

Venice Area Audubon Society

# Welcomes the VGRC Community Association For a Presentation and Tour



Presented by Rick  
Cordner  
VAAS Board Member

# Venice Area Audubon Society (VAAS)

- Who we Are .....
- Chartered on July 24, 1965 as a Chapter of National Audubon
- Serving Osprey, Nokomis, Venice, Englewood area
- All Volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit company
- *Our Mission: To promote an understanding of and interest in wildlife and the environment that supports it, and to foster the cause of conservation with emphasis on birds and their habitats.*



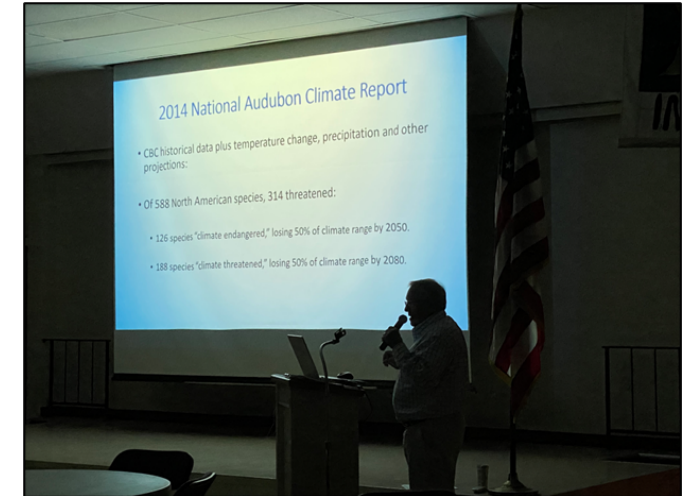
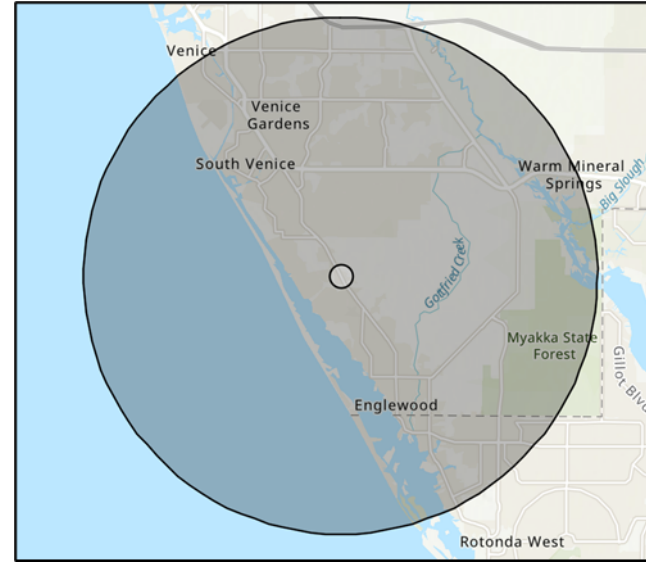


# EDUCATION

- Over 40 years working with south Sarasota County public and private schools
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Program - Field Trips & In-school
  - ✓ 10 Schools served including 5 Title One Schools
  - ✓ VAAS covers bus costs for Title One Schools
  - ✓ Over 1,200 children participated in this year's program
- Little Naturalists for 3- to 5-year-olds
- Field Trips – VAAS Members led 58 field trips during past 12 months
- Community outreach (other) –
  - ✓ Rookery Docents, Rookery Day, OSSP Earth Day, Alligator Creek Fest, etc.
  - ✓ Walks and programs

