PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Welcome back! We are looking forward to a vibrant migration and have a lineup of original and exciting programs this year. Field trips were splendid last year and will shine this coming year as well. We may be advertising some special Florida field trips, so keep an eye on our Facebook page, and our web site for announcements! Keep an eye out for a Cuba trip in 2020 and Costa Rica in 2021. Feel free to get your name in early by emailing us at cas@clearwateraudubonsociety.com.

Shorebird nesting was successful this year. If you would like to participate in stewarding next season, please reach out to us. We are having a bird handling training and park training on September 29th from 10am-Noon. If you are interested in volunteering at Moccasin Lake Nature Park with the raptors or in the Clearwater Audubon Society office please contact us at 727-798-2385 or attend the meeting. The EagleWatch meeting is on September 29th from 1pm-3pm. Please join us if you would like to monitor a nest. Both meetings will be held in the classroom.

If you have not renewed your National Audubon membership now is a good time. Christmas Bird Count is around the corner and the Great Backyard Bird Count will sneak up on us too. If you are interested in directing Community Science initiatives and a Naturalist program please call us at 727-798-2385. Must have time to spend at Moccasin Lake having fun! We have seen the return of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird to the park due to all the pollinator gardens. It has been 15 years since the last sighting by Joe Zarolinski.

In order to be diverse and inclusive, we will begin to offer additional programs at various times. Many will feature our fine feathered friends at Moccasin Lake and there will be hints of what's to come! We will be celebrating World Migratory Bird Day on October 19th, so stop by for a visit and watch the Facebook page for more detailed information. Also, watch the City of Clearwater's printed calendar, available at the front desk and the calendar displayed on park monitors.

.... Continued
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (cont.)

Story telling is a powerful way to inspire conservation. Join us the third Sunday of each month at 2pm in the Clearwater Audubon Society office for Reading with Raptors. We will discuss a different book chosen by the group each month. In the coming year we will add Books ‘n’ Birds for youth selections and for on-site readings for early elementary students.

Like literature, art inspires conservation too. This year the Society will be hosting an event which displays high definition large format prints of this year’s National Audubon Society photo contest winners. Please keep an eye out for specific details on our Facebook page and website. The gallery will be displayed sometime between October 16 and November 4th at Moccasin Lake Nature Park.

On the advocacy front we have a lot of ground to cover. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act are losing ground. Tongass, Bears Ears, Colorado River are all facing significant long term threats. Please watch for the Audubon Advocate and the Audubon Petitions. Locally, promote Native Plants for Birds! All small individual changes DO make a difference. Thank you for your efforts!

Remember, we protect birds and the places they need through sound science, education and grass roots advocacy. Audubon’s conservation priorities are Coastal, Climate, Water, Working Lands and Bird Friendly Communities. Please, let's all do our part.

Keep looking up!
Barbara Walker, President

UPCOMING EVENTS >>> Field Trips & Special Events

9/28 Chinsegut Wildlife Area - Ahhochee Hill Wildlife Sanctuary - Butterfly Trip
• Meet at Walgreens at the corner of US19 and Curlew Rd. on the SW corner at 8am. Bring lunch & gas $.$.
• Leader- Paul Trunk (727) 430-0368

10/5 Monthly Bird Walk at Moccasin Lake Nature Park
• Meet at 8:00am.
• Leader- Madeleine Bohrer (727) 748-6885

10/7 Program: “An Evening with Raptors”
• Barb Walker and her Wonderful Volunteers Enjoy an evening with a wide variety of our educational Audu-bon ambassador birds. Bring your camera and get your close up with these amazing birds!!
• Meet & Greet 6:30PM, Program 7PM

10/12 John Chesnut Park
• Meet at shelter 6 at 8am.
• Leader - Steve Reardon (727) 871-2706

10/17-20 Florida Birding & Nature Festival
• Highlights Wildlife Corridors and Migrating birds, experience Central FL’s peak fall migration - over 180 species, field trips to the best wildlife sites in W. Central FL.
• Contact - John Hood (727) 461-4762

10/17-20 Upper Tampa Bay Park
• Meet at the park 8001 Double Branch Rd. by the education center at 8:30am. $2 fee per car.
• Leader - Cuneyt Yilmaz (727) 657-0803
Membership

Membership Application

Monthly Meetings

October – May
The first Monday of each month at Moccasin Lake Nature Park:
Meet and Greet @ 6:30PM
Public Program @ 7:00PM
(Unless otherwise noted)

Pinellas County Birding Checklist

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING
First Monday of the Month unless otherwise noted.
Thank Lynn Sumerson for the fantastic photos in this issue.

