

Wing Beat

Conservation Through Education
The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society
May-June 2022 Vol. 106

Meet Mary Miller May 2nd Bluebirds & Boxes



Mix-n-Mingle @6:30 Program @7:00

The North American bluebirds are cavity nesters and their numbers seriously declined when the English house sparrow was introduced in 1851 and took over their nesting cavities. This presentation tells of the remarkable recovery of the bluebird through conservation efforts of individuals and the North American Bluebird Society, which instituted the concept of bluebird trails. The Tampa Audubon

Society maintains 56 bluebird boxes at Flatwoods Park along the seven-mile walking/biking/skating trail. Even though the trail has been there for over 40 years, it has just been monitored for the last 17 years and this presentation will give you very encouraging results.

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

SEASON'S END BIRDING

March 7th Monthly Bird Walk/Outing at Moccasin Lake Nature Park

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

Leader - Cuneyt Yilmaz

Accessible with assistance 

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY

Calling All Bird Stewards

CONTACT HOLLEY SHORT: holley.short@audubon.org

Municipal Beaches – Black Skimmer steward training · Where: 4th floor conference room of Indian Shores Town Hall

- When: Saturday, May 7 from 9-11 am
- Who: Holley Short of Audubon FL will lead the training

At these trainings, you will have the opportunities to meet your 2022 anchor stewards and coordinators and ask questions regarding the 2022 season.

I look forward to seeing and/or meeting you!



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

  **Plants 4 Birds**

in list [PRIORITIES](#) 

Labels

 **Priorities** 

 **Description** 

CAS has received a grant from FL Audubon to create a pollinator and bird-friendly garden in the Dunedin Hammock Park. With cooperation from the Pinellas Native Plant Society and the City of Dunedin, we will improve a public area to be a better stop-over habitat and include a water feature and bird blind for observation and instruction.

Volunteer to join in this project: Contact [Stephanie Hall](#)

  **Birding Backpacks @ Dunedin Library**

in list [EDUCATION](#)

Labels

 **Education** 

 **Description** 

The birding backpack is a kit that includes everything you need to enjoy your next birding adventure, and it's free to check out with your Pinellas County Library System card! Each backpack will contain binoculars, field guide, birding checklist for Hammock Park & Honeymoon Island.

If you are interested in participating in the Bird ID and orientation night at the library, watch the Dunedin Library's FB page for details.

Dunedin's Gladys Douglas Preserve

in list [PRIORITIES](#)

Labels



Description Edit

City Arborist Craig Wilson takes us for a walk around the Gladys Douglas Preserve to discuss the different plants and what is being done with the intrusive species. We would like to give a big shout out to the Florida Native Plant Society Pinellas Chapter that is currently doing invasive plant removal, trash removal and a floristic plant study. We appreciate their work and their partnership.

To learn more about the Gladys Douglas Preserve, visit [Gladys E. Douglas](#)

[Preserve | Dunedin, FL](#)

West Klosterman Preserve

in list [PRIORITIES](#)

Labels



Description Edit

To preserve the rural heritage of open space land by protecting its natural forest, plant life, and all native animals in their community.

Clearwater Audubon supports this preservation.

Bookmark our Trello page for updates: [CLICK HERE](#)



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Poisoned rats have proven deadly for several Great horned owls that lived in Philippe Park in Safety Harbor. Photo by MARK SCHOCKEN

Group raising awareness of dangers of rat poison.

By JULIE CHURCH, TBN Correspondent Apr 15, 2022

SAFETY HARBOR — For seven years, a pair of great horned owls has made Philippe Park in Safety Harbor their home. From December through March, they nest in the park, while they hatch and raise their owlets.

People have come from all over the United States to observe and photograph the birds. But in recent weeks, all but one of five owls in the park have died from eating poisoned rats.

On March 4, the first owlet fell from what is known as “The Owl Tree” and died. A necropsy confirmed that anti-coagulant rat poison is what killed the bird. Since that time both the female and male parents have died as has another owlet.

