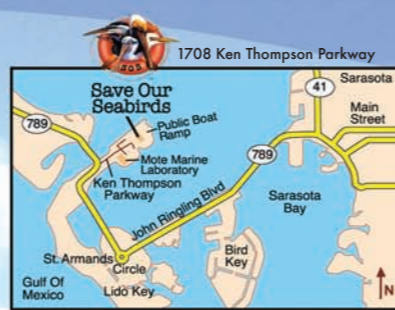


- Open to the public 7 days a week 10 AM – 5:00 PM
- Visit SOS online: www.saveourseabirds.org to see our WISH LIST & Donate Page & to check for the latest news and events



in flight

Save Our Seabirds, Inc.
Sarasota Project
Newsletter

Fostering An Attitude Of Respect For Wildlife & Our Environment

Volume 4, Issue 5 • Winter 2011

Save Our Seabirds
1708 Ken Thompson Parkway
Sarasota, FL 34236

Lady, The Sandhill Crane

Ann Anderson

If you like stories with happy endings, this is a good one for you.

One early morning in 2009 Lee Fox got a call that there was a severely injured sandhill crane on a Tampa Golf Course. The bird had been beaten by an irate golfer who had missed a shot when the sandhill innocently walked in front of him. The injuries looked very serious. Lee feared that the skull was crushed, but after a trip to the veterinary clinic, it was determined that the small bone under the left eye was fractured however the skull was intact, even though she was unconscious it gave us hope for recovery.



◀ Lady, our sandhill crane has a new life as a permanent resident at SOS and is an inspiration to us all.



◀ A baby sandhill is cared for by Lady.

nature shown through so that she became known eventually to everyone as Lady. After a month of massage, rest, and physical therapy she was able to hold her head up and take a few steps. She gradually recovered.

After about a year Lee decided to try Lady in a special role, that of a surrogate mother. In nature baby sandhills remain with their parents for a year, learning feeding and survival skills.

Lady was placed in a pen with several babies, and sure enough rather than pecking or jabbing at them, she carefully picked up food and corn pellets, dropping them next to the babies to pick up and eat which most did. Then when the young ones did not seem to catch on, she began dropping the food directly into the mouths of the little four-week olds.

From then on Lady has had a full time job helping to rear young sandhills until they are savvy enough to be released into the real world. Since much of Lee's work takes place out of the public eye, you may not get to see this surrogate parenting happen. It is important that the young not be around humans so they will not bond or learn to imprint. Lady is gently making her contribution day after day.

Lady is one our very special permanent residents. Though the object of a human being's cruelty and insensitivity, she has been given a new life with SOS, and she continues to help many other less severely injured birds so that one day they can fly free.



◀ Lady when she first came to Save Our Seabirds.

Lee took the bird back to SOS where it was given antibiotics and anti inflammatory medication, fluids and tube feeding. It took two days for the bird to regain consciousness. Lee and the staff knew that if she (the bird) did live, she would never be able to live again on her own. She had also lost her left eye and was unable to hold her neck and head up from the shoulder area.

This bird had a will to live. She never fussed or squawked during treatments. Her stalwart but gentle

New Admission Charge

After careful consideration and research Save Our Seabirds has decided to charge admission to visitors to help fund our mission and keep SOS open. We invite and appreciate your continued support.

Beginning January 1, 2012
SOS Admission will be as follows:
Adults..... **\$5**
Youth Ages 4 - 17..... **\$3**
Children Age 3 & Under .. **Free**
Members **Free**

Remember, join us with a membership – we offer a variety of choices – and your admission is free. Visit us as often as possible!



Visit our website:
www.saveourseabirds.com

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Members, Donors & Volunteers Keep Us In Business

Become An SOS Supporter Today!
Help us continue our work to protect our wildlife and our environment. Over 95% of your donations support our operations.
Save Our Seabirds Memberships, sponsorships & major donor levels:

Annual Memberships:

Individual	\$ 50	• Mailings or e-mail of In Flight newsletter.
Senior	\$ 40	• 10% discount on all SOS merchandise.
Family	\$ 75	• The pleasure of supporting an organization dedicated to protecting our wildlife.
		• Free admission

Major Donors:

Patron	\$ 1,000+	• Major Donors receive annual recognition on our Donor Board prominently displayed in our Courtyard unless anonymity is requested.
Partner	\$ 5,000+	
Benefactor	\$ 10,000+	

Habitat Sponsors at the \$500 level and above and Major Donors are entitled to additional benefits. See our website for details.

Sign up today online at SaveOurSeabirds.org or call us between 9 AM and 4:30 PM at 941-388-3010.

Rescue, Rehabilitate, Release, Educate,
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1708 Ken Thompson Parkway
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New Office Manager

Ann Anderson

Suzanne Ripka recently moved to Sarasota from NH. Her son, Jordan, developed an interest in Marine Biology and football so she



Suzanne Ripka

researched the best area to relocate on the south coast of Florida and found that Sarasota was what they were both looking for.

Suzanne first met Lee Fox back in 1993 when she volunteered to clean up birds at Fort DeSoto during the Oil Spill. Now, almost 20 years later, she is excited about being able to take the experience she acquired over the years by working at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center (DHMC) on projects in conjunction with Dartmouth College and apply it by working for an environmentally friendly non-profit organization.

During her time at DHMC she took on the role of Administrator of the non-profit camp for children with connective tissue disease. Along with her role as administrator she volunteered as a counselor. Welcome Suzanne!



