

Thanks for visiting the Bradenton A

Our area is considered a haven for nature and wildlife, and a great place to observe birds in the wild. It's home to many of the region's unique species, as well as a great place to see rare, migratory birds.

This brief field guide to our area's birdlife provides a great introduction to what birds can be found here, where you're most likely to find them, and how best to identify many of our most notable species.

We hope you enjoy discovering the birdlife of our area. Taking the time to locate and observe each is a wonderful way to enjoy the many, bountiful natural attractions of the Bradenton Area.

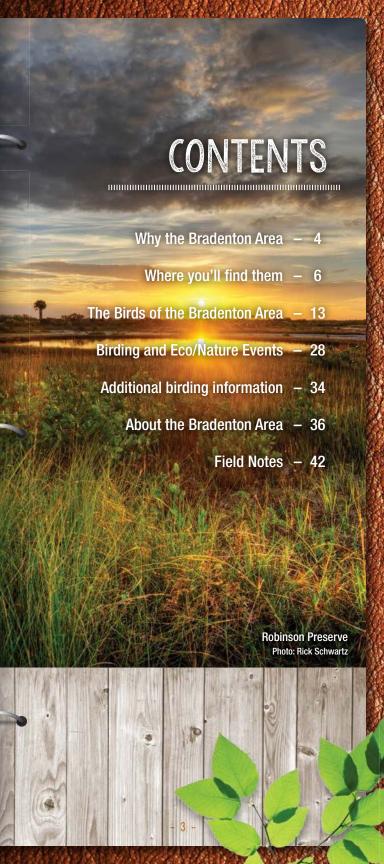
Elliott Falcione **Executive Director**

Ella Falune

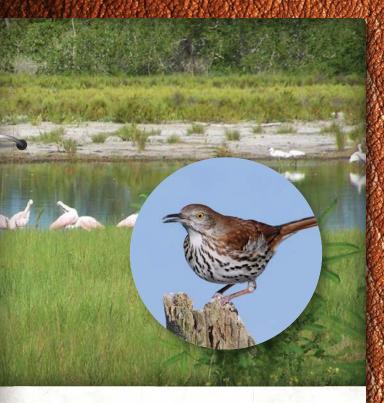
Debbie Meihls

Executive Manager

Bradenton Area Convention & Visitors Bureau One Haben Boulevard, Palmetto, FL 34221 941-729-9177 BradentonGulfIslands.com







The area's many parks and preserves offer easy access to great birding locations, and many offer facilities perfectly planned to give you sightings of the area's unique populations. The Bradenton Area is also home to several

Orlando

Miami

Tampa Bay

Bradenton Area

locations of the Great Florida Birding and Wildlife

Trail — the state's 2,000 mile, self-guided route of over 500 birding and wildlife

viewing sites throughout Florida. And there's one

more bonus: the area is also

a haven for observing rare migratory species as they make seasonal stopovers along Florida's Gulf Coast.

So don your hiking boots or sneakers, pick a trail, reach for your binoculars and let your soul soar.

Area Viewing Locations

The Bradenton Area makes it easy for you to discover places that are perfect for finding and viewing birds in their natural habitat. From simple shorelines to deep, forested preserves, the area offers a wide variety of habitats and viewing options.

Ready to find the perfect spot? Here are just a few highly rated sites in the area.

Coquina Beach Baywalk at Leffis Key Preserve *



Located on the south end of Anna Maria Island, Leffis Key Preserve has a prominent 26-foot hill providing a panoramic view of Sarasota Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.

Packed shell trails and boardwalks traverse a splendid combination of mangroves, mudflats, tidal ponds and coastal ridge providing habitat for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Reddish Egret and more. You'll find neotropical migrants in spring and fall such as Yellow-throated Vireo. Rarities and vagrants often drop by this location, such as La Sagra's Flycatcher and occasionally, American White Pelican.

Open daily, sunrise to sunset. 2351 Gulf of Mexico Dr. S., Anna Maria Island BradentonGulfIslands.com/play/beaches-and-parks

^{* =} Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail location

De Soto National Memorial



Located in north Bradenton, the site commemorates the 1539 landing of Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto. The park's nature trail takes visitors along the shoreline

and through various ecosystems, such as a mangrove forest. The park offers abundant opportunities to watch the region's shore birds in action. The seasonal migration brings many bird watchers to the park in the fall and early spring. The park's Visitor Center personnel can let you know what new and rare birds have been sighted recently at the park and can provide a list of the park's birds.

Open daily, sunrise to sunset. Parking lot closes at 5 p.m. 8300 De Soto Memorial Highway, Bradenton BradentonGulfIslands.com/play/beaches-and-parks

Duette Preserve*



Duette Preserve contains the headwaters of the Manatee River and at 21,000 acres, is the largest preserve in the Bradenton Area's land preservation

program. Pine flatwoods, oak scrub, hardwood swamp, marsh and dry prairie habitats, plus ponds, streams and sloughs provide the perfect home for everything from Wild Turkey to Red-headed Woodpecker to Snowy Egret as well as the charismatic Florida Scrub-Jay.