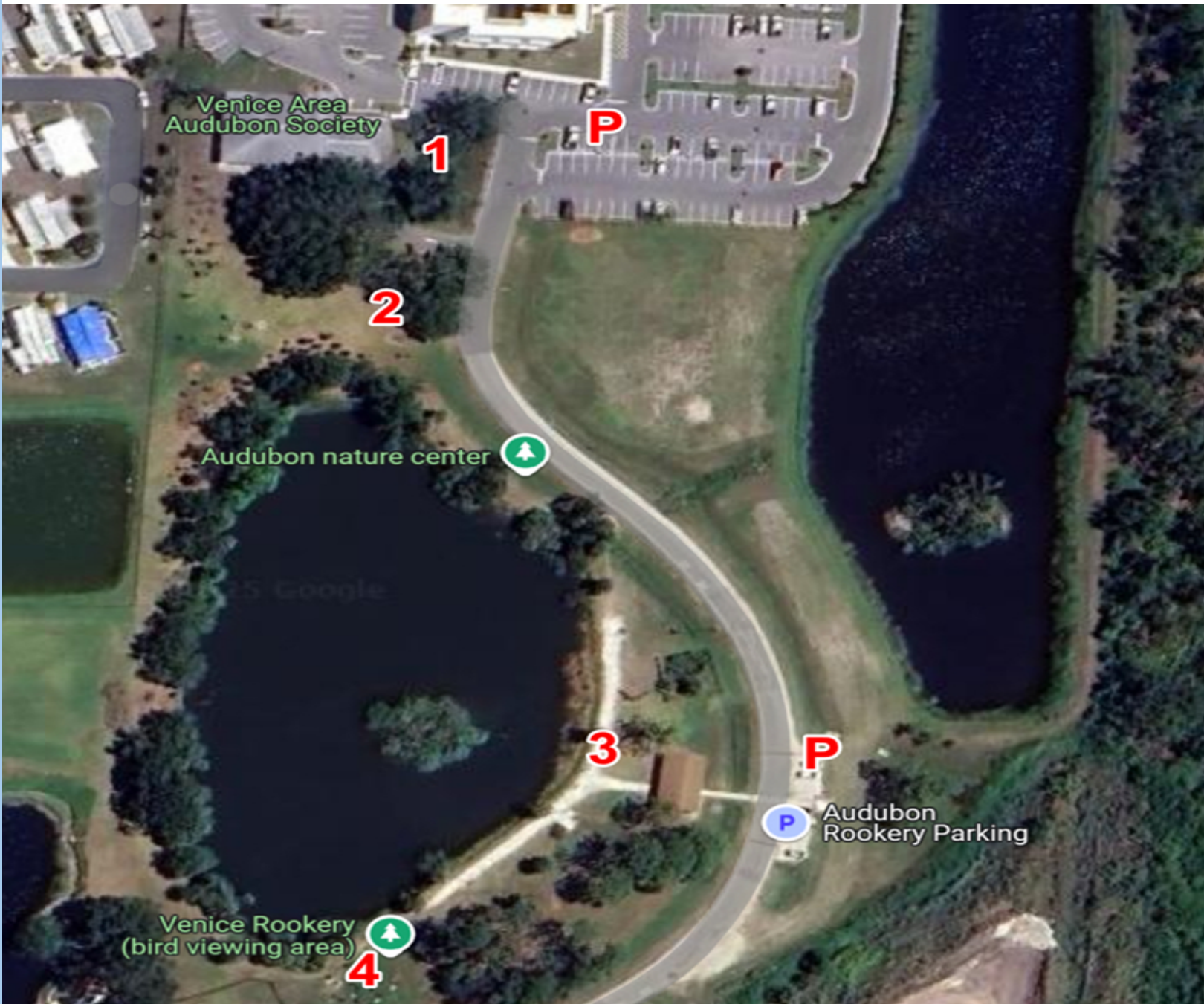


# CONSERVATION



- Purple Martin Project
- Christmas Bird Count
- Science and Environmental Council Member
- Myakka River Management Coordinating Council Member
- Provide support for local wildlife rehabilitation organizations





# VENICIE ROOKERY

1. AUDUBON CENTER
2. PURPLE MARTIN COLONY
3. THE ROOKERY
4. THE "BATS"

(P) PARKING – TWO OPTIONS

\*\*\*\*REST ROOMS – AT CENTER & PORT-A-JOHN BY ROOKERY



# TONIGHT'S PROGRAM – THE TOUR

## 2. PURPLE MARTIN COLONY



## 3. ROOKERY - NESTING BIRDS



## 3. ROOKERY – ROOSTING BIRDS



## 4. THE “BATS”





# PURPLE MARTIN COLONY “LANDLORD” 66 APARTMENTS

*We have Babies!!!!*

- Purple Martins rely on man-made cavities
- Migrate to Brazil each year returning in Feb – Mar
- Coexist with humans
- Native Americans Used Squash Gourds
- 2024 Results
  - Cavities Used: 66
  - Eggs Laid: 363
  - Hatchlings: 294
  - Fledglings: 265
- Colony in the VGRC?
- VAAS has helped establish two other colonies





## Why do the Birds Choose the Rookery Island?

- Safe from Predators – Racoons, Opossums & Snakes
- Colony = Safety in numbers.

***Plus, the island has some guards who are on patrol:***





# Primary Bird Species at the Rookery

## The Nesting Birds

- Great Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Anhinga
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Black-crowned Night-Heron
- Green Heron, Common Gallinule

## The Roosting Birds

- White Ibis
- Snowy Egret
- Little Blue Heron
- Tricolored Heron
- Glossy Ibis

# Great Blue Heron

- *Length:* 38.2-53.9 in
- *Weight:* 74.1-88.2 oz
- *Wingspan:* 65.8-79.1
- *Clutch Size:* 2-6 eggs
- *Broods:* 1-2
- *Incubation:* 27-29 days
- *Fledge:* 49-81 days





# Great Egret

- *Length:* 37.0-40.9 in
- *Weight:* 35.3 oz
- *Wingspan:* 51.6-57.1 in
- *Clutch Size:* 1-6 eggs
- *Incubation:* 23-27 days
- *Fledge:* 21-25 days





# Double-crested Cormorant

*Length:* 27.6-35.4 in

*Weight:* 42.3-88.2 oz

*Wingspan:* 44.9-48.4 in

*Clutch Size:* 1-7 eggs

*Incubation:* 25-28 days

*Fledge:* 21-28 days





# Anhinga

- *Length:* 29.5-37.4 in
- *Weight:* 46.7-47.6 oz
- *Wingspan:* 42.9 in
- *Clutch Size:* 2-5 eggs
- *Broods:* 1 brood
- *Incubation:* 26-30 days
- *Fledges:* 14-21 days





# Anhinga or Cormorant?



Letter A has a point. Anhinga bill is VERY pointed.



