

Wing Beat

Conservation Through Education
The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society
July-Aug 2021 Vol. 101

Summer is here. Share the Shore... and information with others.

Heading to the beach? Look out for our beloved coastal birds and remember to share the shore. Give birds at least 100 feet of space to safely nest and rest.

Love ice cream?

A plover chick weighs less than a single scoop. Share the love and give these sweet birds space.

¿Eres amante del helado?

Un polluelo de chorlito pesa menos que una bola de helado. Comparte el amor y déjales a estas dulces aves el espacio que merecen.

Love beach walks?

Share the love! Give birds 100 feet of space to nest and rest.

¿Te gusta caminar por la playa?

¡Comparte el amor! Toma 100 pies de distancia para que estas aves aniden y descansen.

Share the Shore

Comparte la Costa

¿Vas a la playa? Presta atención a nuestras queridas aves costeras y recuerda compartir la costa. Toma al menos 100 pies de distancia para que las aves puedan anidar y descansar de forma segura.

CONSERVATION TOP STORIES

Please welcome our new Conservation intern, Dee.



Hi. My name is Dee Brooks. I am currently in the Bachelor of Biology program at St. Petersburg College in Clearwater. I am a 4th generation native Floridian born and raised in Tampa, FL. My family and I have always enjoyed nature and the outdoors. We have always been stewards of nature and now I am pursuing a career in restoration ecology/conservation.

I was formerly a firefighter/paramedic until a severe back injury ended my career. I have always had a passion to help people and animals. I am extremely excited to now shift my focus from patients to nature. It is important to have a passion for and believe in what you do. I genuinely believe that restoration ecology and conservation will help fill the void of my former emergency medical career. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with you. I am looking forward to learning conservation techniques from your organization. Thanks for having me!! You rock!!

Dee will be working with our VP of Conservation Kim Begay.

Clearwater Audubon Internships

Interns must be currently matriculated college/university students in good academic standing and be able to contribute a minimum of 5 hours per week for at least 12 weeks during a regular academic term. Intern opportunities we anticipate, as Covid restrictions allow, in 2020 and 2021 include the areas listed below. Interns may accrue academic credit if arranged by their institution.

Our internship positions appear below. Please contact [Clearwater Audubon](#) to schedule an interview unless otherwise noted; kindly attach your résumé to your e-mail. Please let us know whether you are interested in Conservation Communications, Habitat/Ecology, Education, Events, or Media.

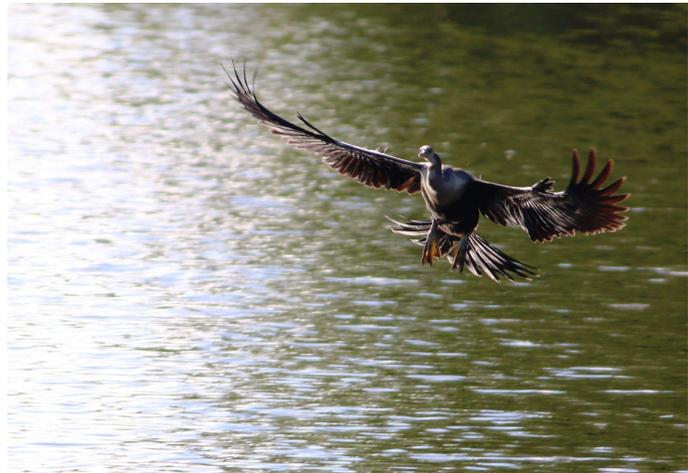
PINELLAS HIGHLIGHTS

Park Hopping

By Méichelle Long

In an effort to capture a photo of Wood Ducks last week, I hit the 'explore' icon in my eBird app. A few local parks popped up (red flame icon) and we began to explore. With a full cup of coffee and a drive-through indulgence, I set the GPS to **Glen Oaks Park**. This was a new park for me and it wasn't one that seemed to be teeming with birds. The parking was easily found alongside the street with caution headed to large delivery trucks needing full access to the street. The walk was paved and unobstructed. Right away, I could see a duck tucking into the vegetation on the edge of the pond. In an instant, it was gone and the fencing did not allow for an advantage.

Hopeful, we moved up the path to a nibbling marsh bunny just beyond the fenceline. There were a few Blue Jays in the bramble, so I noted them in my app. Check. As we moved closer to the first dock overlook, we noticed two Anhingas at the top of a cedar tree. There was no nest as the tree was too flimsy, but they must have been enjoying a breeze as the tree waved. One flew up and circled the top then landed in the water below and began diving.



As we approached the landing, a Great Blue Heron was surveying the shoreline as a Wood stork and Red-bellied woodpecker hopped overhead. Check, check and check.