Open daily, 8 a.m. to sunset for pedestrian, bicycle and equestrian traffic. Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. for vehicles. \$3 plus tax per vehicle. Closed for hunting on select weekends. 2649 Rawls Rd., Duette

BradentonGulfIslands.com/play/beaches-and-parks

Egmont Key



Just north of Anna Maria Island, and accessible only by boat, Egmont Key offers a rare opportunity to see the area's marine populations in a dedicated preserve

declared a National Wildlife Refuge. The southern tip of the 440-acre island is designated a "no human zone" where only wildlife are permitted, providing sanctuary to huge populations of indigenous and migratory birds. Boat rentals, charters, as well as boat ramps are easily sourced on Anna Maria Island, Bradenton and Palmetto, and make for one of the area's most unique birding opportunities.

Open daily.

North of Anna Maria Island and Passage Key
fws.gov/EgmontKey

Emerson Point Preserve *



A great place for beginners, Emerson Point Preserve offers 6.5 miles of trails and boardwalks, including nine trails that wind through uplands, tropical hammocks of

Gumbo Limbo and Live Oak trees, coastal berm, and mangrove estuary, each with respective birding opportunities. Check the freshwater wetlands for waterfowl such as Wood Stork and Roseate Spoonbill. Upland trails can offer songbirds, woodpeckers and hawks. Spring and fall offer migratory species. An observation tower offers a stunning 360° view of the area.

Open daily, sunrise to sunset. 5801 17th St. W., Palmetto BradentonGulfIslands.com/play/beaches-and-parks

Felts Audubon Preserve

Conveniently located in the town of Palmetto, this 30-acre nature preserve is owned and managed by the local chapter of the Audubon Society. A Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation, the preserve has documented more than 160 avian species, including the spectacular Painted Bunting. Small ponds with open fields attract a wide variety of wildlife, especially migratory and nesting birds and colorful butterflies. The preserve features unique photography blinds, letting you capture great photographs.

Open daily, sunrise to sunset. 4600 24th Ave., Palmetto ManateeAudubon.org

Greer Island Beach *



At the northernmost tip of Longboat Key and just south of Leffis Key Preserve, Greer Island Beach offers great opportunities to see the area's shorebirds in action. Black

Skimmers, Willets, Red Knots, Black-bellied Plovers and American Oystercatchers winter on the sandy beach here, sometimes in large numbers. Sanderlings and Ruddy Turnstones are present all year. Access the beach by boat, or park at the west end of Broadway Street and follow the short boardwalk to the beach. Popular with beachgoers and boaters, so get there early in the day.

Open daily, sunrise to 10 p.m.
West end of Broadway St., Longboat Key
BradentonGulfIslands.com/play/beaches-and-parks

^{* =} Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail location

Lake Manatee State Park

The 556-acre park extending three miles along the south shore of Lake Manatee is home to a 2,400-acre reservoir supplying the drinking water for the region, and is a superb site for upland bird observation. The park's habitat of pind flatwoods and sand pine scrub, marshes and hardwood forests provide home for several species, including the endangered Florida Scrub-Jay.

Open daily, 8 a.m. to sunset. 20007 S.R. 64 E., Bradenton FloridaStateParks.org/LakeManatee

Myakka River State Park *



A vast upland park, shared by the Bradenton Area and its neighbor to the south, is one of the largest state parks in Florida. The park is famous for birding opportunities.

Shallow lakes, thousands of wetlands and the diversity of habitats account for the nearly 100 species of birds listed as common or abundant on the park bird list. The park features a unique Bird Walk stretching over a portion of the far northeast side of Upper Myakka Lake, plus an elevated canopy walkway through an oak-palm hammock and a 74-foot-high observation tower.

Open daily, 8 a.m. to sunset. 13208 S.R. 72, Sarasota FloridaStateParks.org/MyakkaRiver

Neal Preserve



Neal Preserve offers 120 acres representing coastal habitats, such as mangrove forests and salt terns, as well as pockets of oak hammock uplands. The site features passive outdoor

recreation opportunities including a 20-foot tall observation tower, shell trails, and boardwalks for bird watching and hiking.

Open daily, sunrise to sunset. 12301 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton BradentonGulfIslands.com/play/beaches-and-parks

Quick Point Nature Preserve *



Immediately south of the Bradenton Area on the southeast end of Longboat Key, the site provides a good birding spot for beginners. The site's interesting mix of

mangrove estuary, tidal swamps and uplands offers habitat for herons and egrets, ibises and spoonbills, but also "flyovers" such as ospreys, gulls and terns from the nearby Gulf beaches. The site offers an easy walk along a short trail system overlooking Sarasota Bay.