We can protect birds and the places they call home — as long as we have people like you who will help. Volunteer opportunities are available.

BOOKS ’N’ BIRDS

Books ’N’ Birds will have its first meeting on Oct 20 at 2pm in the CAS Office. The books will be selected by the members. The group is for anyone who enjoys reading and learning about birds and their relationship with people. The meetings are the 3rd Sunday of every month.
NATIONAL AUDUBON’S STRATEGIC PLAN

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Coasts > Climate > Working Lands > Water > Bird Friendly Communities

Building New Connections Throughout an Expanded Audubon Network

How are we going to save birds whose remarkable lives span the whole hemisphere? We are going to do it as a network: a collaborative, enterprising, interconnected community of partners and local leaders. Every Audubon chapter, nature center, sanctuary, volunteer leader, member, partner organization, and advocate is a vital link in a web that supports migratory birds and the places they live throughout the hemisphere. We will pair local creativity with coordinated action. We will expand and diversify the network to fully reflect America and the communities where we live, work, and volunteer. And we will support each other in order to become the best Audubon we can be. The birds are counting on us.

David J. Ringer Chief Network Officer, Audubon

Protecting Coastal Habitats

Audubon’s coastal work focuses on the most threatened and iconic bird species that rely on coastal habitats—estuaries, islands, beaches, and the marine environment—throughout the hemisphere.

Climate Change Is a Bird Issue

Audubon’s peer-reviewed research projects that climate change will imperil almost half of all North American bird species by 2080. Protecting all threatened species will require public policy changes at the local, state and, ultimately, federal levels.

Protecting Birds on Economically Important Lands

Audubon helps landowners and land managers apply bird-friendly practices on their lands and develop market-based solutions to build economic incentives that have the potential to engage many more landowners.

Water Management Is a Key Conservation Concern

Audubon and its partners will engage the public on water-management and water-quality issues; restore habitats on rivers, wetlands, and deltas; and explore market-based solutions that contribute to achieving our water goals.

Building a Better World for Birds

Birds are the most common visible wildlife. We wake to birdsong, and we connect birds with places, memories, family, and friends. Audubon works with communities to ensure sustainability and the durability of long-term public will to protect birds and their homes.

You can download and read Audubon’s Strategic Plan in its entirety by clicking the link below.

http://strategicplan.audubon.org/assets/SP16_Full_Web_Res.pdf
**Monocular With Smartphone Holder**

Digiscoping has been the hot new thing in birding for the last few years. Put simply, it’s using your digital camera or smartphone to take photos through a spotting scope. The setups for these can be basic or elaborate, so get started with this monocular and smartphone holder by Gosky. You can use the 12 x 50 monocular on its own, or attach your phone with the holder to take photos. It’s best used with a tripod to hold it steady, but the monocular fits any standard tripod, so you can use one you already have.

Get It: [Gosky Monocular and Smartphone Holder, $60](#)

**Smartphone Telephoto Lenses**

Smartphone cameras get better every year, and you might often find yourself opting to leave your larger camera at home. Not all smartphone cameras offer great zoom options, though, so a little telephoto lens kit can be a great investment. Throw it in your pocket and you’ll have it on hand when you need it. This kit even comes with a small tripod to make your shots even steadier.

Get It: [12X Telephoto Lens + Accessories, $28](#)

**All-Weather Field Notebook**

At first glance, this notebook doesn’t seem high-tech. But this isn’t just another notebook. The paper is weather-proof, so you can write on it under any conditions using just a regular pencil. The inside covers feature bird anatomy diagrams and the Code of Birding Ethics as handy reminders.

Get It: [Liberty Mountain Birder’s Field Notebook, $7](#)

**Trail Camera**

Ever wonder what’s visiting your backyard feeders when you’re not around? This motion-activated digital trail camera will tell you! It’s easy to set up and runs on 8 AA batteries (or you can buy an AC adapter to plug it in). It works both day and night (using infrared so it won’t scare away the wildlife), taking photos or short videos. Now you’ll always know who’s been eating up all your birdseed!

Get It: [Victure Trail Camera, $60](#)

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**GADGETS AND GEAR FOR THE AMAZON BIRDER**

>>> Go beyond binoculars and field guides and ramp up your game with the coolest birding gear and gadgets.

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FLORIDA BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL

**Date:** October 17-20, 2019
**Location:** Tampa (Brandon), Florida
**Address:** PO Box 320025 Tampa, Florida 33679

**Description:** Florida Birding and Nature Festival, Tampa (Brandon) FL. Experience Florida's peak Fall migration during the Year of the Bird! Focus on birds and nature conservation, features birding and butterfly field trips; boat and canoe trips on Tampa Bay, barrier islands on the Gulf, or local rivers; seminars; keynote speakers; and Nature Expo with vendors and nature/conservation information.