On the landing, there was not much to witness other than an abundance of turtles and a man feeding them what looked to be colored corn or pelleted food. An opportunistic Common gallinule took part in the feast, but the activity did not seem to draw out any ducks. Check.



On the way back to the vehicle, I tried to get a photo of the Blue Jays. Their color is nice in the sun, and two were dive-bombing and making a racket. As we approached, we could see a larger bird perched in the bramble seemingly undisturbed by their racket. At first glance, I could tell it was some type of raptor by the head and beak. Not being the best photographer and a novice birder, my friend called it as a Cooper's Hawk. I doubted, but still snapping photos, she looked it up and we agreed that it was a strong possibility. There

were no red shoulders nor a red tail from what we could see. The Merlin app shows a very similar juvenile Cooper's hawk- almost identical. It still stands as such in eBird and has not been refuted, so we're going with that. You can decide.



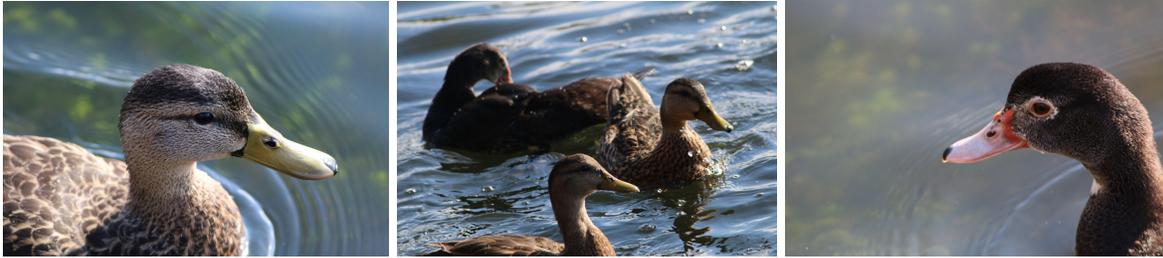
That being the pinnacle of the park, we went to the end of the walk where a Green heron flew out of the shrubs a ending our visit with a flight across the pond. Check.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S90745821>

The next Park in eBird was **Crest Lake Park**. Dedicated in March of 2021, it listed a few different species of ducks. \$5.7 million went into renewing this park and it does not disappoint. Featuring a one mile perimeter around the park, the main feature of the park is Crest Lake, which features a 1/2 mile paved walk around the lake. Other park features include a Doggie Days Dog Park, fishing, a fitness station/court, picnic areas, a playground and is ADA accessible. The dog park includes a three-acre facility with three double-gated entrances, fenced play areas and features a doggie drinking fountain, paw washers, waste collection facilities and supplies. There are also benches for the humans. Park hours are from sunrise to 11p.m. Oh yes... and birding.

We immediately noticed ducks in the lake from the parking space. As we approached, we were passed by a couple with a bag of bread (gasp). I shook my head and promised that I would not 'aggressively educate' the couple, but politely suggest a less damaging

alternative. Before we could count to five, there were 30 ducks at the walkway. After I heard about the expense of lettuce over white bread, I was relieved when the couple quickly moved along. [To read more about why bread is bad for ducks, click here.](#) Perhaps we could investigate having the county or city add informational signs to areas like these.



There were also quite a few pairs of Common gallinules appearing on the shoreline as we walked towards the splash park area and restrooms. Before we knew it, we noticed little black down fluff balls weaving in and out of the grasses. Some were so new that their wing feathers were stubby red protrusions that seemed alien in nature yet adorable! Check.



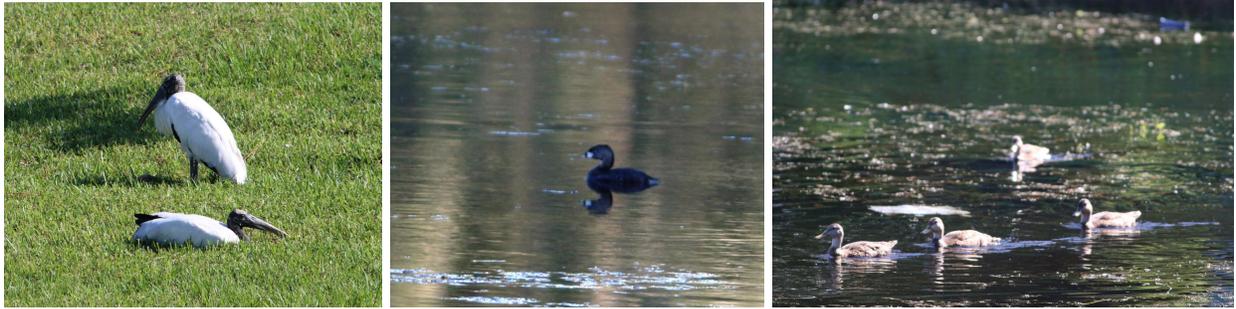
Without the motivation to make it around the entire lake, we loaded the vehicle and headed for lunch. The next stop sounded interesting, but this park (esthetically) was hard to beat.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S90748126>

Lake Belleview would not be on your list of local attractions, but you might notice it sitting at your grandkid's baseball game. There is a historic house with parking, but you're not

allowed to approach as it reads that it is private property. The signs don't keep people from sitting on the porch, but I wouldn't recommend that.