Open daily, dawn to dusk. 100 Gulf of Mexico Dr., Longboat Key LongboatKey.org

^{* =} Great Florida Birding & Wildlife Trail location

Robinson Preserve



One of the area's most accessible birding sites, Robinson offers 637 acres of preserved coastal wetlands providing the opportunity to observe some 100

species of birds, including Roseate Spoonbills, Bald Eagles and on rare occasions, Peregrine Falcons and Marsh Sparrows. Hiking and biking trails make it easy to enjoy the area, while a 40-foot observation tower provides breathtaking views of the preserve, Tampa Bay and beyond. Kayak trails allow vantage points not available from land.

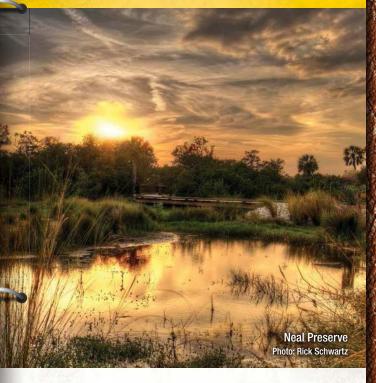
Open daily, sunrise to sunset. 1704 99th St. N.W., Bradenton BradentonGulfIslands.com/play/beaches-and-parks

Rye Preserve

Rye Preserve is a 145-acre property located just northwest of the Lake Manatee Dam. The preserve's trail system leads visitors through four distinctive ecosystems, including sand pine scrub, xeric oak scrub, oak hammocks and the river community. The area's Manatee River meandering through the preserve gives birders opportunities to see inland, freshwater species such as egrets, herons, Anhingas, Ibis, Limpkins and more. A canoe/kayak launch makes river access easy and provides a unique vantage for birding.

Open daily, 8 a.m. to sunset. 905 Rye Wilderness Trail, Parrish BradentonGulfIslands.com/play/beaches-and-parks

BIRDS OF THE BRADENTON AREA



The Bradenton Area provides a treasure trove of avian species. The area's broad and varied range of topography provides habitats that vary from offshore islands and tidal marshes, to inland sand prairies, swamps and more. The area is also a frequent stopover for a variety of migratory species, allowing rare sightings of birds typically found elsewhere.

Although no area birding list could ever be totally complete or exhaustive, the following provides a great starting point for the many birds in the area, and an excellent way for you to begin your exploration of one of the state's best birding locations.

For more area bird information, you may wish to visit the Manatee County Audubon Society at: ManateeAudubon.org

BIRDS COMMON TO THE AREA.



SPOTTED ___

DATE ___ PLACE _

NOTES

ROSEATE SPOONBILL

One of Florida's most distinctive wading birds, visitors often mistake Spoonbills for Flamingos. You'll find them in the water along the shore of most coastal wetlands. They will usually have their distinctive, spoon-like bill in the water raking it back and forth under the surface as they scavenge for fish, crustaceans and aquatic insects.



SPOTTED ___

PLACE

NOTES

WOOD STORK

One of Florida's signature wading birds, the Wood Stork is a long-legged, awkward-looking bird on land that soars like a raptor. They feed in shallow water, stirring the bottom then snapping up small prey under the shoreline's surface. Classified as an Endangered Species, they are white with a black head and bill, and have pink feet.



SPOTTED [

DATE _ PLACE

NOTES

AMERICAN BAID FAGIF

Many of Florida's visitors are surprised that the state is home to the country's national bird. A year-round resident, the bird of prey builds sturdy nests; usually in a tall, solitary tree; to which they return year after year. They feed primarily on fish, but will also eat carrion, birds and small mammals. They also steal food from other birds.

Species easy to spot and that you're likely to find in the Bradenton Area.



SPOTTED _

PLACE _____

NOTES

DATE _

OSPREY

With their dark bodies and white heads, many times Ospreys are confused with the Bald Eagle. Feeding mostly on live fish, they can be seen diving close to the water's surface, snatching their prey from below. Found around nearly any body of water, they build large, stick nests on dead trees, radio towers, channel markers and more.



SPOTTED DATE

NOTES

PLACE

SANDHILL CRANE

Graceful, tall and with very long necks and long black legs, Sandhill Cranes are easily spotted in wide open areas such as pastures, prairies, lawns and golf courses. They typically are seen in small groups or pairs. Pale silver/gray, the adults have a red patch on the crown contrasting with a white cheek, and have a pointed black bill.



BPOTTED ______

DATE ______
PLACE

NOTES

WHITE IBIS

A distinctive wading bird, you'll usually find these in coastal marshes and wetlands, foraging in small groups by sweeping their bills from side to side and probing at bottom. White, with long red legs and a long, distinctive red and black bill. Black wingtips can be seen in flight. Groups fly in a distinctive "V" formation.

