

PROGRAMS

September 2015 – January 2016

All meetings take place at the **Venice Audubon Center**, on Annex Road (see map) on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except the 2nd Tuesday in December and May. The social period begins at 6 p.m. and the general meeting and program follow at 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 22: VAAS Film Night: *Pelican Dreams* Follow a wayward California Brown Pelican from her rescue on the Golden Gate Bridge into care at a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

Oct. 27: *Prescribed Fire in the Florida Park Service.* Join Matthew Hodge, an Environmental Specialist with the Florida Park Service, as he describes his role in overseeing the District 4 (southwest region) prescribed fire program.

Nov. 24: *Birds of the Greater Antilles* Venice High zoology teacher Barry Rossheim will present his photos and experiences from Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Cuba with emphasis on the endemic avifauna on each island within the Greater Antilles archipelago.

Dec. 8: *Research and Discovery in South Florida's Mangroves: Unlocking the Secrets of Mangrove Cuckoos.* Join research biologist Rachel Frieze as she discusses her exciting work with the Ecostudies Institute on the Mangrove Landbird Monitoring Project.

Jan. 26: *Little Fish, Big Role: Protecting Florida's Forage Fish* Join Cameron Jaggard from The Pew Charitable Trusts to learn about the critical role foraging fish play in the marine food web and how you can help safeguard healthy populations for the benefit of Florida's environment and economy.

Who We Are

Founded: November 22, 1965

Our Mission: Promoting interest in wildlife and fostering the cause of conservation with emphasis on birds and their habitat

Membership: Residents and visitors in Venice, Nokomis, Osprey, North Port and Englewood

Contact Information

Venice Audubon Center (Headquarters) and Rookery on Annex Road, behind the R. L. Anderson Admin. Building
Phone: 941-496-8984

Email: info@veniceaudubon.org

Website: veniceaudubon.org

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1381, Venice, FL 34284-1381

What We Do

Venice Audubon Center: Meetings, education, displays

Venice Area Audubon Rookery: Bird sanctuary

Bird Walks and Trips: Local bird walks, carpool and bus trips (one day and overnight) throughout the state as well as guided bird trips to countries around the world

Education: Teacher who conducts bird classes and field trips to Venice Area Audubon Rookery for school children

Christmas Bird Count: Sunday, December 20, 2015

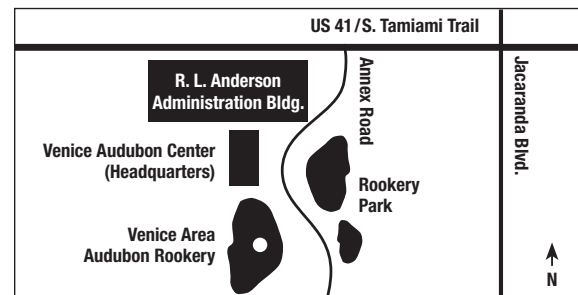
Wildlife Rehabilitation: Financial support

Bi-Monthly Newsletter: *Wings & Things*

General Meetings: Nine evening meetings, September through May, with an attendance of 100 to 200

Free Programs: Prominent birders, nature photographers and writers, environmental experts and activists

Also: Bird Identification Classes and Field Instruction, Environmental Advocacy, Environmental Support Fund, Community Speakers, Bird Censuses



Board of Directors - 2015-16

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Other VAAS Leaders

Center Administrator, Charlie Sample

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Butterfly Garden, Bonnie Holder

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Print Media Editor, Norma Lee Rhines

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Rookery and Center Volunteer Coordinator, Arlene Kelpsh

941-486-9022

Youth Education Coordinator, Alena Capek

941-966-2923

Regional Conservation Committee Rep, Ken Reamy

941-493-1042

Print Media Designer and Webmaster, Carolyn Edmunds

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VENICE AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

Trips & Programs Guide

Part 1

September 2015 – January 2016

For VAAS trips and programs in
February 2016 – May 2016, see Part 2.

For a complete list of 2015-16
trips and programs, visit the VAAS
Events Calendar at veniceaudubon.org.



VENICE AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY
Established in 1965

FIELD TRIPS

October 2015 – January 2016

Call the trip leader or get more information about trips at veniceaudubon.org/events, in our *Wings & Things* newsletter, or in monthly trips e-mails that members receive. For locations without park entry fees, we suggest a donation to VAAS of \$3 per participant.

Oct. through Apr. (Every Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. Search for Florida Scrub-Jays, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Eastern Towhees, Brown Thrashers and many other species. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Nature Center. Entry fee. Park opens 8 a.m. Walk 2 miles on sand trails. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**, leads on 3rd, 4th and 5th Thursdays.

Oct. 10 (Sat.): Shamrock Park. Look for Florida Scrub-Jays, Ospreys, warblers and wading birds in the woods and along the Intracoastal Waterway. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Nature Center. **Eileen Teel, 941-451-8216**.