This was another area that must have bread presented regularly, because I no sooner had closed my door and lifted my camera and I could hear the splashing of hungry ducks skimming across the water to greet me. Unphased, the onlooking Wood storks accompanied an Egret eyeing a few Pied-billed Grebes floating by. Checkity- check -check.

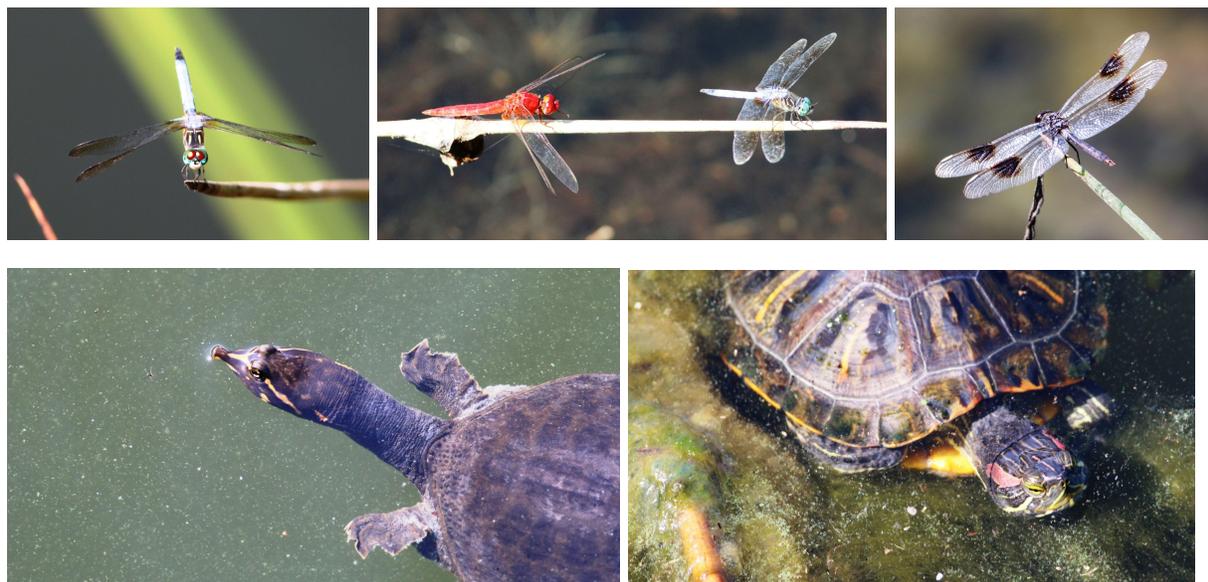


Also at this location were Common gallinules (more common than I thought) with chicks and Ibis edging the lake. A sunning Anhinga saluted us as we were leaving. Check. Not a lot to see, but it was a quick stop with a high concentration of ducks. Just not Wood Ducks.



<https://ebird.org/checklist/S90749718>

Our final attempt led us to **Eagle Lake Park**. With a couple of lakes to explore, we stopped at the first one noted by eBird. We were immediately drawn to the boardwalk around the lake hoping the ducks were hiding beneath, but we soon learned why they were not. Turtles. Lots of turtles. Not just little Red-eared sliders, but the large softshell turtles! The dragonflies, however, were undisturbed and we enjoyed a colorful dance party in the reeds.



With only 7 species at this lake, we called it a day. It was hot enough to warrant a cold beverage and we enjoyed the walk back to an air-conditioned vehicle. If you are looking for a little peace and to get away from the crowds, this park is not well-attended. There are paved walk/bike paths and restrooms. All good checks.

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S90751522>

I hope that you will be inspired to develop your eBird checklist repertoire as you discover new places in Pinellas County to visit, explore and take mediocre photos. Enjoy.

Membership in National Audubon also includes membership in Audubon of Florida and the Clearwater Audubon Society.

In addition, you will receive the award-winning National Audubon magazine.

