

# PROGRAMS

February 2016 – May 2016

All meetings take place at the **Venice Audubon Center**, on Annex Road (see map) on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, except the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Feb. 23: Restoring Vital Wetlands** Sarah Hilderbrand of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will speak on her work with large-scale wetland and stream restoration projects and describe how restoration of these vital habitats allows us to address many environmental challenges, such as tackling urban storm water issues, agricultural runoff, and habitat loss.

**Mar. 22: Florida Scrub-Jays: Nowhere Else in the World** Join Marianne Korosy of Audubon Florida and coordinator of the statewide Jay Watch program to learn where Florida Scrub-Jays are thriving and how we can get involved in monitoring and protecting them.

**Apr. 26 Sensational Sea Turtles** Learn all about Florida's nesting sea turtles and the current research and conservation efforts being conducted on their behalf. Kristen Mazzarella, Senior Biologist at Mote Marine Laboratory, will discuss sea turtle biology and the Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program as well as enlighten us on how recent findings are being used to help these rare marine reptiles.

**May 10: Game Night** Calling all BIRD BRAINS! At this general meeting we will switch things up a bit as the VAAS board members host game night. Have fun and win prizes doing bird puzzles and "birdy" word games, plus playing JeoBIRDy, Bird Bingo and Bird Concentration.

## 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

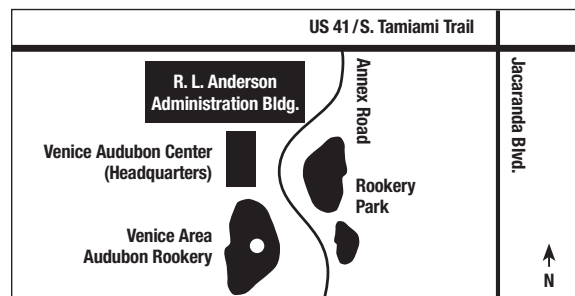
**Wildlife Rehabilitation:** Financial support

**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

**President, Bonnie Hurley**

941-497-6256, info@veniceaudubon.org

**1st Vice President (Programs), Eileen Teel**

941-451-8216

**2nd Vice President (Education), Brenda Bossman**

941-270-2961

**Recording Secretary, Beth Locke**

941-244-7470

**Corresponding Secretary (Membership), Diana Craig**

914-261-0708, membership@veniceaudubon.org

**Treasurer, Peter Hurley**

941-497-6256

**Director (Field Trips), Joyce Leary**

508-737-8954

**Director (Public Relations), Lynne Pedlar**

239-281-1932

**Director (Conservation and Environment), Bob Clark**

317-294-0080

**Director (Fundraising), Paul de Percin**

941-223-0059

**Past President (Center and Rookery), Dan Kixmiller**

941-412-4153

**Student Director, CYD Youth Leader, Kaitlyn Viera**

941-922-5126

## Other VAAS Leaders

**Center Administrator, Charlie Sample**

941-487-6463

**Butterfly Garden, Bonnie Holder**

941-492-6443

**Print Media Editor, Norma Lee Rhines**

941-918-0187

**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**

941-497-6463

# VENICE AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

## Trips & Programs Guide

### Part 2

February 2016 – May 2016

For VAAS trips and programs in  
September 2015 – January 2016, see Part 1.

For a complete list of 2015-16  
trips and programs, visit the VAAS  
Events Calendar at [veniceaudubon.org](http://veniceaudubon.org).



VENICE AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
Established in 1965

# FIELD TRIPS

February 2016 – April 2016

Call the trip leader or get more information about trips at [veniceaudubon.org/events](http://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.

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

**Feb. 1 (Mon.): Lemon Bay Park.** Bird trails and shores in search of winter residents. Meet at 8 a.m. at VAAS Center to carpool or at 8:30 a.m. in the Environmental Center parking lot, 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood. **Bob Clark, 317-294-0080** and **Bonnie Hurley, 941-497-6256**

**Feb. 4 (Thurs.): 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. **Eileen Teel, 941-451-8216.**

**Feb. 9 (Tues.): Siesta Key Beach.** Sarasota's premier beach for gulls, terns and shorebirds. Meet in Siesta Key parking lot near pavilion at 8 a.m. **Larry and Janet Kettner, 908-448-7818.**

**Feb. 11 (Thurs.): Celery Fields.** Birding hot spot with many species of ducks, herons, hawks and passerines often seen in large numbers. Bald Eagles, American Bitterns, Purple Gallinules, Sora probable. Trip has three parts, allowing flexibility in distance walked. Park in county lot at restrooms and meet on boardwalk, 6888 Palmer Blvd. at 9 a.m. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Feb. 13 (Sat.): Venice Rookery and Claw Lake.** Meet at VAAS Rookery at 8 a.m., then go to Claw Lake to bird watch. Bring chair. Possible Limpkins, Bald Eagles, Osprey and Wood Ducks. **Paula Carlsen, 941-493-7502.**