RARE AREA BIRDS.



SPOTTED ____

PLACE ___

NOTES

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

You'll find these birds in the area's salt marshes and shorelines using their long bright-orange bills to feed on oysters, clams and other bivalves under the muddy shore. A rather large bird, and more prevalent in the winter, it's distinctively marked with a black head, brown wings, and white underbelly.



SPOTTED _

PLACE

NOTES

BROWN THRASHER

Brown Thrashers are best found in scrubby fields, dense regenerating woods and forest edges. They rarely venture far from thick undergrowth. Rust-brown birds with heavy, dark streaking on their whitish underparts. The face is gray-brown and the wings show two black-and-white wing bars.



SPOTTED _

DATE ______

NOTES

LIMPKIN

Found in area swamps and marshes, the Limpkin feeds almost exclusively on apple snails, which it extracts from their shells with its long bill. Its screaming cry is loud and evocative, and usually heard at night. Large with a long neck and long bill, Limpkins are brown with white streaked dots.

Birds rare in the area and that are considered great finds.



SPOTTED ____

PLACE __

NOTES

FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY

The Scrub-Jay is restricted to the vanishing scrub oak habitat of Florida, and is classified as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. A large songbird, with adults having a blue head, wings, and tail and with pale gray-brown back and underparts. It also has a whitish throat with blue necklace.



NOTES

PAINTED BUNTING

With their vivid fusion of blue, green, yellow, and red, male Painted Buntings seem to have flown straight out of a coloring book. Males have blue heads, red underparts, and green backs. Females are a uniform, bright yellow-green overall, with a pale eye ring.



BPOTTED _____

DATE ______
PLACE

NOTES

PRAIRIE WARBLER

Unlike its name, it prefers scrub area and forests, avoiding open fields. Males have bright yellow throat, breast and belly. Bold black streaks on sides and flanks. The Warbler displays bright yellow eyebrow stripe with a dark line through eye. Females have dull, pale yellow underparts and dark streaks on their sides.

BIRDS OF BRADENTON AREA

	DATE	PLACE
FLYCATCHERS		-/-
Eastern Wood-pewee		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		LATE
Acadian Flycatcher		
Alder Flycatcher		
Willow Flycatcher		
Least Flycatcher		
Eastern Phoebe		
Vermilion Flycatcher		
Great Crested Flycatcher		
Western Kingbird		
Eastern Kingbird	4.5.00	
Gray Kingbird		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		
SHRIKES	11300	2 20 28
Loggerhead Shrike		
VIREOS		
White-eyed Vireo		W 3 2 3 3
Yellow-throated Vireo		Palmas
Blue-headed Vireo		
Philadelphia Vireo	7 7 7	11.2
Bell's Vireo		
Red-eyed Vireo	9 [4]	No. of the last
Black-whiskered Vireo		
JAYS/CROWS	745	The last
Blue Jay	100	
Florida Scrub-Jay		
American Crow		
Fish Crow	71	
MARTINS/SWALLOWS	1-36-1	AL PERSON NAMED IN
Purple Martin		
Tree Swallow		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow		4
Bank Swallow		A A SQUIALL

The following list offers many of the 286 species noted in the Bradenton Area, and provides you with the opportunity to record your sightings.

	DATE	PLACE
Barn Swallow		
TITMOUSES/NUTHATCHES		
Tufted Titmouse	35	
Brown-headed Nuthatch	- B	
WRENS		
Carolina Wren		
House Wren		
Sedge Wren	30 5	
Marsh Wren		3 1 40 2 2 3
(INGLETS/GNATCATCHERS		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	TO SHELL OF	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher		
THRUSHES		
astern Bluebird		44.4
/eery	-11 14-11-19	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	N 7) - 1 E	
Swainson's Thrush		
Hermit Thrush	Page 1	- 160
Wood Thrush	B Bha	
American Robin		
MIMIDS/STARLINGS		
Gray Catbird		
Northern Mockingbird	U7 25 25 14	
Brown Thrasher	7	
European Starling	0000000	
PIPITS/WAXWINGS		
American Pipit		
Cedar Waxwing		
WARBLERS		
Blue-winged Warbler		
Golden-winged Warbler		
Tennessee Warbler	11.19 (40	
Orange-crowned Warbler	20 14000	
Vashville Warbler		A STEWART I

BIRDS OF BRADENTON AREA

	DATE	PLACE
Northern Parula	365	11.00
Yellow Warbler		
Chestnut-sided Warbler		
Magnolia Warbler		
Cape May Warbler		
Black-throated Blue Warbler		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	- 11	
Black-throated Green Warbler		302323
Blackburnian Warbler		
Yellow-throated Warbler		
Pine Warbler		
Prairie Warbler	18-200	
Palm Warbler		
Bay-breasted Warbler		
Blackpoll Warbler		
Cerulean Warbler	I WY	
Black-and-white Warbler		- 30/12
American Redstart	400	
Prothonotary Warbler		
Worm-eating Warbler		
Swainson's Warbler		
Ovenbird		
Northern Waterthrush		
Louisiana Waterthrush		
Kentucky Warbler		
Connecticut Warbler	14	
Common Yellowthroat		
Mourning Warbler	HL	22.49.0
Hooded Warbler	1132	the state of the state of
Canada Warbler	477	
Wilson's Warbler		
Yellow-breasted Chat		
TANAGERS/TOWHEES		
Summer Tanager		

BIRDING TIP: Different birds can be sighted at different times of the day, or different seasons. So be patient, and return often.