Day 52

24 Hours

SOS was pleasantly surprised when Ted, one of our compound habitat caretakers, informed Lee that there was a baby Pelican in the Pelican pen on the boardwalk. What a surprise to find that a

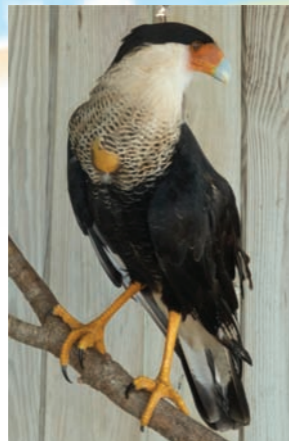
baby had hatched from an egg laid by one of the resident Pelicans!



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Carcara Resident

Ann Anderson

As the national bird of Mexico, the colorful non migratory Crested Caracara is found mostly in South America, although it is thought that about 50 of these birds inhabit Florida today. Monogamous and eating small lizards and mice, their greatest threat is lack of habitat. They have been on the threatened list since 1987.

The ranch of Susan Klaus in Eastern Manatee county had been the best place to catch a glimpse of a pair of these birds for the last four years. They liked to perch on her tall gate posts. She loved her exotic visitors until one day, they were gone. The female has not been seen since August 6th, but the male appeared at her house with a bad gunshot wound in his wing. She found him scrounging for cat food and chicken pieces in her car port.

Save our Seabirds was called. The bird has been in our care since bones were fractured in two places of his wing. Lee Fox has determined that he will never be able to fly again.

The Fish and Wildlife Department is putting together a reward for information leading to the conviction of the person who wounded him and killed his mate. These are threatened birds.

Meanwhile the male Carcara has recovered well, actually acting rather perky in his new habitat across the path from the owls at the Center.

The Carcara now living at SOS after being shot. The Fish & Wildlife Department is offering a reward for information leading to a conviction of the person who wounded him and killed his mate.

Double-crested Cormorant



Director's Corner

Consequences

There's a lot of information available on how we consume and handle our waste products. I can tell many stories of the consequences for birds when we throw our trash in or near the water. Becoming aware of these needless tragedies will raise our responsibility level and teach others by our example.

Some of the most dangerous items to safely discard are plastic six-pack rings, fishing line, hooks, discarded fish carcasses and fish scraps. Six-pack rings can strangle a bird and prevent them from digesting their food, dying from rotting carcass toxins lodged in the bird's throat causing a slow death from starvation and dehydration. Fishing line and hooks cause internal and external injuries maiming them and even death. Discarded fish scraps also lodge in the throat.



Four people worked to get this fish carcass out of the throat of the pelican.

For more in-depth information on this subject, please visit our website: www.saveourseabirds.com, News page and Education page, there is a brochure to download and share. You can help.

We have the opportunity to shatter patterns of behavior by using our will, heart and mind. We are stewards of our beautiful planet earth.

Sincerely,
Lee Fox
Executive Director/Founder



Lee Fox

Landfill Gas Burners Injure Birds



Sparky, our singed red-tailed hawk, continues her recovery. Her feet are healed although it will take 10 to 12 months for her feathers to regenerate.

Save Our Seabirds recently received a red shouldered hawk with all of its feathers singed off. Also, her tail feathers were gone and her feet and some of her down feathers (getting ready for winter) were slightly singed. Having not encountered a bird in this condition before, we investigated further. Because of her location when found at a landfill near a methane gas burner, we concluded she must have flown over one of the burner stacks.

Methane gas burners as a threat to birds is not a new phenomenon, although rehabilitators have recently become more aware of the issue as they receive more and more casualties. The victims have generally been raptors. Raptors are

Black Swan Story

Nancy Curtis

This beautiful Black Swan was rescued from Sun City Center. This swan baby, about 6-8 months old,



burned when they land on or fly over burners installed to flare off methane that accumulates inside sanitary landfills. Currently there are no national statistics available to estimate the number of birds killed, but anecdotal observation indicates that juvenile red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and owls (*Strigidae*, *Tytonidae*) are species commonly affected (Moller 2009).

Injury takes place at landfills because the sites serve as excellent hunting grounds for birds of prey. Solid waste at landfills includes food items and attracts rodents, a staple in the diet of many raptors. Furthermore, birds of prey may use the rising hot air from trash decomposition to help them soar (Mandel and Bildstein 2007). An article about turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*) using thermals above flared methane vents to provide soaring opportunities thus extending their daily activity was published in the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 2007. However, there apparently were fatal consequences of this thermal use, as workers at this particular landfill site in Pennsylvania reported finding turkey vulture carcasses at and near the bases of the vents.



Pictured Left: The height of the methane burner stack (60 ft) makes an ideal perch for raptors waiting for their prey.

Pictured Right: Shows an illustration of installation of stainless steel bird spikes on rim of burner and affixing a

lowered perch rail below the flame area. Also illustrated is an alternative perch placed on a telephone pole that is higher and away from the burner stack.

When the Black Swan first arrived, after a full work-up to assess his needs, he was placed in a large habitat with a sizable pool. At first he was very stressed and was quite lethargic. Now he follows around and whistles at the wonderful workers who clean his pen and feed him. He is much calmer and enjoys the attention he is getting while he is obviously adjusting to his new home where we will keep him for his lifetime. We will be looking for a companion for him which we are sure will come in due time.

