

# PROGRAMS 2011-2012

**WHERE:** Meetings will be held at two different locations. Sept.–Dec., 2011 and Apr.–May, 2012 meetings will be at the **Venice Audubon Center (VAC)**, 4002 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice (see map). Jan.– Mar., 2012 meetings will be at the **Venice Community Center (VCC)**, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice (between Milan Ave. and Turin St., on the Island.)

**WHEN:** Social period begins at 6:30 PM and the General meeting at 7:00 PM.

**Sept. 27 (VAC): The History of Nesting Eagles at Cedar Point Environmental Center** by Bobbi Rodgers, Resource Manager of the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center in Punta Gorda and Manager of the Cedar Point Park in Englewood.

**Oct. 25 (VAC): Name that Tune** by David Williamson, naturalist and photographer. A fun, interactive program matching bird sounds to photographs of residents and migrants. Audio from the Macaulay Library at Cornell.

**Nov. 22 (VAC): Birds of England** by Barry Rossheim. Barry is known in our organization for his wonderful depictions of international adventures through photography.

**Dec. 13 (VAC): Christmas Birds in Florida** by Charlie Sample. Charlie will present tips to help us accurately identify birds. Mystery birds contest and Christmas prizes awarded to the winners.

**Jan. 24 (VCC): What's Happening to Our Florida Environment?** by Eric Draper, Executive Director, Audubon of Florida. An update and discussion on the current challenges for Florida.

**Feb. 28 (VCC): Raptors and Optics** by Jeff Bouton, Product Specialist for the Birder/Naturalist Markets for Leica Sport Optics. Amazing raptor photos from his studies on local subspecies and advice on optic choices.

**Mar. 27 (VCC): Where Waters Touch the Sky: A Year on Marjorie's Marsh** by Professor Stephen Brown, Ph.D. An evocative presentation in words and images of three seasons on a local wetland.

**Apr. 24 (VAC): The Benefits of Natural Buffer Zones** by Robert D. Wright, NEST Coordinator, Sarasota County. Robert will discuss the beneficial effects native plant vegetated buffer zones have on water quality and the habitat in general. He will focus on the VAAS Rookery and other local bodies of water.

**May 8 (VAC): Rescue, Rehab and Release** by Peg Magee and Kevin Barton, Wildlife Center of Venice. They will talk about helping local wildlife survive in today's challenging environment.

## Who We Are

**Founded:** November 22, 1965

**Membership:** 1,000 members in Venice, Nokomis, Osprey, North Port and Englewood

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

## What We Do

**Venice Audubon Center:** Meetings, education, displays

**Bird Sanctuaries:** Venice Audubon Rookery

**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

**Bird Identification Classes and Field Instruction**

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

**Christmas Bird Count:** Sunday, December 18, 2011

**ColonyWatch:** Census of wading bird rookeries

**EagleWatch:** Nest Monitoring

**Wildlife Rehabilitation:** Financial support

**Environmental Advocacy**

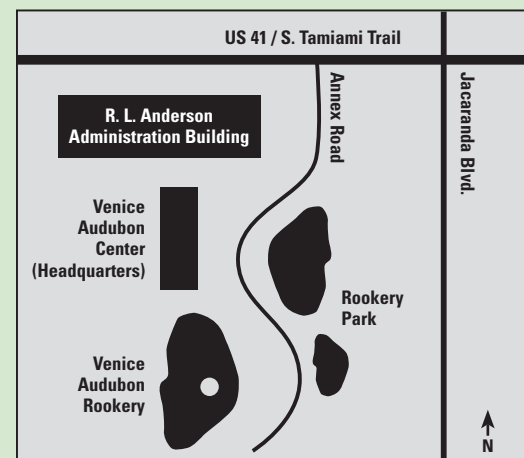
**Environmental Support Fund**

**Community Speakers**

**Bird Censuses**

**Bi-Monthly Newsletter:** *Wings & Things*

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



## VAAS Board of Directors - 2011-2012

**President – Richard Holder**

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**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Joyce Leary**

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Field Trips and Membership Chair

**Recording Secretary – Kim McDonough**

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**Corresponding Secretary – DeDee Connor**

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**Director – Norma Lee Rhines**

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Publicity and Newsletter Chair

