



Sun City Center Audubon Club

April 2022

Ponderings from your prez

Dennis Morris

It's hard to believe that the April 2nd meeting in the Florida Room is our last until October. It'll be a special day, as the **SCC Audubon Club will be celebrating our 35th anniversary.** We'll be taking a few photos with the cake at 9:15 AM, so come and join us. The social hour starts thereafter, so **remember to bring your coffee mug** with you. As always, all SCCCA residents are welcome to attend, so bring a neighbor with you also.

Have you noticed *more* folks at our monthly meetings? It's because our Club continues to grow. Our Club ended 2021 with 150 PAID members. **Our PAID 2022 membership is now 155, and its only March. WOW!**

And don't forget **Earth Day at the SCC Nature Trail on Friday, April 22nd, 9 - Noon.** Registration will begin at 8:30 AM. The event is being organized by Conservation Committee Chair Peter Aluotto, with the assistance of many volunteers. A great day is planned, we hope to see you there!



Congratulation to our New Sun City Center Audubon Board

2022-2023



President

Dennis Morris

Co-Vice-Presidents

Patsie Ginley

Linda Menier

Secretary

Betty Giles

Treasurer

Pam & George Viner

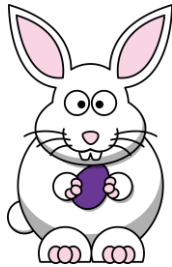
SCC Audubon Board Meetings

Board meetings are held in the heritage room at 7:00pm on the third Monday of every month.

All Members are invited.



Saying Good Bye! Great job Mary, thank you for your hard work and dedication.



Important dates in April

- 3/29 Field trip planning Mtg, Armstrong Room
- 4/1 April Fool's Day
- 4/2 General Meeting, Florida Room
- 4/10 Palm Sunday
- 4/15 First Night of Passover
- 4/17 Easter Sunday
- 4/18 SCC Audubon Board Meeting, Heritage Room
- 4/21 Field Trip to Venice Rookery
- 4/22 Earth Day Celebration at Nature Trail

Oscar Scherer State Park



On their visit to the park Tom & Miriam saw one of the tagged scrub jays at a distance on the blue trail but got lucky on the green trail. One of the jays flew across our path into the scrub only ten feet in front of us. It worked its way up a tree and gave us multiple minutes to appreciate its beauty!

Photos by Tom Bredesen

News from our Master Birder

Ray Webb

We are nearing the beginning of spring migration. Early April marks the arrival of orioles, tanagers, buntings, grosbeaks and other birds that nest throughout the contiguous 48 states. March, however, has its spring arrivals as well.

Last week I saw a beautiful golden-yellow warbler called a prothonotary warbler at Lettuce Lake Park. This species will nest there.

I also have seen a few swallow-tailed kites, large, graceful birds which feed on dragonflies and the like. Here, on our West Campus Nature Trail, I found a red-eyed vireo. This bird nests here in Florida and throughout the U.S.

Some of our winter residents will soon be leaving us. On our trail I heard a blue-headed vireo (formerly called solitary vireo) in full song. They are here through winter but are silent. This bird is getting his hormones in order and will soon be raising a family north of here.



April Field Trip

Thursday, 04/21/22
Venice Rookery
Venice, FL



Officers & Committee Chairs *2022-2023*

<i>President</i>	<i>Dennis Morris</i>
<i>Co-Vice-Presidents</i>	<i>Patsie Ginley</i> <i>Linda Menier</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Betty Giles</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Pam & George Viner</i>
<i>At Large</i>	<i>Linda Floyd</i> <i>Nancy Schrom</i> <i>Laura Butler</i>
<i>Name Tags</i>	<i>Jo Ann Wilkinson</i>
<i>Field Trips</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Master Birder</i>	<i>Ray Webb</i>
<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Pat Dean</i>
<i>Historian</i>	<i>Ed & Clara Clancy</i>
<i>Membership</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Conservation</i>	<i>Peter Aluotto</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Denise Rosen</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Susan Shuttleworth</i>

Field Trip Planning Committee

Please join us for our annual "Field Trip Planning Committee" meeting. Bring your thoughts, suggestions and recommendations we want to hear from you.