C is for Cormorant with a CURVED bill.



# The Other Nesters:



**Black-crowned Night-Heron**



**Green  
Heron**



**Common  
Gallinule**



**Glossy  
Ibis**



# The "Roosters"

White Ibis



Snowy Egret



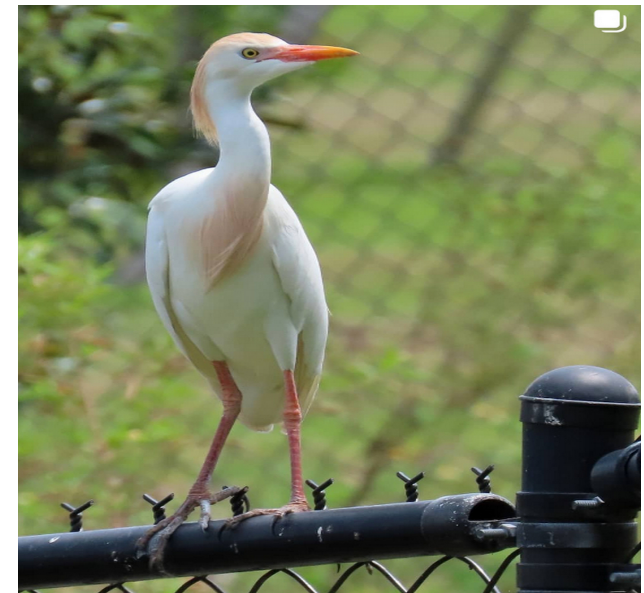
Little Blue Heron



Tricolored Heron



Cattle Egret







# Just to Confuse You



*A White Ibis.... is  
not always White*



*A Little Blue  
Heron.... is not  
always Blue*





# Brazilian Free-tailed Bats

- Mammals; live births
- Non-migratory; most common species in Sarasota County
- Lifespan approx. 11 years in the wild
- Breeding season March-July
- Insectivores; teeth for crunching insects
- Weigh approx. 0.25-0.42 oz
- Wingspan =11-14 inches
- Roosting boxes: provided and maintained by Sarasota County





# Supporting our Mission

## ➤ **Join Venice Area Audubon Society**

- Monthly ChipNote newsletter, general support
- [www.veniceaudubon.org](http://www.veniceaudubon.org)

## ➤ **Participate**

- Attend programs, take a bird walk, volunteer

## ➤ **Donate**

- General fund, dedicated Education Fund



# Thanks for coming



**Please consider making a donation.  
Look for Cash Box at Pavilion.  
Thanks**

## A special thanks to:

- **Rich Turk for his superb photography**
- **Mark Faford: Co-President of the VGRC CA who helped organize this event**
- **Diana Watters & Sarah Wilson & Ruth Cordner – VAAS Volunteers who helped with this event -**



**Come Join us on a Field Trip**





## A Couple of Slides for My Venetian Neighbors



# Bird Species Recorded at the Venetian

Venetian Golf & River Club Sarasota, Florida, United States

Overview

Bird List

Recent Checklists

eBirders

Illustrated Checklist

VIEW MY...

My eBird

Life List

Target Species

Checklists

EXPLORE...

Hotspot Map

Bar Charts

Media

Rare Bird Alerts

Printable Checklist

## Bird List

129  
All Years

75  
This Year  
2025

69  
This Month  
Mar 2025

Last Observed

First Observed

High C

SPECIES NAME		COUNT	DATE	OBSERVER
1.	Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	5	29 Nov 2024	Zachary Ambrose
2.	Blue-winged Teal	2	26 Mar 2025	Richard Cordner
3.	Mottled Duck	2	27 Mar 2025	Marnie Briggs
4.	Green-winged Teal	3	12 Mar 2023	John Barton
5.	Lesser Scaup	1	23 Mar 2024	Marnie Briggs
6.	Red-breasted Merganser	1	8 Jan 2024	Richard Cordner
7.	Northern Bobwhite	1	24 Apr 2023	Marnie Briggs
8.	Wild Turkey	2	11 Mar 2025	Carey Bergman
9.	Rock Pigeon	* 1	8 Jan 2024	Richard Cordner
10.	Eurasian Collared-Dove	* 1	26 Mar 2023	Marnie Briggs
11.	Common Ground Dove	2	26 Mar 2025	Richard Cordner
12.	White-winged Dove	1	30 Dec 2023	Richard Cordner
13.	Mourning Dove	4	27 Mar 2025	Marnie Briggs
14.	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	15 Apr 2021	Richard Cordner
15.	Chimney Swift	1	2 May 2022	Marnie Briggs
16.	Common Gallinule	5	27 Mar 2025	Marnie Briggs
17.	American Coot	2	26 Mar 2025	Richard Cordner



# Limpkin - The "Screamer"





# Purple Martin Colony in the Venice





# ***RARE BIRD ALERT IN THE VGRC! GREAT WHITE HERONS***





FINI .....

Questions?

Now, off to see some Purple  
Martins