



Sun City Center Audubon Club

February 2022

Ponderings from your prez

I have been so relieved to have people step up to fill vacancies on the Board. Rod Rodrigues had turned in a resignation as treasurer to be effective December 30th. We had no one step forward until our January meeting. Of course; Rod, being the standup person that he is, had said he would continue until a replacement could be found. He has done a marvelous job through the years.

Pam and George Viner were appointed at the last Audubon Board meeting to fill the vacancy. They will be co-treasurers and work together. Each brings skills that will keep the Audubon club financial side well-documented and cared for. I doubt any other club has as good a program and people to run it as we do. Pam and George will be the nominees for treasurer when we have the official vote in March.

Two other vacancies on the board are not elected and could be appointed whenever we have a volunteer. We now have a small conservation committee but need a Conservation Chair to run the committee and meet with the Board to inform them of activities and needs. I have been acting as the “chair” or “go to” person for some time now. It has meant walking the Nature Trail, letting the CA know when mowing is needed, etc. Recently, we have been talking about what we need to do about the “fire load” in the area. (More about that later.)

The other vacancy has been the Field Trip coordinator. Ray Webb resigned last spring after many years of coordinating field trips for us. I stepped in and led April’s field trip and organized the list of field trips for October through April. Each board member took a month to lead a trip.

Ray has stepped in to help all through this year. We didn’t have any field trips last summer and we could use someone to plan some for this summer. (Perhaps someone would just take on summer field trips??) And soon we will need a coordinator to plan next season’s trips and to report plans to the board.

And finally, the other vacancy would be that of President. I had decided not to run again in March. I took it on “for just one year” when Ray came to me five years ago and said they hadn’t found anyone else to run. It has been a pleasure to be president for the past five years. It really has and I have enjoyed it even when my personal life was stressful – caring for John in his last years and grieving when he passed (I have to add that the cards from Audubon friends really helped when there was no way for family to come or friends to gather during covid).

In spite of a heart attack and three bicycle accidents – I always managed to be there because of my deep commitment. However, with the resignation of committee chairs and no one stepping up, the position has been stressful. I am hoping people will step up to run these committees and make the life of the next President as enjoyable as my first four years were.

Dennis Morris has volunteered to run for President in March. He has been on the Board as Membership chair and has really gone above and beyond in that position. His enthusiasm and hard work will certainly benefit the club when he takes over. I wish him all the best and will be there to help whenever I can after he is sworn in in April.

Mary Duncan

February Membership Committee Report

2022 Audubon Club dues (\$10) and registrations are due at this time. You can mail your 2022 registration OR submit it at the membership registration table at the next meeting. The Membership Registration form is attached. You can check your membership status at the meeting check-in table.

The SCC Audubon Club membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st. THANK YOU to the 127 members who have joined or renewed since September 2021 -- you are already paid-in-full 2022 members.

Note: Current 2022 paid membership is already 84% of the 2021 Club membership (150) - quite a comeback after a difficult year!

71 attended our January 8th Club meeting. 26 membership applications were received at the meeting, of which 18 were NEW to our list!

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, February 5th in the Florida Room. As always, all SCCCA residents are welcome to attend, so bring a neighbor with you.

BTW: The Membership Committee needs a chairperson! Here are the basics of the position:

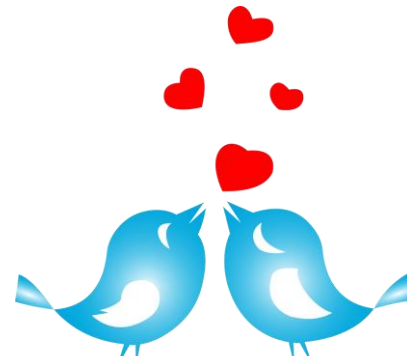
- List the members and their information
- Receive registrations and dues
- Organize the meeting check-in tables
- Submit an annual CA report
- Serve as a Board Member

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Dennis Morris or any Club board member.

Dennis Morris
Membership Chairman
(570) 814-2803
5w3d15h80y@gmail.com

Officers & Committee Chairs 2021-2022

<i>President</i>	<i>Mary Duncan</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>Dennis Morris</i>
<i>Conservation</i>	<i>TBD</i>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<i>Denise Rosen</i>
<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Susan Shuttleworth</i>



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.

Crested Caracaras in the Spotlight at February Meeting

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 next meeting on **Saturday, February 5**, 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.



Photo Caption

Crested Caracara

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.

SCC Audubon Meeting

Saturday, February 5th
Atrium – Florida Room

The Audubon Club continues to take precautions for your safety. There will only be four chairs per table to help with social distancing. Masks are highly recommended.

Join us for refreshments at 9:15 am

Happy
Valentine's
Day

February 14th

News from our Master Birder

Ray Webb

The morning of January 25, 2022 dawned ominous; threatening rain, beginning around noon, and chilly. Nevertheless, eleven Audubon members met at the Community Hall for our scheduled field trip to Emerson Point Preserve in Palmetto. Led by SCC Audubon member Phill Price, we first visited the Shell Mounds and Visitor Center. We enjoyed watching a pileated woodpecker carve out a nesting hole in a dead palm trunk, showering us with wood chips! The boardwalks through the mounds educated us with stories and history about the original native inhabitants of the area.

Our next stop was at a roadside pond further into the park, which normally attracts numerous species of ducks. Today, however, one lone female ring-necked duck was all we could find. This is in line with this winter season in general, where visiting waterfowl have been scarce. At the beach, the bay was likewise devoid of ducks, with a lone red-breasted merganser in flight being our only sighting. One sanderling, one least sandpiper and a few herons added to our day's list.

As the rain began to fall, Phill showed us another local pond at the Palmetto Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), where we did find many ducks, to include redhead, northern shoveler, lesser scaup and hooded merganser. We concluded the day with lunch at Popi's Place, on US 41. All in all, we decided it had been a very enjoyable trip!

Aside from a scarcity of waterfowl I have noted a similar lack of wintering songbirds in general this winter. The normally very abundant yellow-rumped warblers have actually been hard to find, but palm and pine warblers continue to dance around on our lawns. It seems that many species of birds have not come as far south as usual this winter.

Upcoming Field Trips

03/08/22 **Palma Sola Botanical Park**
Manatee County, FL

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

February Field Trip

2/22/2022

Myakka River State Park
Sarasota County, FL

To sign up visit our website at:
www.sccaudubonclub.com





Fun on the Trails

Photos by Diane Loeffler







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	_____ 3-Day Trip
_____ Conservation	_____ December Meeting
_____ Publicity	_____ Field Trips
_____ Refreshments	_____ Serve on Board
_____ Greeters	