	DATE	PLACE
Scarlet Tanager		
Eastern Towhee		
SPARROWS		
Bachman's Sparrow		
Chipping Sparrow		
Clay-colored Sparrow		
Field Sparrow		
House Sparrow		
Vesper Sparrow		
Lark Sparrow		
Savannah Sparrow		
Grasshopper Sparrow		
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow		
Song Sparrow		
Lincoln's Sparrow		
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	10/2 [5	
Swamp Sparrow		
White-throated Sparrow		
White-crowned Sparrow	F.// A. —	
CARDINALS/GROSBEAKS		
Northern Cardinal		I THE TANK
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
Blue Grosbeak		
BUNTINGS/DICKCISSEL		
ndigo Bunting		
Painted Bunting		
Dickcissel		
ICTERIDS		
Bobolink		
Red-winged Blackbird		
Eastern Meadowlark		
Yellow-headed Blackbird		
Common Grackle		
Boat-tailed Grackle		



Egmont Key



ANNA MARIA ISLAND

HOL BE

BR

Greer I

Bradenton Anna Maria Island Longboat Key

MAP LEGEND

- Bird Watching Locations
- Airport
 - Visitor Center

Gulf of

BIRDS OF BRADENTON AREA

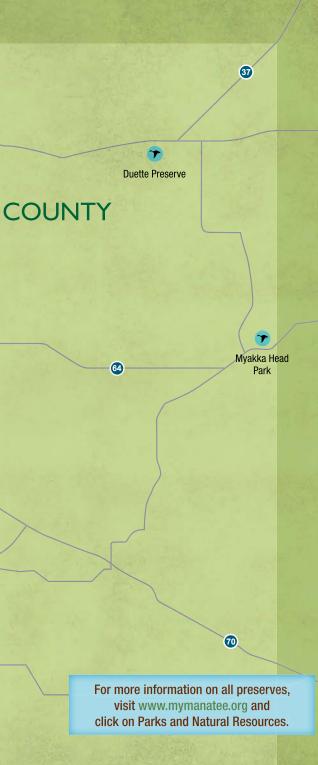
	DATE	PLACE
Shiny Cowbird		
Bronzed Cowbird		
Brown-headed Cowbird		
ORIOLES		
Orchard Oriole		
Baltimore Oriole		
FINCHES/SISKINS		
House Finch		
Pine Siskin		
American Goldfinch		
FERAL		
Mallard	1 1	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
Muscovy Duck		
LOON		
Common Loon		
GREBES		
Pied-Billed Grebe		
Horned Grebe		
BOOBIES/GANNET		
Brown Booby		
Northern Gannet		
PELICANS		
American White Pelican	1311	13 13 14-5
Brown Pelican		
CORMORANTS/ANHINGA		
Double-Crested Cormorant	434	
Anhinga		
FRIGATEBIRDS		
Magnificent Frigatebird		The same of the sa
BITTERNS/HERONS/WADERS		
American Bittern		
Least Bittern		
Great Blue Heron	10.75	A Marketing
Great Blue Heron (white phase)		



Want to know more about area birds? Many parks offer lists of birds often sighted there. See park personnel for information.

OPEN FOR AREA MAP

	DATE	PLACE
Great Egret	4	
Snowy Egret		
Little Blue Heron		
Tricolored Heron		
Reddish Egret	1 2 3 4	
Cattle Egret		
Green Heron		
Black-crowned Night-Heron		
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron		
White Ibis		
Glossy Ibis		
Roseate Spoonbill		
Wood Stork		
VULTURES		
Black Vulture		
Turkey Vulture	1.79	
WHISTLING DUCKS		
Black-bellied Whistling Duck		
Fulvous Whistling Duck	77 94	
GEESE		
Snow Goose		
DUCKS		
Wood Duck		
Gadwall		
American Wigeon		
Mottled Duck		
Blue-Winged Teal	1	
Northern Shoveler		
Northern Pintail	3 2 11	STATE STATE
Green-winged Teal		
Redhead		
Ring-necked Duck		
Lesser Scaup		
Surf Scoter		