Now, a group of residents has formed “The Owl Team” in an effort to educate homeowners and businesses on the effect rat poison has on owls and other raptors. It started with a Facebook group that has grown to more than 1,000 members over the past month. The movement now includes the city of Safety Harbor, the Chamber of Commerce as well as many concerned citizens.



For the past seven years, photographers from all over the country have flocked to Philippe Park in Safety Harbor to take pictures of a pair of great horned owls that made the park their home. Sadly, several of the park's owls have died recently after eating poisoned rats.

Photo by CATHERINE STEBBINS

chamber has also organized a canvassing program to educate local businesses on the dangers of anti-coagulant rat poison.

“We are all concerned about what is going on with the owls,” Mayor Joe Ayoub said at the commission meeting. “We are all interested in making a difference in the issue.”

There are two types of rat poison, Bromethalin and Cholecalciferol, which will kill rats but not raptors. Other measures home and business owners can take to control rats include sealing up holes where they can enter structures, keeping trash bins sealed and trimming foliage away from roofs and houses.

“We want to take this tragedy and make something good happen,” said Thomas. “So many people would stop if they knew what they were doing.”

“The community has really come together in supporting this effort,” said Cathy Stebbins, one of the organizers of the Owl Team. “Once people know the unintended consequences of using the wrong rat poison, they are willing to do something.”

The group has designed and printed educational brochures and is working with city staff to develop methods to inform residents and businesses on ways to control the rat population in the city without harming owls and other raptors.

“I don’t want Safety Harbor to be known as the city where all the owls died,” said Fairl Thomas, another Owl Team member and volunteer bird rescuer. “We want to make sure everyone knows what the risks and dangers are.”

Since several people spoke out at the March 21 Safety Harbor City Commission meeting, anti-coagulant rat traps have been removed from all city facilities and educational inserts are scheduled to go out with utility bills. The

FIELD TRIP SPOTLIGHT

Photos by Dale Goebel

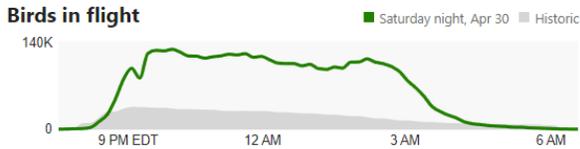
Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park w/Gallus Quigley (April 2022)



PINELLAS MIGRATION DASHBOARD

The new [BirdCast Migration Dashboard](#) provides summaries of radar-based measurements of nocturnal bird migration, including estimates of the total number of birds migrating, their directions, speeds, and altitudes. This tool depicts migration patterns in near real time or as a summary of a whole night after nocturnal periods end (2021-present); this includes additional historical information (2013-2021) as well as previous nights' movements.

Here's what happened last night...



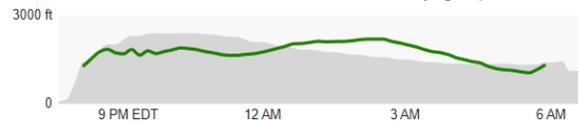
Birds usually begin to migrate 30 to 45 minutes after sunset, with the greatest number in flight two to three hours later.

Flight direction and speed

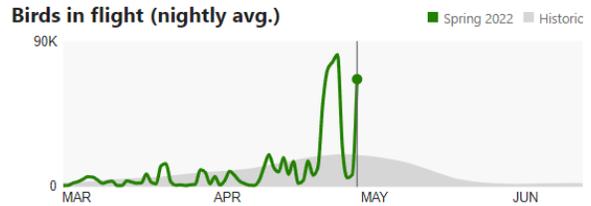


Birds tend to migrate northward in spring, but seasonal timing, weather, and geography alter their flight directions and speeds.

Altitude

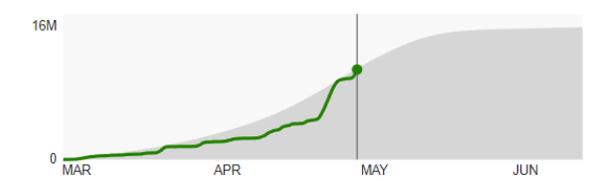


And so far this season...



