

Wing Beat

Conservation Through Education
The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society
March-April 2022 Vol. 105

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

In-person March 7th Program with Bill Kaempfer

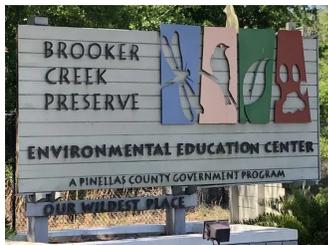


Bill will guide you through his trip to the Central Flyway in Kansas (and a bit of Missouri) taken at the end of last October where over 100,000 were recorded! The program is based on a powerpoint developed by Janette and Craig Liddle with their photos as well as those from Anne Ruben.

This program will be an in-person event at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. We plan to broadcast live on our YouTube channel.

Meet & Greet at 6:30 with wrapped snacks and beverages. Please bring your own drink container. Program will begin at 7 PM.

In-person April 4th Program with Evan Earl Jr. & Barbara Hoffman from Brooker Creek Preserve.



Join Evan and Barbara as they share special insight into the Preserve's best features, educational programs and opportunities. It's like a backstage pass to an amazing 8,700 acre Pinellas County asset! Primarily forested wetland and pine flatwoods, it's a unique refuge for flora and fauna- not to mention a vital migration stopover habitat.

Did you miss our other programs? You can watch it on our YouTube channel along with other past programs. [YouTube](#) channel

FIELD TRIP **OBSESSED**

One spot left on this trip. Call and reserve today.

Join us for this Exciting overnight trip to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park w/Gallus Quigley

April 16th, 12:00 pm – April 17th 6:00 pm

Mini Vans* leave from Walmart 2677 Roosevelt Blvd., Largo, 33760 at Noon Saturday the 16th returning Sunday 6:00 pm the 17th. Reservations and prepaid a MUST please! The preserve offers excellent seasonal birding opportunities and is home to the endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, as well as the Crested Caracara and Burrowing Owl. [READ MORE HERE](#)

March 5th Monthly Bird Walk at Moccasin Lake Nature Park

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater.

Leader - Madeleine Bohrer 727-748-6885

Accessible with assistance 

March 12th Sand Key Park

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the SW portion of the parking lot, 1060 Gulf Blvd, Clearwater, 33767. Leader - Cuneyt Yilmaz 727-657-0803

March 26th Aripeka Sandhills Preserve

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Walgreens on the SW corner of US19 and Curlew Rd., 18000 Aripeka Rd, Hudson, 34667. Bring Lunch.

Leader - Paul Trunk 727-430-0368

April 2nd Monthly Bird Walk at Moccasin Lake Nature Park

Meet at 8:00 am at 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater.

Leader - Madeleine Bohrer 727-748-6885

Accessible with assistance 

April 5th TUESDAY Dunedin Hammock Park

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the north entrance by ball fields, 1867 Harvard Ave, Dunedin 34698.

Leader - Bill Kaempfer (303) 717-5063

April 9th Fred Howard Park

Meet at 8:00 am at Fred Howard Park, Shelter 9, 1700 Sunset Drive, Tarpon Springs.
Leader – Dale Goebel 510-1462

April 16th Honeymoon Island State Park

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at 1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin at the Osprey Trail head at the north end of playground parking lot.
Leader - Cuneyt Yilmaz 727-657-0803

April 23rd John Chesnut Park

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at 2200 East Lake Road Palm Harbor, Shelter 6.
Leader - Steve Reardon 727-939-8276

April 30th Ft. DeSoto Park

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at 3500 Pinellas Bayway S, Tierra Verde, 33715 at the north end of the North Beach.
Leader - John Swenfurth (813) 390-4734

May 7th Monthly Bird Walk at Moccasin Lake Nature Park

Meet at 8:00 am at 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater.
Leader - Madeleine Bohrer 727-748-6885
Accessible with assistance 

Calling All Bird Stewards

CONTACT HOLLEY SHORT: holley.short@audubon.org

· **March 16, 2022 at 7:00 pm:** The first training will be virtual with a focus on nesting and stewardship at Ft. De Soto County Park. This will be an in-depth training that will include nesting habits of imperiled species, stewardship locations at the park, and logistics of signing up as a steward. I strongly recommend this training to new volunteers, second-year stewards, or those looking to change their volunteer location. [Please click here to register.](#) This will not include stewardship coordinated at Outback Key. If you are interested in stewarding at Outback Key, please get in touch with Lorraine Margeson.