**Director – Herb Krauch**

941-488-2615

Bird Research

**Student Director – Missy McDonough**

941-465-8259, missy@letmetakeyourpic.com

Programs Co-Chair

**Past President – Charles Sample**

941-497-6463, csample41@verizon.net

Conservation and Environment Chair

Center and Rookery Administrator

**Venice Audubon Center (Headquarters) and Rookery**

4002 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL

**Phone:** 941-496-8984

**Email:** veniceaudubon@verizon.net

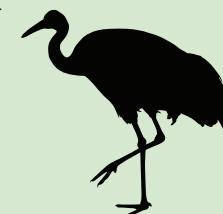
**Website:** veniceaudubon.org

**Mailing Address:**

Venice Area Audubon Society

P. O. Box 1381

Venice, FL 34284-1381



2011-2012

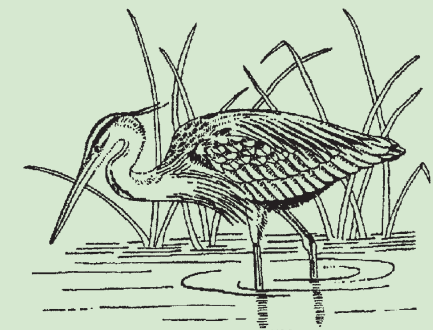
## VENICE AREA AUDUBON SOCIETY

# TRIPS & PROGRAMS GUIDE

### OUR MISSION:

PROMOTING INTEREST IN WILDLIFE AND FOSTERING THE CAUSE OF CONSERVATION WITH EMPHASIS ON BIRDS AND THEIR HABITAT

[veniceaudubon.org](http://veniceaudubon.org)



# FIELD TRIPS 2011-2012

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For more information about VAAS field trips, such as cost and registration, see our newsletter, *Wings & Things*, attend a general meeting or contact the trip leader. Bus, boat, overnight, and limited participation trips require registration. There may be a fee for these trips. Some parks and other places we visit charge admission fees. For trips without fees, we suggest a donation to VAAS of \$3.00 for each participant. Carpool riders must reimburse drivers for gasoline. Everyone must sign a waiver of liability to go on each trip. We suggest you bring binoculars, hat, sunscreen and water.

**Oct. 10 (Mon.) : Pinecraft Park** Look for fall migrants at this local birding hotspot in Sarasota. Carpool from parking lot by McDonalds at north end of T.J.Maxx shopping center on US 41 Bypass at 7:30 AM or meet at the park at 8:00 AM. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Oct. 17 (Mon.): Carlton Reserve** About 2 mile birding walk through the Carlton reserve to see warbler, woodpeckers and other birds. Meet at Carlton Reserve parking area at 8:00 AM. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**

**Nov. 5 (Sat.): Babcock Webb** Carpool from the Venice Audubon Center at 7:00 AM for half day trip. Search for the elusive Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nut Hatch, & Eastern Bluebird. **Brenda Bossman, 941-270-2961**

**Nov. 10 (Thurs.): Carefree Learner Boat Trip** Cruise Sarasota Bay on the *Carefree Learner* to view wading birds, shorebirds, and dolphins. Meet at 12:45 PM at *Carefree Learner* mooring at Island Park, Sarasota. *Carefree Learner* mooring is near O’Leary’s restaurant. Boat leaves at 1:00 PM sharp for 1½ hour cruise. Limit 24 people. Reservations required. Bring a warm jacket for boat ride. **Ginny Koss, 941-493-8812.**

**Nov. 18 (Fri.): Laurel Landfill** We will drive through the landfill area stopping at various locations to see hawks, eagles, meadowlarks, blue birds, Sandhill Cranes, and other birds. Meet at 7:45 AM in the strip mall parking lot on Laurel Road, adjacent to the BP station, near I-75 exit 195. **Herb Krauch, 941-488-2615.**

**Dec. 4 (Sun.): Celery Fields** This area is a premiere Sarasota birding hot spot. Large numbers of wintering birds and various species of ducks, rails, herons, hawks, and passerines are possible. About 2 miles of walking. Meet at the Celery Fields gazebo at 8:30 AM. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Dec. 9 (Fri.): Myakka River State Park** Half day trip to the area’s premier state park. We will stop at birding hot spots in the park. Meet at McDonalds at north end of T.J.Maxx shopping center on US 41 Bypass at 7:30 AM or at St. Margaret’s Church on SR 72 at 8:15 AM. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Dec. 18 (Sun.): Christmas Bird Count** Contact either **Cindy Julius, 941-497-5984** or **Rett Oren, 610-868-7261**

