavior and their environment are becoming mismatched
- Distributions are changing

- Ecological communities are disrupted

[Read ARTICLE](#)

The Last Word Is Graphic: "You Eat Like a Bird"



birdandmoon.com



SARASOTA
AUDUBON SOCIETY

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