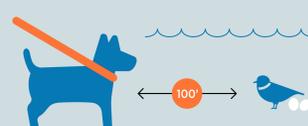
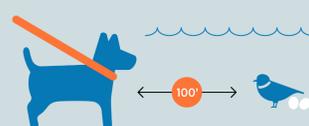


Wing Beat

Conservation Through Education
The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society
July-Aug 2022 Vol. 107

Sign up to Steward & Share the Shore

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. Email [Holley Short](#) to sign-up for an opportunity to help nesting birds and protect their habitat.

<p>Love ice cream?</p> <p>A plover chick weighs less than a single scoop. Share the love and give these sweet birds space.</p> 	<p>¿Eres amante del helado?</p> <p>Un polluelo de chorlito pesa menos que una bola de helado. Comparte el amor y déjalas a estas dulces aves el espacio que merecen.</p> 	<p>Love beach walks?</p> <p>Share the love! Give birds 100 feet of space to nest and rest.</p> 
<p>¿Te gusta caminar por la playa?</p> <p>¡Comparte el amor! Toma 100 pies de distancia para que estas aves aniden y descansen.</p> 	<p>Share the Shore</p> 	<p>Comparte la Costa</p> 

¿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.

FYBC REPORT

Florida Young Birders Outing Summary

by Jim McGinity



The Florida Young Birders Club (FYBC) had a busy spring with outings every month. These included trips to Cross Bar Ranch (Pasco County), Bluebirds of Lake Park (Hillsborough County) and a special boat trip to Alafia Bank Bird Sanctuary (Hillsborough County) with the Audubon Florida staff. The kids had a chance to see a Florida Scrub Jay and Burrowing Owl at Cross Bar which was a real treat! In April, the group had a chance to check Eastern Bluebird nest boxes with Joni Hartzler and to help her husband install a new box (which is now occupied and producing young). The kids were able to see everything from eggs, chicks and adults feeding young which was really cool. We had a second outing in the month of April when we met up with Audubon



Florida staff, Mark Rachel and Jeff Liechty, who took the group on a special boat tour to the Alafia Bank Bird Sanctuary. We saw Brown Pelican chicks, wading birds, a few shorebirds and a surprising variety of raptors (which Mark was excited about). We wrapped up the spring with a bird walk at Lettuce Lake Park and a planning meeting for the coming year. Bird highlights included several Roseate Spoonbills, close views of a feeding female Northern Parula and some Black-crowned Night Herons. Another treat- we're looking straight down on some baby alligators!



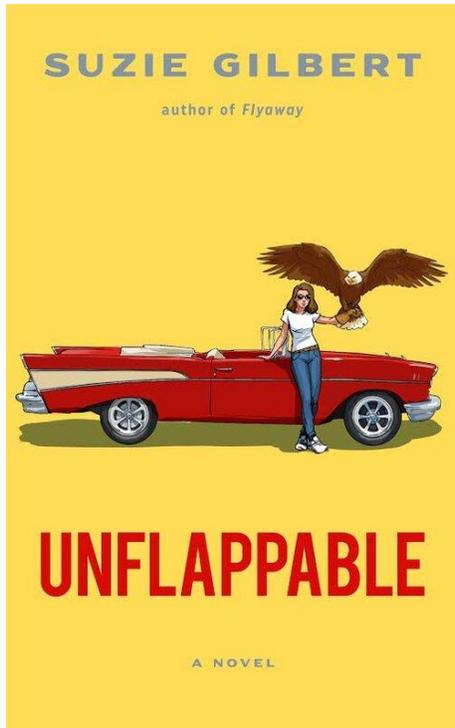
Thank you very much to the dedicated professionals that donated their time and expertise in sharing their knowledge of Florida birds/ecology. They are: Zach Holmes, Quest Ecology/University of Florida, Dave Adams, Pinellas County Utilities (Cross Bar Ranch); Joni Hartzler, Tampa Audubon Society (Lake Park Bluebirds); and Mark Rachel and Jeff Liechty, Audubon Florida (Alafia Bank Bird Sanctuary boat trip).



Jim McGinity, Florida Avian Conservation
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FloridaAvianConservation>
Blog: <https://floridaavianconservation.wordpress.com/>

SUMMER SLACKING

Too hot to bird? We're open to other things...



Licensed to care for injured and orphaned wildlife, Luna Burke is determined to smuggle a homicidal Bald Eagle out of her husband's private zoo in Florida, reunite the bird with its mate in Pennsylvania, and get them both to an eagle sanctuary in Canada. Trying to stop her are her furious husband, his bodyguard, and the authorities; aiding and abetting her are a smitten young tech guy, a lethal Navy SEAL turned panther advocate, and an underground railroad of wildlife rescuers. *Unflappable* is a comic suspense story, an epic road trip, and a page-turning adventure with a big cast of unconventional characters, both human and not.