· **March 27, 2022 at 9:00 am:** There will be a follow-up training at the park as additional training for new stewards and a refresher for returning stewards. This will also be an opportunity to pick up your shirts, stewardship folders (yes, we finally get to give out folders again!), and meet the new anchor steward for 2022. After this, we will schedule more frequent group trainings for new stewards to attend. Information about the in person trainings will be sent at the beginning of March.



PROFILE

Retired Senior Vice Provost to University of Colorado Boulder, Kaempfer was responsible for the reaccreditation of the campus by the North Central Association in 2000, and currently serves as accreditation liaison officer for the campus's upcoming reaccreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission in 2019.

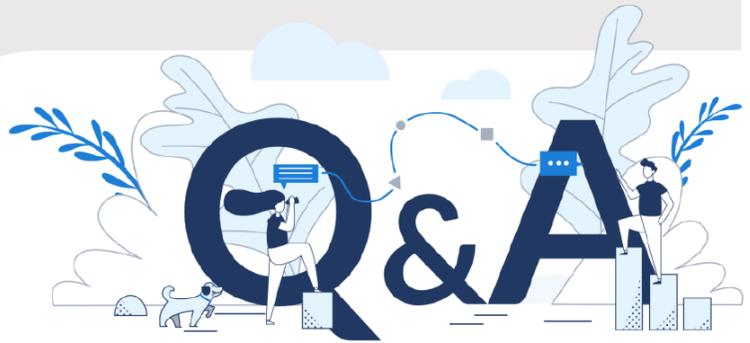
Prior to his current position, Kaempfer was chair of the Department of Economics from 1995 to 1997 and associate chair from 1991 to 1995. He joined the faculty at the University of Colorado in 1981 after earning his doctorate in economics from Duke University in 1979. His research focus is in the area of international political economy, especially on the topics of trade policy, international economic sanctions and the transmission of policy influence between nations.

Other topics on which he has written papers include international voter turnout, NAFTA, trade in ivory, congressional regulatory legislation, college football and salary arbitration in Major League Baseball.

UPCOMING CAS FIELD TRIPS

February 18 FRIDAY - Chinsegut Wildlife Area & Ahhochee Hill Sanctuary

April 5 TUESDAY- Dunedin Hammock Park



BIRDING WITH BILL KAEMPFER

GET TO KNOW CLEARWATER AUDUBON'S NEWEST FIELD TRIP LEADER

Q: What is your highest Big Year total?

A: 601 ABA Continental in 2019

Q: What is the furthest destination you've traveled to for a bird?

A: Went to Maine for Great Black Hawk in early 2019. Found out that it had been removed for (unsuccessful) rehab the day before. More successful was a 5-hour drive years ago on the day after Christmas for my first Ross's Gull.

Q: At what age did you begin birding?

A: 30

Q: Guilty pleasure food?

A: Donuts

Q: How many consecutive days have you entered an eBird list?

A: 1,236

Q: Dream dinner companion (alive or in history)?

A: Ben Franklin

Q: What is the earliest time you have gotten on the road to chase a bird?

A: Probably around 2 or 3 a.m.

Q: What is your cellphone wallpaper image?

A: The cracks on the screen.

Q: Words of advice for birders?

A: Bird every day and learn the local species.

TAMPA BAY BROWN BOOBY PHENOMENON

By Bob Lane

Clearwater-Pinellas County

Why these seabirds, "Sula leucogaster", not known to nest anywhere in Florida, and only reliably found in The Dry Tortugas, sixty miles south of Key West, call this their sometime home, who knows. The Mullet fishing must be outstanding. These celebrity birds are normally found throughout tropical oceans, with the only known present nesting sites in the United States, on the Hawaiian Islands, where they are found year round. So once again, why are these beautiful birds gracing us with their sometimes presence in Tampa Bay?