[Membership Application](#)

AUDUBON FL HIGHLIGHTS

Click a story below to learn more



Coastal Conservation

[Protect Beach-nesting Birds from Fireworks this July Fourth Weekend](#)

Least Terns, Black Skimmers, Wilson's Plovers, Snowy Plovers, and American Oystercatchers nest on Florida coasts.



Coastal Conservation

[St. Pete Bookstore Inspired by Nesting Black Skimmers](#)

By Audubon Staff Black Skimmers inspire Tombolo Books.



Chapters & Centers

[Publix Announces Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Grant](#)

By Audubon Staff Earth Day announcement provides \$2 million for Everglades wetlands.



News

[College Students and Recent Grads Use Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor to Inspire Action on Critical Environmental Issues](#)

By Erika Zambello Six students have worked with Audubon Florida to publish articles on native plants, plastics, pollution, and more.

Thank you for your continued support.

Click a card below to learn more

ADAMS DENTAL
Michael J. Adams, D.D.S.
Pamela G. Adams, D.D.S., M.S., P.A.
www.adamsdental.com
15 North Missouri Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33755
fax (727) 461-4835
(727) 461-4832

COASTAL
PROPERTIES GROUP INTERNATIONAL

CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

REBECCA WELLBORN
REAL ESTATE ADVISOR
727.320.5135

REBECCA@REBECCAWELLBORN.COM



**YOUR AD
COULD BE HERE!**
Email us today
about filling this space.



newsletter@clearwateraudubonsociety.org

BUGGED OUT BY PAIN OR STRESS?

**GET
MASSAGE!**



TONY HERNANDEZ, BA, LMT, NMT
License #MA 81238
AUDUBON MEMBER

(727) 741-2363
RELAX, RENEW, RESTORE

McManus & McManus, P.A.
R. Bruce McManus Mary M. Taylor

Serving Pinellas Families for Estate
Planning, Probate, Trust Administration
and Real Estate Matters

79 Overbrook Blvd.
Largo, Fl. 33770

(727) 584-2128

**YOUR AD
COULD BE HERE!**
Email us today
about filling this space.



newsletter@clearwateraudubonsociety.org

Your Clearwater Audubon Society Board

Executive Committee:

John Hood
Lynn Sumerson
Dale Goebel
Méichelle Long
Cuneyt Yilmaz

Committee Chairs:

Conservation Projects: Dana Kerstein
Field Trips: Dale Goebel
Media: [Position Available](#)
Membership: Cuneyt Yilmaz
Newsletter/Webmaster: Méichelle Long
Programs: [Position Available](#)
Wild Bird Sanctuary: Stephanie Anderson

Officers:

VP Conservation: Kim Begay
Treasurer: Madeleine Bohrer
Secretary: Stephanie Hall

Board Member at Large:

Mardy Hornsby
Diane Iver *Welcome!
IP President: John Hood

Special Committees:

CBC: Paul Trunk
Eagle Watch: Louise Roy

Join the Board or a Committee

Becoming a member of a nonprofit organization's board can be a meaningful way to explore how your experience and expertise can be applied in the nonprofit sector at the governance level, and ultimately, how your experience and expertise can help advance a nonprofit organization's social impact. Please take a few moments to read Audubon's statement of [Equity, Diversity & Inclusion](#) and the [Board Member Expectations](#). Board members meet on the last Monday of each month. Monthly general membership meetings (open to the public) are the first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted.

To view a list of available positions on the board or on a committee, please view [this document](#). Complete the [Board Interest Survey here](#).

Clearwater Audubon Society

Clearwater Audubon Society, Inc. P.O. Box 97 Clearwater Florida 33757
EIN 59-6177460

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

We represent Audubon Society members in Northern Pinellas County and provide services to all who are interested: free local field trips with expert birders; inexpensive extended field trips within the US and to other locales, free monthly programs, volunteer & networking opportunities within the local conservation community; scholarships to local summer camps and speakers for a variety of classrooms and groups.

[Membership Application](#)



Organizations We Support

Audubon Florida
fl.audubon.org



Audubon of Florida

St. Petersburg Audubon
stpeteaudubon.org/



St. Petersburg Audubon Society

HOME | Tampa Audubon S...
tampaaudubon.org



Tampa Audubon Society



Important Bird Areas
Important Bird Areas

Important Bird Areas in Florida

GFBWT
floridabirdingtrail.com



Great Florida Birding Trail

Florida Ornithological Soc...
fosbirds.org



Florida Ornithological Society

Friends of Brooker Creek ...
friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org



Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve

Florida Herb Society
Suncoast Herpetological Society, Inc.
Tampa Bay Turtle & Tortoise Society
Pinellas Chapter FNPS
Friends in Focus Photography Club
Safety Harbor Garden Club
Friends of Moccasin Lake



Moccasin Lake Nature Park