"A rollicking debut novel ... Gilbert does a great job describing the distinct world of her characters, and the plot builds nail-biting suspense." - **Publishers Weekly**

[\[LEARN MORE\]](#)



Podcast series / birding

Here's a list of popular birding podcasts to try (Bonus: They're free!)

List compiled by [Nicholas Lund](#)

[American Birding Podcast](#)

Every other week; 30-40 minutes

Hosted by Nate Swick, this podcast is the signature listening series for the American Birding Association.

[Birdchick Podcast](#)

Generally every other week; about 60 minutes

Hosted by Sharon Stiteler—aka Birdchick—funny, sassy, and sometimes raunchy, Stiteler is joined by her husband, Non-Birding Bill.

[BirdNote](#)

Daily; 2 minutes

The mission of this daily (yes, daily!) podcast is to tell “vivid, sound-rich stories about birds and the challenges they face.”

[Bird Podcast with Shoba Narayan](#)

Every other week; about 60 minutes

India-based podcast host Shoba Narayan is a journalist and author. She interviews Indian birders and American scientists, discusses conservation, and does travel-heavy segments on particular destinations.

[Field Guides](#)

Monthly; about 60 minutes

Bill and Steve are two western New Yorkers with a knack for narrating nature documentaries. Their podcasts revolve around them dropping encyclopedic knowledge on a species as they look for it in the wild.

[Grumpy Old Birder](#)

Monthly; 5 minutes

Many birders know Brit Bo Beolens by his nickname, FatBirder. His rant-y, rambling anecdotes about birds, birding, and other nature topics adapt just as well to sound bytes.

[Laura Erickson's For The Birds](#)

Weekly; 5 minutes

By far the longest-running program on this list, Laura Erickson has been talking about birds on the radio since 1986. On her show she shares stories of Minnesota and birds from around the country.

[Ray Brown's Talkin' Birds](#)

Weekly; 30 minutes

Hosted by Ray Brown. Broadcasting from the WATD station in Marshfield, Massachusetts, Brown curates a mix of adventures and information.

[This Birding Life](#)

Monthly; 30 to 60 minutes

“This Birding Life” is the flagship of the Bird Watcher’s Digest podcast lineup, which also includes “[Out There with the Birds](#)” and “[The Author’s Spotlight](#).” Hosted by Bill Thompson III, the series covers topical news and conversations with famous birders and scientists.

WELCOME ABOARD

We are taking nominations for board positions. We are excited to have new people join our board and help us make a difference for birds and their environment.

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 community level, and ultimately, how your experience and expertise can help advance an ecological impact.



BOARD MEMBER
POSITION AVAILABLE
TREASURER

**NOW TAKING
NOMINATIONS**

BOOKKEEPING
ACCOUNT FINANCE

The advertisement features a woman in a teal blazer on the left and a stylized orange and white graphic on the right.



BOARD MEMBER
POSITION AVAILABLE
PROGRAMS

SCHEDULING SPEAKERS
ORGANIZING EVENTS

Volunteer

The advertisement features a man in a maroon shirt sitting at a laptop on the right and a stylized orange and white graphic on the left.

More specific information is on our website:

<http://www.clearwateraudubonsociety.org/board.html> or email

clearwateraudubonsociety@gmail.com

BAY MINI-GRANTS

Helping to Restore Tampa Bay



Funded by revenues from the [Tarpon Tag](#) plate sales, Bay Mini-Grants are competitive awards (up to \$5,000) to community organizations for projects that address restoration and education [priorities](#) in Tampa Bay. To achieve Tampa Bay Estuary Program goals, specific topics are announced annually. Projects which address the targeted theme are prioritized for funding. The Bay Mini-Grant funding program empowers citizen scientists, promotes environmental ethics, and stimulates community stewardship of Tampa Bay.

Save the date! 2022 Bay Mini-Grant Request for Projects will be released on July 14, 2022.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CALENDAR



Although we don't 'meet in the heat' for summer bird outings or programs, we do partner with other community organizations to provide resources to the public. We also promote their events:

July 5 @ 8:00 - 10:00 am

After Fireworks Cleanup

Hosted by: Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful

More Info: <https://bit.ly/3OrQMt3>

Location: Courtney Campbell Causeway South Trail

July 5 @ 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Bat House Building- ONLINE Workshop

FREE! Register by clicking on this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/z5bahNzWxN>

Be sure to click the link after the survey to finish your registration!

This class will go over a brief review of the bats of Florida and how to build a bat house that will hopefully attract bats in your area. Presented via Zoom by JK Yarborough, Orange County Extension Agent.