BIRDS OF BRADENTON AREA

	DATE	PLACE
Black Scoter		
Long-tailed Duck		
Bufflehead		La la lace
Hooded Merganser	- 43	
Red-breasted Merganser		
Ruddy Duck	14 7	
RAPTORS		
Osprey		
Swallow-tailed Kite		
Bald Eagle		
Northern Harrier		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 22-544	
Cooper's Hawk		
Red-shouldered Hawk		
Broad-winged Hawk		
Short-tailed Hawk	-11 - ₁₂ (1)	
Red-tailed Hawk		- 39145
Crested Caracara		
American Kestrel		
Merlin		
Peregrine Falcon		The state of
TURKEY/QUAIL		
Wild Turkey	319	- B-E-
Northern Bobwhite		
RAILS		
Clapper Rail		
King Rail		
Virginia Rail		
Sora		The State of the S
Purple Gallinule		4
Common Gallinule	Mi Elalia	ugali e e e e
American Coot		
LIMPKIN/CRANES		
Limpkin	Test of the law in	

A great way to identify birds is to learn their unique calls. Try using your ears as well as your eyes to find what you're looking for.

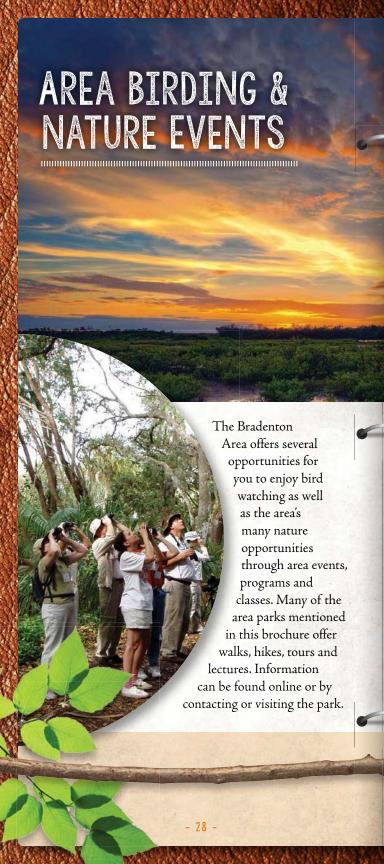
	DATE	PLACE
Sandhill Crane		
PLOVERS		
Black-bellied Plover	7.5	
American Golden Plover		
Snowy Plover		
Wilson's Plover		
Semipalmated Plover		
Piping Plover		
Killdeer		
OYSTERCATCHERS		
American Oystercatcher	E a Service And	
STILTS/SANDPIPERS		
Black-necked Stilt		
American Avocet		100
Greater Yellowlegs		
Lesser Yellowlegs	1/18/ Tyl= 11/ E3	
Solitary Sandpiper	- 4	
Willet		
Spotted Sandpiper		
Upland Sandpiper		
Whimbrel		
Marbled Godwit		
Ruddy Turnstone		
Red Knot		
Sanderling		
Semipalmated Sandpiper		
Western Sandpiper		
Least Sandpiper		
White-rumped Sandpiper		
Baird's Sandpiper		9 1500
Pectoral Sandpiper		
Purple Sandpiper		
Dunlin		
Stilt Sandpipers		

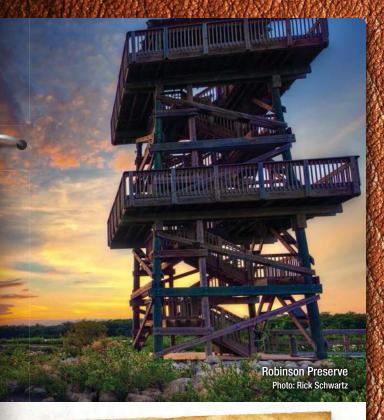
BIRDS OF BRADENTON AREA

	DATE	PLACE
Buff-breasted Sandpiper		
Ruff		
Short-billed Dowitcher	4 47 1	
Long-billed Dowitcher		
Wilson's Snipe	81 0 0	
WOODCOCK		
American Woodcock	- 3	
PHALAROPES		
Wilson's Phalarope		
JAEGERS		
Pomarine Jaeger		
Parasitic Jaeger	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	The second second
GULLS/KITTIWAKES		
Laughing Gull		
Franklin's Gull	11 - 21 - 21 -	
Bonaparte's Gull	21 - JVY 1	
Ring-billed Gull	-	- 59146
Herring Gull		22.743
Lesser Black-backed Gull		
Great Black-backed Gull		
TERNS/SKIMMER		
Gull-billed Tern		
Caspian Tern	-	
Royal Tern		
Sandwich Tern		
Common Tern		
Foster's Tern		
Least Tern		
Black Tern	172	The State of
Black Skimmer		
PIGEONS/DOVES	,	
Rock Pigeon		
Eurasian Collared-Dove		*
White-winged Dove	Des en november	

Consider spotting birds by boat, canoe or kayak. The water provides a unique vantage point seldom found on land.