Oct. 15 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. See listing above for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Oct. 17 (Sat.): Celery Fields. Birding hot spot with many species of ducks, herons, egrets, hawks, and passerines frequently seen in large numbers. Bald Eagles, American Bitterns, Purple Gallinules probable. Trip has three parts, allowing flexibility in distance walked. Park in the county parking lot, next to the restrooms, then meet across the street on the boardwalk, 6888 Palmer Blvd. at 9 a.m. **Betty and Hal Holcomb, 860-982-3635, Bob Clark, rlwclark@gmail.com**.

Oct. 20 (Tues.): Manasota Scrub Preserve. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking area, 2695 Bridge St., Englewood, to bird this beautiful 154 acre preserve. **Nancy Edmondson, 941-600-5767**.

Oct. 22 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Oct. 24 (Sat.): Pinecraft Park. Search for Barred Owls, woodpeckers, vireos, warblers and waders in this urban oasis. The area is small, but some walking may be difficult. Meet at 9 a.m. in the parking lot, 1420 Gilbert Ave., Sarasota. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Oct. 29 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Nov. 6 (Fri.): Celery Fields. See Oct. 17 for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Nov. 10 (Tues.): Siesta Key Beach. Sarasota's premier beach for gulls, terns and shorebirds. Meet in the main Siesta Key parking lot, near pavilion, at 8 a.m. **Betty and Hal Holcomb, 860-982-3635, Bob Clark, rlwclark@gmail.com**.

Nov. 19 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Nov. 21 (Sat.): Shamrock Park. See Oct. 10 for details, but meet at 8 a.m. **Bill Fairbank, 941-412-1610**.

Nov. 26 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. Put the turkey in the oven, then come bird with us. See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Nov. 27 (Fri.): Stump Pass Beach State Park. Osprey, Black Skimmers, shorebirds, terns, gulls and woodpeckers may be found as we search the woods and the beach. \$3 entry fee. Meet in parking lot at 8:30 a.m. **Susy d'Hont, 941-697-1797, dhont@embarqmail.com**.

Dec. 2 (Wed.): Cruise on the *Dolphin Watcher*. Search for dolphins, manatees, Ospreys and Bald Eagles in Lemon Bay. \$33 reserves your place. Lunch, at your cost, at the Lock and Key. Leave Audubon Center 9:15 a.m. or meet at 9:45 a.m. at Lemon Bay Tours, 1450 Beach Rd., Englewood. **Ginny Koss, 941-493-8812** and **Bill Fairbank**.

Dec. 7 (Mon.): Myakka River State Park. This extraordinary wildlife preserve offers some of the best birding in Sarasota County. Meet at 8:15 a.m. in first parking lot on right. Entry fee. Park opens 8 a.m. **Owen Comora, 941-378-5166**.

Dec. 9 (Wed.): Celery Fields. See Oct. 17 for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Dec. 13 (Sun.): Ollie's Pond. Search this oasis for Sora, shorebirds, warblers, ducks and wading birds. Easy 1 mile walk. Meet at 8 a.m. at Ollie's Pond, 18235 Avon Ave, Port Charlotte. **Susy d'Hont, 941-697-1797, dhont@embarqmail.com**.

Dec. 17 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Dec. 20 (Sun.): VAAS Christmas Bird Count.

Dec. 24 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Dec. 26 (Sat.): Stump Pass Beach State Park. See Nov. 27 for details. **Susy d'Hont, 941-697-1797, dhont@embarqmail.com**.

Dec. 31 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Jan. 4 (Mon.): Celery Fields. See Oct. 17 for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Jan. 9 (Sat.): Ollie's Pond. Oasis for Sora, ducks and waders. Easy 1 mile walk. Meet at VAAS Center at 8 a.m. to car pool, or at 8:30 a.m. at 18235 Avon Ave., Port Charlotte. **Bonnie Hurley, 941-497-6256**, and **Cheryl Gish**.

Jan. 12 (Tues.): Siesta Key Beach. See Nov. 10 for details. **Betty and Hal Holcomb, 860-982-3635** and **Bob Clark**.

Jan. 16 (Sat.): Celery Fields. See Oct. 17 for details. **Eileen Teel, 941-451-8216** and **Bob Clark, rlwclark@gmail.com**.

Jan. 21 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

Jan. 27 (Wed.): Carlton Reserve. Walk 2.5 miles in search of woodpeckers, warblers and other species. Meet in parking lot, 1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway, at 8 a.m. **Bill Fairbank, 941-412-1610**.

Jan. 28 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park. See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**.

For a complete list of 2015-16 trips and programs, visit veniceaudubon.org to download PDF files of Guides, Parts 1 and 2. Also see our Events Calendar at veniceaudubon.org/events.