July 9 @ 10:00 - 11:15 am

Second Saturday Education @ Hammock Park

The Friends of the Hammock Park brings an educational event to Hammock Park on the Second Saturday of each month. Free!

July 16 @ 8:00 - 10:00 am

Volunteer Opportunity in the Butterfly Garden

Join a team of volunteers in maintaining the native plant Butterfly Garden at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society.

July 25 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Bird Identification with Clearwater Audubon Society

Paul Trunk of the Clearwater Audubon Society will help make us better birders and more aware of Florida nature and wildlife. This launches the Birding Backpacks available for checkout at the Dunedin Public Library 223 Douglas Avenue, Dunedin

July 30 @ 8:00 am - 9:30 am

Bird Outing with Clearwater Audubon Society

Follow-up to the Bird ID for Birding Backpacks, Event will take place at Hammock Park in Dunedin. Limited number of spots available, registration required.

SAVE THE DATE! FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

October 20 - 23 , 2022 6650 Dickman Rd, Apollo Beach, FL

Early Blrd Registration: Now through July, registration is only \$75. Starting August 1 it will be \$100.

<https://fbnfestival.org/>



CLEARWATER
MOCCASIN LAKE NATURE PARK

ANNIVERSARY

Moccasin Lake is celebrating 40 years in the City of Clearwater! Join us for a few hours on **Saturday, July 30th from 10am to 1pm** for fun, face-painting, live music with G. E. Sassani, Cal's Soul Food Express, and crafts, and animal presentations by the Clubs & Societies that meet at the park!

**Moccasin Lake Nature Park is located at 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, Florida.
Call us at 727-562-4315, then press 1.**

Special thank you to:

GFWC Clearwater Community Woman's Club
Suncoast Herpetological Society
Friends of Moccasin Lake
Safety Harbor Garden Club
Florida Native Plant Society
Hukyu Bonsai Society

Friends in Focus Photography Club of Clearwater
The Florida Herb Society
Cal's Soul Food Express
G.E. Sassani Band
Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue

IMPERILED BIRD LISTING

For a complete listing of Florida's imperiled birds, visit [MyFWC.com](https://myfwc.com).

American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*) -- State Threatened

The American Oystercatcher is one of the largest and most striking birds seen along Florida's shores, with brown and white plumage, pink legs, thick orange bill, and yellow eyes with bright orange eye-ring. Learn how [Audubon's coastal bird stewardship program](#) is helping give these birds a fighting chance.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

The Bald Eagle is an American success story. Thanks to conservation efforts over the past several decades, the Bald Eagle is no longer listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act but remains protected by both the state eagle rule and federal law. You can help eagles by joining [Audubon's EagleWatch](#), which engages volunteers and individuals in protecting our nation's symbol.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) -- State Threatened

Black Skimmers look like masked bandits with short legs, black and white plumage and a black and orange bill. The lower half of their bill is longer than the upper, enabling them to "skim" across the water with their mouth partly open and bill dragging across the surface in search of a fish. Learn how [Audubon's coastal bird stewardship program](#) is helping give these birds a fighting chance.

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

Brown Pelicans are seabirds that can live in fresh or saltwater environments. No longer listed in Florida as of 2017, they remain part of the Imperiled Species Management Plan as they continue to face dire threats from loss of wetlands, pollution, nest-site disturbance, and entanglement in fishing line. Learn about [Audubon's ColonyWatch program](#).

Florida Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) – Federally Endangered

The Florida Grasshopper Sparrow is a federally endangered bird found nowhere else in the world. These sparrows inhabit dry open prairies in south central Florida where they feed on seeds and grasshoppers. Without continued funding for captive breeding and reintroduction programs, the outlook is dire for this diminutive Florida prairie specialist. [Learn more about the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow.](#)

Florida Scrub-Jay (*Apelocoma coerulescens*) -- Federally Threatened

The Florida Scrub-Jay is endemic to Florida, meaning it is only found in the sunshine state. Scrub-jays live only in a specific habitat known as Florida scrub. [Learn about Audubon Florida's Jay Watch program.](#)

Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) -- State Threatened

Because many of Florida's beaches have been altered by development or are crowded with beach visitors, their only choice is sometimes a flat, gravel-covered rooftop, which can pose a unique set of dangers to small chicks that can fall off unprotected roof edges. Learn how [Audubon's coastal bird stewardship program](#) is helping give Least Terns and other chicks a fighting chance.

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) -- State Threatened

Little Blue Herons are found across Florida nesting at freshwater sites as well as on coastal islands. Although they nest in colonies with other herons and egrets, they forage alone, primarily in freshwater habitats. Learn about wading bird monitoring at [Audubon's Coastal Islands Sanctuaries](#), established in 1934 to protect the colonial waterbirds along the west central coast of Florida.

Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) -- State Threatened

This species is the rarest heron in North America, with the five Gulf Coast states comprising the northernmost part of its range. Since then, the number of nesting pairs has slowly climbed to 480 across the state, as published recently in the [Florida Field Naturalist \(Cox et al, 2019\)](#). Reddish Egrets have a blue-gray body with mauve-colored head and chest, but white morph birds are also seen, primarily in the Tampa Bay region. These birds nest with other wading birds in coastal island colonies. Learn about [Audubon's ColonyWatch program](#).

Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*) -- State Threatened

Roseate Spoonbills are among the most stunning and recognizable birds along Florida's shores -- their bright pink plumage with deep pink wing accents, orange tail feathers, and spoon-shaped bills make them easy to identify. To learn about their reproductive success and habitat use, scientists are banding these birds at nest sites around the state - if you see a banded spoonbill, [report it here!](#)

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*) -- Federally Endangered

Snail Kites are uniquely adapted to eating their namesake food: apple snails. The success of the endangered Everglade Snail Kite is a key ecological indicator for the health of the Greater Everglades. Learn how Audubon is helping [Everglade Snail Kites](#).

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) -- State Threatened

Snowy Plovers are year-round Florida residents that nest on white sand beaches, near passes, and along intertidal sand flats. They pluck small invertebrate animals from the breaking surf and forage for insects along the upper beach. Learn how [Audubon's coastal bird stewardship program](#) is helping give these chicks a fighting chance.

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) -- State Threatened

Tricolored Herons are widely distributed across Florida, feeding primarily on fish from fresh and saltwater habitats. They are slate gray with a reddish-blue head and neck, and a white belly and throat. Learn about [Audubon's ColonyWatch program](#).

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*

Wilson's Plovers are slightly more common than the Snowy Plover and more flexible in their habitat requirements. However, monitoring data indicate both a declining population and a contracting range. These plovers are solitary ground nesters that feed primarily on fiddler crabs and other coastal invertebrates. Learn how [Audubon's coastal bird stewardship program](#) is helping give these chicks a fighting chance.

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana* -- Federally Threatened

Wood Storks are year-round Florida residents that nest colonially over water, historically in mangroves or cypress trees. In recent decades, records have also been found nesting in altered habitats on islands in man-made stormwater ponds, using Brazilian pepper and other trees. Learn how [Audubon is helping protect Wood Storks](#).

Downloadable Resources

 [Florida Bird Checklist](#)

 [Pinellas Bird List](#)

If you see a wild bird in need, call Kim Begay: 727-480-9010

CLIMATE CORNER



Coastal Resilience

Produced by Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this video explains how the effects of climate change are especially intense in coastal communities. One of the most effective ways to protect these communities is to preserve natural ecosystems – salt marshes, coastal wetlands, mangrove forests, barrier beaches – that buffer sea level rise and storm surge.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L69vJgJ_6Ok

[Read the Special Climate Issue of Audubon Magazine](#)

Our science shows that climate change threatens 389 species. This issue of Audubon focuses on solutions to help these birds.

[Climate Watch](#)

A new community science program explores how North American birds are responding to climate change. You can join us in this fight by observing birds in your area, using our specific protocol, and helping us learn about how birds are responding to the changing climate.

[Plants for Birds](#)

Bring birds to your home today by growing native plants. With [Audubon's Native Plant Database](#), you can find the best plants for the birds in your area. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment.

Thank you for your continued support.

Click a card below to learn more

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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](#)

Officers:

VP Conservation: Kim Begay
Treasurer: [Position Available](#)
Secretary: Stephanie Hall

Board Member at Large:

Mardy Hornsby
Diane Ives
IP President: John Hood

Committees:

CBC: Bill Kaempfer
Eagle Watch: Louise Roy
Finance: Don Peccia

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](http://fl.audubon.org)
fl.audubon.org



[Audubon of Florida](http://fl.audubon.org)

 [St. Petersburg Audubon](http://stpeteaudubon.org/)
stpeteaudubon.org/



[St. Petersburg Audubon Society](http://stpeteaudubon.org/)

 [HOME | Tampa Audubon S...](http://tampaaudubon.org)
tampaaudubon.org



[Tampa Audubon Society](http://tampaaudubon.org)



[Important Bird Areas](#)
Important Bird Areas

[Important Bird Areas in Florida](#)

 [GFBWT](http://floridabirdingtrail.com)
floridabirdingtrail.com



[Great Florida Birding Trail](http://floridabirdingtrail.com)

 [Florida Ornithological Soc...](http://fosbirds.org)
fosbirds.org



[Florida Ornithological Society](http://fosbirds.org)



[Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve](http://friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org)

[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](#)



[Florida Botanical Gardens](#)

[Moccasin Lake Raptor Sanctuary](#)