	DATE	PLACE
Mourning Dove		
Common Ground Dove		
PARAKEET		
Monk Parakeet		
Nanday Parakeet		
CUCKOOS		
Black-billed Cuckoo		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		
Mangrove Cuckoo		
OWLS		
Barn Owl	A Straight of	
Eastern Screech-Owl		
Great Horned Owl		
Burrowing Owl		44.4
Barred Owl		
NIGHTJARS		
Common Nighthawk		
Chuck-will's Widow		
Whip-poor-will	1114-5	
SWIFTS		
Chimney Swift		and the state of
HUMMINGBIRDS		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		
KINGFISHERS		
Belted Kingfisher		
WOODPECKERS		
Red-headed Woodpecker		
Red-bellied Woodpecker		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	(1) (1) (1) (1)	
Downy Woodpecker		
Hairy Woodpecker		
Northern Flicker	1 1 2 2	
Pileated Woodpecker		





The following are just a few of the area's bird watching events or activities.

Audubon Bird Walks & Birding Events

The Manatee County Audubon Society offers many events in the area, including Open House events at its own Felts Preserve in Palmetto, as well as guided bird walks through various birding hot spots in Manatee County. Open House events are held the first Saturday, November through April. Visit the Society online or call for more details.

(941) 729-2222 ManateeAudubon.org

> For more events in the area, check out BradentonGulfIslands.com/Events

Taking Flight GeoTour

The Taking Flight Geo Tour includes 15 caches within the Bradenton Area. Caches are located in birding "hot spots" throughout Manatee County's publicly accessible conservation preserves. Each one highlights a specific bird species or an aspect of bird life, providing you with

opportunities to learn more about these creatures and what we can do to help them survive. Learn more about the tour online, or call Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department.



(941) 745-3723 MyManatee.org/takingflightgeotour

Emerson Point Bird Walk

The Manatee County Audubon Society partners with Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources to host bird walks at the area's Emerson Point Preserve which include extensive walking with great photo opportunities.

Bring bottled water, sunscreen, hat, binoculars, camera and field guide. (Bug spray optional.) Wear comfortable shoes; most paths are paved or crushed shells. For days and times call the Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department or the Manatee Audubon Society.

5801 - 17th St. W., Palmetto Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department: (941) 742-5923 Manatee Audubon Society: (941) 729-2222



The Great Backyard Bird Count

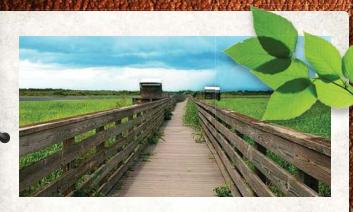
The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event in February that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations in the area. Many of the area's parks and preserves, such as Robinson Preserve and De Soto National Memorial

Park provide the location for the event. For days and times, check with the local parks listed here, or with the Manatee County Audubon Society at (941) 729-2222.

Beach Nesting Shorebirds & Turtles

Starting in May, both sea turtles and certain shorebirds choose to nest on Gulf beaches. Manatee Audubon works in tandem with Turtle Watch to alert beach goers to nesting sites, as a way to educate visitors and protect these little newborns.





Beginning Birding Classes at Myakka River State Park

Park Rangers offer Beginning Birding classes at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays from Thanksgiving to Easter. New birders learn to use field guides and binoculars, then go out into the field to discover the pleasures of birding. Classes include tours of some of the park's many birding sites. For more information, call the park or visit online.

13208 S.R. 72, Sarasota (941) 361-6511 FloridaStateParks.org/MyakkaRiver



OTHER AREA AVIAN RESOURCES...

Looking for other resources to help you discover and enjoy our area's birding and wildlife? Here are a few other groups or organizations dedicated to birding, wildlife and our natural resources.

The Manatee County Audubon Society – Local chapter of The National Audubon Society whose mission is to promote the conservation and appreciation of birds and wildlife habitat.

(941) 729-2222 ManateeAudubon.org

Sierra Club Manatee/Sarasota – Represents Manatee and Sarasota Counties on the Florida Gulf Coast, and is dedicated to helping others enjoy our environment and preserve it for future generations.

(941) 922-2900 Florida.SierraClub.org/Sarasota

Manatee County of Parks and Natural Resources

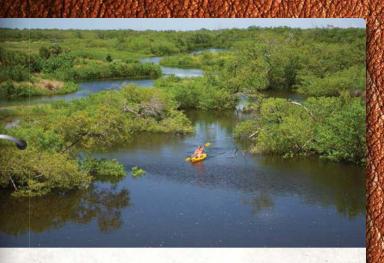
Department – Dedicated to environmental protection, this Department manages Manatee County's conservation sites. The Department also offers a wide variety of free education and volunteer programming including regular birding tours.