Basically, since the first report in late August of 2016, they have been found in the Tampa Bay waters of Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties. Coincidence or not, the first report of The Brown Boobies was around the time that Tropical Storm Hermine was approaching or passing through from The Gulf of Mexico. During the first several years, the normal roost tower was in Upper Tampa Bay opposite Safety Harbor. A high count of boobies at this location was around twenty-seven, with an average of ten. In the Spring of 2020, the towers crossing the bay were replaced. The boobies apparently didn't like the new ones. They seemed to begin a movement farther south in the bay.

The next notable roost location was a navigation platform tower, found by Anne Ruben in June of 2020, in the bay opposite downtown St. Petersburg, with up to twenty-four at this location. Continuing the south movement, on 02-19-22, Wes Tallyn found another tower roost location from a boat, with a count of twenty-eight, east of the Skyway Bridge, and opposite Bay Vista Park. Yesterday at this same range marker location, Eric Plage found thirty-eight, with others nearby



in the air. The boobies now seem to prefer hanging out over the ship channel, probably searching for bait fish, from The Skyway Bridge and heading toward downtown Tampa.

So unfortunately, normally it is necessary to locate them with a good spotting scope or preferably from a boat. Even at a distance, it is easy to identify a Brown Booby in flight. When they drop off their roost tower, they are like a glider in flight. Their slender narrow winged appearance is easily seen, with their wings tip to tip being nearly double their body length. The chocolate brown adults with their

white chests are unmistakable. They are like an Olympic diver, they tuck the wings back and don't make a splash. Another unanswered question is, typically, if you had twenty-eight total, twenty-four would be adults, with four being juveniles. How and where did they come from and find their way here!

Photo by Wes Tallyn: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S103105249>



Report horseshoe crab sightings to FWC for science



It's almost spring and that means it's peak mating season for horseshoe crabs. Help biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) gather valuable information about these ancient creatures by reporting sightings on the [online survey](#).

Horseshoe crabs mate by pairing up, with the smaller male attached to the larger female. They then crawl onto the beach up to the high tide line where the female digs a nest and lays her eggs, all while the male is attached and fertilizing the freshly laid eggs. They mate year-round, but it is most common to see mating groups along the shore of sandy, lower wave action beaches in March and April as well as September and October. Beachgoers will have the most luck spotting horseshoe crabs around high tide within a few days of a new or full moon.

Reporting horseshoe crab sightings provides valuable information about habitat use, population distribution and environmental conditions for nesting to the FWC. Although horseshoe crabs have existed for more than 450 million years, scientists are still learning about Florida populations. Public sighting information helps FWC researchers target nesting beaches for the [Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch Program](#), a citizen science based initiative to collect data throughout the state.

If you see a horseshoe crab on its back, you can help it flip back over by gently picking it up (holding both sides of the shell), turning it over and releasing it back into the water. Simple actions such as this help conserve this species and the many other species that depend on it.

The FWC asks the public to [report sightings](#) by visiting MyFWC.com/research and clicking on "Crustaceans" then "Horseshoe Crabs" and selecting "Report Your Nesting Horseshoe Crab Sighting".



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
MyFWC.com

QUESTIONS? [Contact the FWC](#)

Thank you for your continued support.

Click a card below to learn more

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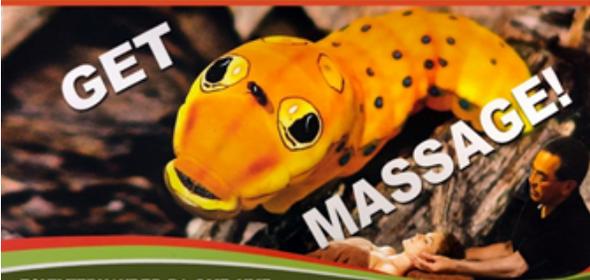
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Join the Board or a Committee

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://stpetaudubon.org/)
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[Important Bird Areas](#)
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[Important Bird Areas in Florida](#)

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

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

 [Friends of Brooker Creek ...](http://friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org)
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[Florida Herb Society](#)
[Suncoast Herpetological Society, Inc.](#)
[Tampa Bay Turtle & Tortoise Society](#)
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[Moccasin Lake Nature Park](#)



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