During spring migration, most birds pass through the contiguous U.S. from mid-April to mid-May.

Total birds crossed



This is the estimated total number of birds that have fully crossed this region. The curve rises quickly during peak migration and levels off at the end of the season.

Live data feed begins each night after sunset. Click on either image to see more!

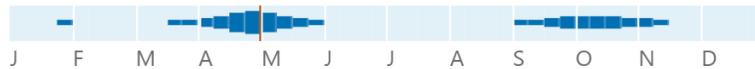
Expected nocturnal migrants

POWERED BY EBIRD

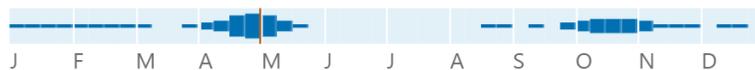
Nocturnally migrating species most likely to arrive or depart this region at this time of year, based on frequency of observations



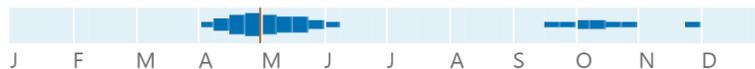
Cape May Warbler



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Blackpoll Warbler



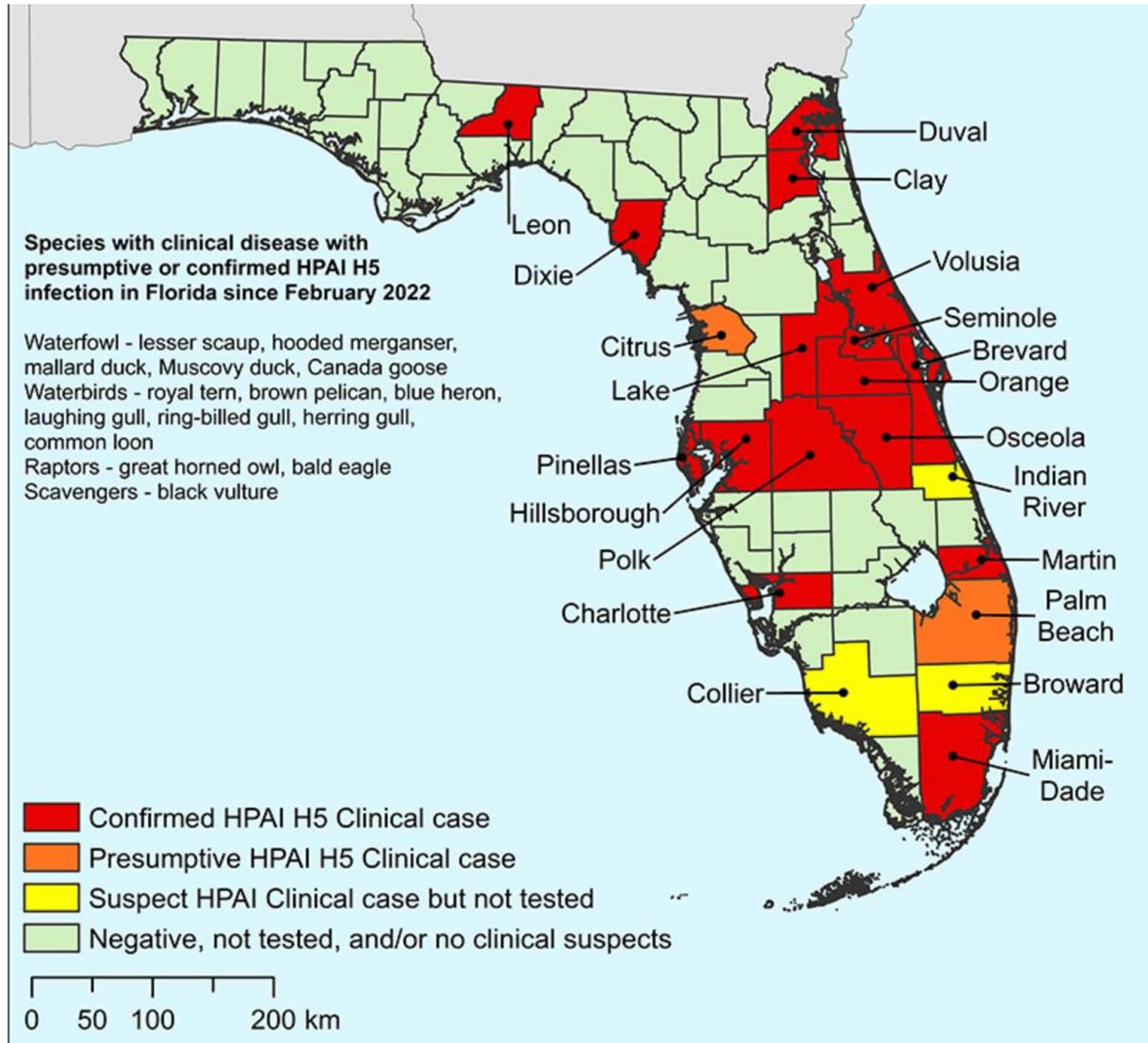
AVIAN INFLUENZA REPORTING

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) can infect wild birds like waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans, gulls, and terns), shorebirds (storks, plovers and sandpipers), raptors (eagles, hawks), scavengers (vultures, crows), and domestic poultry like chickens, turkeys, and ducks. Songbirds are generally at lower risk for hosting avian influenza; however, the FWC says it cannot be ruled out that a 'bird feeder species' could carry and/or transmit this pathogen.

HPAI was first detected in Florida in January 2022 and is still collecting data. Here is the April 19 map that the FWC posted on its website.

To date, the FWC has not recommended that backyard bird feeders be removed:
<https://myfwc.com/.../wildlife/health/avian/influenza/faq/>

If you see a wild bird in need. Do not touch the bird. Call Kim Begay: 727.480.9010



14th Annual!

St. Petersburg Audubon Society's Dr. Harold Albers Teacher Ecology Camp

1 & 2 Day Sessions

Free Interactive Workshops for Teachers & Other Educators
June 6 - 10, 2022
3 Workshops - Take 1, 2, or all 3!

Register at www.SensingNature.com • Questions to LPackard.edu@StPeteAudubon.org



Workshop A: Monday & Tuesday, June 6 & 7