(941) 742-5923 www.mymanatee.org/parks

Florida State Parks – State division managing and maintaining the state's park system, offering recreation, education and conservation of Florida's natural resources.

(850) 245-2157 FloridaStateParks.org





The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail -

A program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, it provides a network of 515 sites throughout Florida selected for excellent bird watching, wildlife viewing or educational opportunities.

(850) 488-9478 FloridaBirdingTrail.com

Save Our Seabirds – A local non-profit wildlife conservation and education organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured birds, while educating the public about nature and environmental sustainability.

(941) 388-3010 SaveOurSeabirds.org

Junior Audubon – A division of the Audubon Society, Junior Audubon helps encourage children to understand and appreciate birds, wildlife and the environment. Local members meet regularly for events and activities.

(941) 729-2222 ManateeAudubon.org

ABOUT THE BRADENTON AREA

Welcome to Bradenton/ Anna Maria Island/Longboat Key

Located on the Gulf of Mexico south of Tampa and St. Petersburg on Florida's west coast, the Bradenton Area is one of the state's

favorite vacation destinations.

Beyond the area's abundant natural resources, area visitors enjoy a sweeping variety of things to do and see from the laid-back island vibe of its barrier islands to its agri-tourism offerings such as wineries and farm tours. Area restaurants are consistently rated some of the best in the state and area shopping offers everything from eclectic beach boutiques to some of the state's largest and most visited discount

and luxury malls.



Where to stay

The Bradenton Area offers a wide range of accommodations for your stay. You'll find everything from RV resorts, campgrounds, intimate cottages, private homes and condos and some of the world's major hotel and resort brands.

Finding your perfect place to stay is easy online. Simply visit **BradentonGulfIslands.com** for details, and plan your entire trip!

Get our destination magazine on your iPad, and bring our beaches to your fingertips. Download it for FREE at the App StoreSM



Things to do

Looking for a few other things to do during your trip? For a complete guide of all there is to do in the area, visit **BradentonGulfIslands.com**. In the meantime, here are a few highlights...

Winery tours – True, wine-producing grapes are now grown in Florida. Two local wineries can explain the process, offer samples and let you buy. Environmentally friendly viticulture processes make tours even more fascinating.

Bunker Hill Vineyard & Winery 8905 Bunker Hill Rd., Duette (941) 776-0418 • BunkerHillVineyard.com

Rosa Fiorelli Winery & Vineyard 4250 C.R. 675, Bradenton (941) 322-0976 • FiorelliWinery.com



TreeUmph! - Soar through the treetops on any of six, separate zipline courses - there's one for nearly any age, strength or skill level. One of the country's newest zipline parks.

TreeUmph! Outdoor Zipline Adventure Park 21805 S.R. 70 E., Bradenton (941) 322-2130 • TreeUmph.com



Farm Tours – Several area farms and animal attractions provide well-planned tours of their operations, letting you see first-hand where our food is sourced, and how animals are trained.

For a complete guide to area agri-culture tours visit: www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/aqua/bacvb_agritourism2014

South Florida Museum – A great way to discover and understand all there is about the region, the museum offers engaging views of area history, nature and more. The museum also has one of the area's best aquariums and planetariums.

201 10th St. W., Bradenton (941) 746-4131 • SouthFloridaMuseum.org

Cortez Village – One of the last historic, operating fishing villages in the state. Cortez offers insight into the history, lives and methods of Florida's fishermen, and how they bring seafood to market. Enjoy the village's history museum and plan to dine on the water.

Cortez Rd. & 119th St. W., Cortez (941) 708-6120 Pine Avenue Shops and Community Gardens – Beach boutiques, refreshing dining and a community garden line the "main street" of Anna Maria. Best of all, most of the area is "off the grid", functioning under its own power and recycled resources.

Pine Avenue, Anna Maria PineAvenueShops.com

Palmetto Historical

Park – See and feel
what it was like in
the area years ago.
Several of the area's
historic buildings
have been moved to or
reconstructed there to give
you a living experience of
the area's history. Onsite museum
offers a bevy of fascinating artifacts.

515 10th Ave. W., Palmetto (941) 723-4991 Manateeclerk.com/historical/PalmettoPark.aspx

Manatee County Agricultural Museum – Agriculture has always been part of the area's history as well as a stable force and a major contributor to its economy. The museum focuses on the area's primary commodities including livestock, vegetables, citrus, horticulture and commercial fishing, reflecting the area's rich agricultural heritage.

1015 6th St. W., Palmetto (941) 721-2034 Manateeclerk.com/historical/AgMuseum.aspx

Village of the Arts – Eclectic and fun, the area is a living artists' village, allowing you to stroll from gallery to shop, to café amid a stunning array of art, crafts and creation.

1113 12th St. W., Bradenton (941) 747-8056 • VillageOfTheArts.com



FIELD NOTES