**Birds to See:** Florida Scrub-Jays, roseate spoonbills, wood storks, limpkins, anhingas, American oystercatchers, whimbrels, long-billed curlews, black skimmers, purple gallinules, American bitterns, reddish egrets, tricolored herons, black crowned and yellow crowned night herons, owls, woodpeckers, white-eyed and blue-headed vireos, fall warblers and many more.

DARLING DAYS

**Date:** October 20, 2019
**Location:** J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge
**Address:** 1 Wildlife Dr. Sanibel, Florida 33957

**Description:** “Ding” Darling Days’ Family Fun Day on Sunday, October 14, culminates a weekend of eco-activities with all-free refuge tram tours, live wildlife presentations, hot dogs, kids crafts, and other family activities. Birding, boating, tram, paddleboarding, and kayaking activities fill the weekend. The 30th annual celebration begins on Friday, October 12, with Get Outside Day and continues on Saturday, October 20, with Conservation Art Day. Federal Duck Stamp Winners, other artists, cartooning, and a Refuge photography tram tour will highlight a day devoted to Jay Norwood Darling’s legacy as the first duck stamp artist and Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist.

**Birds to See:** White Pelicans, Roseate Spoonbills, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, White Ibis, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Great Blue Egrets, Green Herons, Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Hawks, Brown Pelicans

PIPS INDIAN RIVER BIRD AND NATURE ART SHOW

**Date:** Oct 11 at 9 AM – Oct 13 at 4 PM
**Location:** Sebastian River Art Club
**Address:** 1245 Main St, Sebastian, Florida 32958

**Birds to See:** moorhens, purple gallinules, king rails, soras, snipe, stilts, and both yellowlegs. Walk the dikes between impoundments for good views of dabbling duck species in the winter including shoveler, wigeon, teal, pintail and gadwall. Mottled ducks are found year-round. swallowed tailed kites and roseate spoonbills. Northern harriers fly regularly over the marshes in winter and, during hawk migration in October, join red-shouldered and red-tailed hawks, peregrine falcons, merlins and kestrels. white tail deer, otters, bobcats, wild hogs and raccoons, wood storks, limpkins, white and glossy ibis, herons and egrets; and black-necked stilts, greater and lesser yellowlegs, dowitchers and other shorebirds.

FLORIDA BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL

**Date:** Oct 11 & 12, 2019
**Location:** 5181 SW 27th Terrace Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312
**Address:** J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

**Description:** The Birding Festival of the Keys explores a truly unique environment during the spectacle of hawk and songbird migration. The festival features boat trips: pelagic to Dry Tortugas and Marathon Hump, Boot Key-raptor roost, and sunset Seabird kayak trips. Full day van trips. Keys specialties workshops and hikes. Bird walks to State Parks. Birding workshops. Evening programs.

**Birds to See:** Magnificent Frigatebird, Black-whiskered Vireo, Reddish Egret, White-crowned Pigeon, Mangrove Cuckoo, Swallow-tailed Kite, Brown Booby, Brown Noddy, Roseate Tern, Sooty Tern, Peregrine Falcon, Broadwing Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Prairie Warbler, "Cuban" Yellow Warbler, migrating shorebirds and warblers
Join us in celebrating the birds, wildlife, and natural lands of West Central Florida!

**Save the Date**

A Four-Day Festival Offering Expert Seminars, Field and Boat Trips, Keynote Speakers, Exhibits, and Vendors!

**Florida Birding & Nature Festival**

Hillsborough County Community College
Brandon Campus
10451 Nancy Watkins Dr., Tampa, FL 33619

October 17-20, 2019

| Experience peak migration with **over 180 species.** |
| Field trips to the **best wildlife sites** led by experienced and engaging experts. |
| Birds, butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, mammals **and more!** |
| Nature products, artwork, binoculars, bird boxes, unique products for wildlife lovers **available for purchase.** |
| **Exciting dinner Keynote speakers.** |

And a special symposium with seven speakers on **Saturday** -
“Exploring Florida’s Rich Turtle Diversity”
Learn about turtle diversity, ecology, and conservation.

Co-sponsored by the Florida Turtle Conservation Trust.

Learn more at fbnfestival.org

October 17-20, 2019

HCC Brandon Campus
Organizations We Support

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Important Bird Areas in Florida

Great Florida Birding Trail

Florida Ornithological Society

Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve

Friends of the Hammock

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