**Dec. 19 (Mon.): Mystery Trip** The location for this trip will be selected the night before. We will go to a birding hot spot within 40 miles of the meeting point to look for recently reported birds of interest. Meet in the NE corner of the Publix parking lot at Venice Ave. and Jacaranda Blvd. to carpool at 7:30 AM. On past trips have seen Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Northern Harrier, Painted Bunting, Indigo Bunting, and American Goldfinch. Be there Monday morning to see what shows up! **Barry Rossheim, 941-485-1328**

**Dec. 30 (Fri.): Carlton Reserve** 3 mile bird walk into Carlton backcountry. Meet at Carlton Reserve parking area at 7:30 AM. **Charlie Sample 497-6463.**

**Jan. 5 (Thurs.): Celery Fields** This area is a premiere Sarasota birding hot spot. Large numbers of wintering birds and various species of ducks, rails, herons, hawks, and passerines are possible. About two miles of walking. Meet at the Celery Fields gazebo at 8:30 AM. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**

**Jan. 10 (Tues.): Oscar Scherer Park Tram Trip** Ride the tram through Oscar Scherer Park to look for Scrub Jays and other birds. There is a \$5.00 entry fee for the park. Limit 20 people. Reservations required. \$10.00 donation to VAAS requested. Meet at the Nature Center in Oscar Scherer Park at 8:15 AM. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Jan. 16 (Mon.): Circle B-Bar Reserve** On this one day bus trip, we will visit Polk County’s premiere birding hot spot. More than 150 species of birds have been recorded. Reservations required. We will depart from the Venice Audubon Center by bus at 7:00 AM. Bring lunch. **Bill Fairbank, 941-412-1610.**

**Jan. 20–21 (Fri.–Sat.): Pasco County** Two day carpool trip that leaves the Venice Audubon Center on Friday night. Stay overnight in a hotel in New Port Richey. Bird Saturday from 6:30 AM to 3:00 PM in west Pasco County. Trip will be led by **David Gagne** of Pasco County. Pasco County is a birding hot spot for ducks, rails, sparrows, gulls, terns, warblers, wrens, and chickadees. Reservations required and deposit of \$25.00 is due by November VAAS meeting. Limit 16 people. **Barry Rossheim, 941-485-1328.**

**Jan. 26 (Thurs): Birding in Big Cypress** All day carpool to Ten Thousand Island Tower, Fakahatchee Strand, Big Cypress Boardwalk and more. Bring lunch. Meet at the Venice Audubon Center at 6:30 AM. **Charlie Sample, 941-497-6463.**

**Jan. 30 (Mon.): Jelks Preserve** Birding walk through the nearby Jelks Preserve then continue birding in nearby Sleeping Turtles. Meet at the Jelks Preserve parking area off River Road at 8:30 AM. **Nancy Edmondson, 941-650-3008.**

**Feb. 1 (Wed.): Birding Siesta Beach** Meet Paul Newhart at 7:30 AM at the Venice Audubon Center to carpool to Siesta Beach for a half day birding trip to one of Sarasota’s premier spots for gulls, terns, waders and shorebirds. Look for possible Gannets and Frigatebirds. **Paul Newhart, 941-480-0482.**

**Feb. 7–9 (Tues.–Thurs.): St. Marks, Wakulla Springs, Ochlockonee** Three day bus trip to view winter ducks and shorebirds, Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Stay at famous Wakulla Springs Lodge, former home of Edward Ball. Boat ride on lake where the movie, *Creature from the Black Lagoon* was filmed. Reservations required. Registration begins at November VAAS meeting. **Charlie Sample, 941-497-6463**

**Feb. 13 (Mon.): Carlton Reserve** About 2 miles bird walk through the Carlton reserve to see warblers, woodpeckers and other birds. Meet at Carlton Reserve parking area at 8:30 AM. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**