"Freshwater Restoration: Reasons, Opportunities, Careers, Impacts"

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM daily

6 contact hours total

- Day 1: Online - Classroom session via Zoom
- Day 2: In-person Field experience at the Celery Fields, Sarasota

Space Limited!

Workshop B: Wednesday, June 8

"Wildlife Conservation Field Experience at Zoo Tampa"

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

6 contact hours total

- Learn about wildlife conservation; Guided tour with Florida species accentuated, including Florida panther, Florida black bear, red wolf, and Florida manatee; Behind-the-scene experience



Workshop C: Thursday & Friday, June 9 & 10

"Birding 101 for Your Classroom"

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM daily

12 contact hours total

- Day 1: In-person classroom session hosted at Weedon Island Preserve
- Day 2: Field experiences at Myakka River State Park, Sarasota, and Sweetbay Nursery, Parrish



Ask Your District for Component Point Approval

- Pinellas County Approved

REGISTER TODAY: <https://form.jotform.com/220584842322049>

Thank you for your continued support.

Click a card below to learn more

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John Hood
Lynn Sumerson
Dale Goebel
Méichelle Long
Cuneyt Yilmaz

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Field Trips: Dale Goebel
Media: [Position Available](#)
Membership: Cuneyt Yilmaz
Newsletter/Webmaster: Méichelle Long
Programs: [Position Available](#)

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

 [HOME | Tampa Audubon S...](http://tampaudubon.org)
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[Important Bird Areas](#)
Important Bird Areas

[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)
fosbirds.org



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

 [Friends of Brooker Creek ...](http://friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org)
friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.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](#)