We need locations for the next twelve trips so put on your thinking caps and come on over. Join in the fun.

Meeting: Tuesday, March 29
Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm
Location: Armstrong Room- Atriums

Crested Caracaras in the Spotlight at April Meeting

Susan Shuttleworth

Central Florida's prairies are home to the Crested Caracara, a large, boldly patterned raptor that feeds on carrion as well as live prey. At our last meeting of the season, on Saturday, April 2, Adam Kent will give a presentation on this impressive bird. Adam has been studying this species for the past several years and will offer detailed insights based on his observations.

Some interesting facts about the Caracara:

- It's a member of the falcon family
- It has a naked face that turns color from red-orange to pale yellow under stress
- The bird runs and walks more easily than other raptors due to flatter talons
- Sadly, it is a threatened species, primarily due to habitat loss

Another bird -- an Anhinga -- sparked Adam's passion when he was about five years old. Since then, he has worked on many different environmental and education projects, including as a naturalist guide. His biologist positions have involved assessing sites for the Great Florida Birding Trail and working as Florida's first Scrub-Jay Conservation Coordinator. He is a past President of the Florida Ornithological Society and is very involved with the state's second breeding bird atlas. One of Adam's birding highlights was making recordings that led to the description of a new species in Mexico, the Nava's Wren.

The meeting will be held in the Florida Room beginning at 9:15 a.m. with socializing and refreshments. Attendees are asked to bring their own coffee mug. The business meeting will start at 10 a.m., followed by Adam's presentation.



Photo caption: Crested Caracara

Nature Trail

Peter Aluotto

Update on our proposed avian pole:

TECO has agreed to donate a telephone pole and a platform which is to be installed at the entrance to our nature trail in June or July. This pole, which substitutes for the power pole that Ospreys formerly nested on, will be installed by a company called PowerTown.

The cost of installation is approximately \$755.00 to be paid for by the club through private donations. About half the funds have been raised so far. We will be raffling off some plants donated by our sponsors on Earth Day to help pay for the pole.






SUN CITY CENTER AUDUBON CLUB
www.sccaudubonclub.com
Membership Registration

2021-22

Annual Dues: \$10 for CA and Kings Point Gold CA Access Card holders

Print this form, fill it in, and bring it with you to the next in-person meeting. One form per person or mail it to Dennis Morris, 373 Club Manor Dr., Sun City Center, FL 33573. Make checks payable to SCC Audubon Club.

1

Check # _____ Cash _____ Date _____ 

(In-Person only)

Name (Please print legibly) _____

_____ New Member _____ Renewal

2

To become a member, you must sign below.

Liability and photo release

I voluntarily choose to participate in field trips sponsored by the Sun City Center Audubon Club. I recognize the field trips may expose me to harm or injury resulting from travel to and from the field trip site, and due to forces of nature and natural wildlife, including, but not limited to birds, animals, plants, and other wildlife. I expressly assume the risk of any harm that may occur directly or indirectly from travel to and from the field trip site, or from the forces of nature or wildlife that I may be exposed to. I release the Sun City Center Audubon from any and all liability arising from or in connection with the field trips.

I grant to the Sun City Center Audubon Club, its representatives and members the right to take photographs of me and my property in connection with field trips or other activities of the Sun City Center Audubon Club. I authorize the use of same in print and/or electronically.

Member Signature _____

Date _____

3

Enter only NEW or CHANGED information in this box.

E-Mail _____

Address (SCC) _____

Telephone # _____ CA/KP # _____

Birthday Month _____ Day _____

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering on the following committees:

- _____ Membership
- _____ Conservation
- _____ Publicity
- _____ Refreshments
- _____ Greeters

- _____ 3-Day Trip
- _____ December Meeting
- _____ Field Trips
- _____ Serve on Board