**Feb. 16 (Thurs.): Harns Marsh Snail Kites** If you ever wanted to see a rare Snail Kite, this is the place to come! Harns Marsh is a paradise for wading birds including Limpkin. Bring lunch. Meet at 7:00 AM at the Venice Audubon Center to carpool to Harns Marsh. **Bill Fairbank, 941-412-1610.**

**Feb. 20 (Mon.): Laurel Landfill** We will drive through the landfill area stopping at various locations to see eagles, meadowlarks, blue birds, and other birds. Meet at 7:45 AM in the strip mall parking lot on Laurel Road, adjacent to the BP station, near I-75 exit 195. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Feb. 25 (Sat.): Corkscrew Swamp** All day carpool to view birds, cypress trees, swamp, and wildlife in Corkscrew’s backcountry and two mile boardwalk. Reservations required. Limit 16 people. Sign up begins at December VAAS meeting. **Charlie Sample, 941-497-6463**

**Feb. 28 (Tues.): Oscar Scherer Park Tram Trip** Ride the tram through Oscar Scherer Park to look for Scrub Jays and other birds. There is a \$5.00 entry fee for the park. Trip limited to 20 people. Reservations required. \$10.00 donation to VAAS requested. Meet at the Nature Center in Oscar Scherer Park at 8:15 AM. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Mar. 4 (Sun.): Felts Audubon Preserve:** Birding walk through the Felts Audubon Preserve owned by the Manatee Audubon Society. 123 bird species have been observed at the preserve including Painted Buntings and Goldfinches. Carpool from parking lot by McDonalds at north end of T.J.Maxx shopping center on US 41 Bypass at 7:30 AM. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954.**

**Mar. 12 (Mon.): Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge** Drive along Wildlife Drive at the Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge looking for shorebirds, spoonbills, white pelicans and migrants. Lunch at Bowmans Beach before stopping at the Ding Darling Center to view the exhibits. Per car: \$6.00 toll for Sanibel causeway, \$5.00 charge to drive Wildlife Drive, \$3.00 parking at Bowman Beach. Bring lunch. Meet at the Venice Audubon Center to carpool at 7:30 AM. **Bill Fairbank, 941-412-1610.**

**Mar. 18 (Sun.): Pinecraft Park** Look for spring migrants at this local birding hotspot in Sarasota. Carpool from parking lot by McDonalds at north end of T.J.Maxx shopping center on US 41 Bypass at 7:30 AM or meet at 8:00 AM at the park. **Joyce Leary, 508-737-8954**

**Apr. 10 (Tues.): Fort DeSoto** All day carpool trip to one of the best birding spots on the west coast for spring migrants such as Orioles and Tanagers. Bring your picnic lunch with you. Meet at Venice Audubon Center at 7:00 AM. **Carol Baldassari, 941-483-4324.**

**Apr. 13 (Fri.): Rookery Island Boat Trip** Ride the *Carefree Learner* boat to the Bird Island Rookeries in Roberts Bay. See nesting herons, egrets, Brown Pelicans and other birds. The *Carefree Learner* mooring is near O’Leary’s Restaurant at Island Park in Sarasota. Meet at the mooring at 12:45 PM. Boat leaves at 1:00 PM sharp for 1½ hour cruise. Limit 20 people. Reservations required. **Bill Fairbank, 941-412-1610**

**Apr. 16–19 (Mon.–Thurs.): Dry Tortugas and Key West** Four day bus excursion to Lower Keys, Key West and Dry Tortugas. Witness spring migration; see Key Deer, and many waders and shorebirds. Look for Snail Kite, Antillean Nighthawk, Black-whiskered Vireo, Mangrove Cuckoo, Great White and Wurdemann’s Herons. View sea life from glass bottom boat. Reservations required. Sign-up begins at December VAAS meeting. Trip details in November *Wings & Things*. **Charlie Sample, 941-497-6463**

**Apr. 25 (Wed.): Palm Island** All day trip to Palm Island to view shorebirds. This is a walking tour on the beach. Meet at Venice Audubon Center at 7:00 AM to carpool, or meet in the parking lot at Leverock’s Restaurant on Placida Road at 7:45 AM. Trip leaves from Leverock’s at 8:00 AM sharp. Limit 20 people. Reservations required. Lunch included. **Brenda Bossman, 941-270-2961.**