**Feb. 14 (Sun.): Ollie's Pond.** Oasis for Sora, ducks and waders. Easy 1 mile walk. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at 18235 Avon Ave., Port Charlotte. **Susy d'Hont, 941-697-1797, dhont@embarqmail.com.**

**Feb. 18 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park.** See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Feb. 19 (Fri.): Celery Fields.** See Feb. 11 for details. **Eileen Teel, 941-451-8216** and **Bob Clark, rlwclark@gmail.com.**

**Feb. 25 (Thurs.): Oscar Scherer State Park.** See first listing for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Feb. 28 (Sun.): Amberjack Environmental Park.** The 225 acre park has several species of wading birds. Two observation platforms on Lemon Lake. Meet at the park at 8 a.m., 6450 Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Rotonda. **Susy d'Hont, 941-697-1797, dhont@embarqmail.com.**

**Feb. 29 (Mon.): Oscar Scherer State Park Tram Trip.** Ride a tram through the park looking for Florida Scrub-Jays, Brown Thrashers, Northern Flickers, hawks and owls. Bald Eagle chicks may be in the nest. \$10 reservation required. Meet at Oscar Scherer Nature Center at 8:15 a.m. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Mar. 3 (Thurs.): Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.** Admission: \$12 or \$6 for NAS members. Lunch at Sanctuary café. To car pool, meet Bob at VAAS Center at 6:45 a.m. or meet Susy at 7:30 a.m. on east side of Walmart, Kings Highway, Exit 170 off I-75. Or meet at 9 a.m. at ticket counter in Corkscrew, 375 Sanctuary Rd., Naples. To car pool, must contact **Bob Clark, rlwclark@gmail.com** or **Susy d'Hont, 941-697-1797, dhont@embarqmail.com.**

**Mar. 7 (Mon.): Celery Fields.** See Feb. 11 for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Mar. 10 (Thurs.): Felts Preserve.** Bird fields, woods and ponds. Sit in a blind to see Painted and Indigo Buntings. Meet at 9 a.m. at Felts Preserve, 4600 24<sup>th</sup> Ave., Palmetto. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Mar. 14 (Mon.): Deer Prairie Creek Preserve.** Possible Red-headed Woodpeckers, vireos, warblers and waders along 2 mile walk. Meet at 8 a.m. in parking lot, 10201 South Tamiami Trail, across from Myakka RV Park. **Susy d'Hont, 941-697-1797, dhont@embarqmail.com.**

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

**Mar. 23 (Wed.): Shamrock Park.** Look for Florida Scrub-Jays, Ospreys, warblers and wading birds in the woods and along the Intracoastal Waterway. Meet at Nature Center at 8:30 a.m. **Cheryl Gish, 309-453-1720.**

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

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

**Apr. 4 (Mon.): Babcock-Webb Wildlife Management Area, Tuckers Grade, Punta Gorda.** To car pool, meet Bob at VAAS Center at 6:45 a.m. or meet Susy at 7:15 a.m. on east side of Walmart, Kings Highway, Exit 170 off I-75. Or meet at 7:45 a.m., inside Babcock Webb, at the restrooms on first road on right. Must email **Bob Clark, rlwclark@gmail.com** or **Susy d'Hont, dhont@embarqmail.com**, if car pooling. Bring lunch.

**Apr. 7 (Thurs.) or Apr. 14 (Thurs.): Fort De Soto.** The trip will be Apr. 7 or Apr. 14, depending on birding reports. **Call Carol before Apr. 6, to see on which date the trip will go.** Meet at 7 a.m. in parking lot, to right of McDonald's, 480 US 41 Bypass. **Carol Baldassarri, 941-483-4324, Norma Lee Rhines and Cheryl Gish.**

**Apr. 8 (Fri.): Rookery Islands Boat Tour.** Ride the *Carefree Learner* to see nesting Brown Pelicans, herons, egrets and cormorants. Meet at 12:45 p.m. at the *Carefree Learner* in Island Park. Reservation with \$25 required. **Bill Fairbank, 941-412-1610.**

**Apr. 10 (Sun.): Celery Fields.** See Feb. 11 for details. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Apr. 12 (Tues.): Myakka River State Park.** Among the best birding sites in Sarasota County. Meet at 8:15 a.m. in first parking lot on right, Entry fee. **Cheryl Gish, 309-453-1720.**

**Apr. 16 (Sat.): Pinecraft Park.** The park's owls, woodpeckers, warblers, vireos and waders merit several spring visits. Meet at 9 a.m. in parking lot, 1420 Gilbert Ave., Sarasota. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Apr. 21 (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](http://veniceaudubon.org) to download PDF files of Guides, Parts 1 and 2. Also see our Events Calendar at [veniceaudubon.org/events](http://veniceaudubon.org/events).