

# Wing Beat

**Conservation Through Education**  
The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society  
Sept-Oct 2021 Vol. 102

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## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Clearwater Audubon is happy to provide quality, educational programming to the community. Although physically delivering these programs to the community is not possible during the extended COVID-19 pandemic, we are able to provide virtual outreach programs using Zoom's Webinar feature. We look forward to resuming in-person programs again soon.

### October Zoom Program

**Vernon Bryant, Florida Botanical Gardens**



Monday, October 4th @7PM

Vernon will share with us the current and future plans and programs of the Florida Botanical Gardens.

He has been the Executive Director of the Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation for the last 4 years. Community service is a large part of Vernon's life. In addition to his work at the Botanical Gardens, he has served on the boards of Pinellas County Young Life, Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Service, Greater Largo Library Foundation and the Friends of Ridgecrest.

# BIRD LOCAL

## August on the Courtney Campbell Causeway

By Madeleine Bohrer

My birding buddy, Tom Riggs, knows how to lure me out into the field: “There might be Black Terns out on Courtney Campbell Causeway. Want to go look for them with me?” Well, of course! I adore Black Terns and this is the best time to find them.

Where we went is a small piece of beach on upper Tampa Bay just off the Causeway—a stone’s throw from the hustle bustle of Gulf to Bay in Clearwater. It was about nine o’clock, and the morning sun was sprinkling its rays on the incoming wavelets kicked up by a steady breeze. We parked my truck and stepped out into a divine scene: on the shore were clusters of gulls, terns, and shorebirds, waking up, preening, dozing, and just being birds...



Birds Coexisting, Madeleine Bohrer

Shorebirds are remarkably varied, some with astounding migratory ranges. Their plumage changes from rich earthy colors to plain sandy grey through the seasons. I think that is part of their allure; they accomplish so much in their lifetimes and seeing them passing through always gives me hope.



Marbled Godwit, Tom Riggs

At this beach, we had about a dozen species of shorebirds. One Marbled Godwit is a gift. Fifteen makes my heart soar. They were resting with Ruddy Turnstones, Willets, Black-bellied, Wilson's, and Semipalmated Plovers. Interspersed were Sanderlings, Least and Western Sandpipers, and Short-billed Dowitchers. All birds were in varied plumage states.



Short-billed Dowitchers, MadeleineBohrer



Red Knots, Tom Riggs

One special sight was several Red Knots. This is where my feelings of hope come in: during their 9000-mile migration between South America and the Arctic, they feed on protein-rich horseshoe crab eggs on our Atlantic coast beaches. Since the late 1990's, though, there has been a huge decline of this food source due to unfortunate human disrespect—overuse of the crabs as bait as well as the use of their unique blood for biomedical testing. Thankfully, this important species is slowly making a comeback, thus saving the lives of not only Red Knots but other species of wildlife as well.

Did we see the Black Terns? We certainly did! Some were non-breeding adults and juveniles but others still had their magnificent rich black plumage. They look as if they were picked up by their tail and dipped in black paint! Oh, how I love these creatures! These are long-distance migrants as well.



Black Tern, Tom Riggs



Black Tern, Madeleine Bohrer

Birding with a friend is heartwarming and sharing this tiny piece of Earth with these beautiful and accomplished creatures for an hour or two is humbling. Dozens of birds, coexisting peacefully, demonstrating the continuance of life so unselfconsciously next to speeding cars on the causeway is the sort of sight we live for as birders.

## Would you like to ‘bird local’?

Please visit our website to view the current listing of bird outings.

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/field-trips.html>

Most trips are led by volunteer Clearwater Audubon Society leaders. Unless otherwise indicated, they are free and open to the public. We host monthly guided bird walks at Moccasin Lake Nature park which is free to the public and accessible with assistance. The schedule will be updated as more information becomes available. When you arrive we'll have our sign-in sheet as usual but added to the form will be some CDC practices we all need to follow...please don't come to a walk if you have a fever, feeling sick, sore throat, shortness of breath, etc. We will ask that everyone practice social distancing as much as possible and encourage you to wear a mask. We look forward to seeing you at the park.

We believe that diversity, equality and inclusion are essential to creating global citizens who celebrate the unique differences of all and understand that each person plays a critical role in our global society. All are welcome.

### Next trip:



**Meet at 8:30 am at 1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin at the Osprey Trail head at the north end of playground parking lot**

SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS



**Kansas wetlands and grasslands provide rest and refueling for birds in the Central Flyway with bird guide William “Bill” Kaempfer October 24th – 29th**

Only one spot left. Make your reservation today! More info on our website.

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/trips/KansasCentralFlyway.pdf>

# AUDUBON YOUTH

## Florida Young Birders Club Bird Walk & Planning Meeting

Fall 2021 Call-Out Meeting

Saturday, September 18, 2021 8:30 am - 11:00 am

Brooker Creek Preserve Education Center

3940 Keystone Rd, Tarpon Springs, FL 34688



Fall is coming and the cooler air is on the way (I promise)! Also, the fall migration is starting so it is time to search the woods for our feathered friends! We will be birding along Brooker Creek and the trails around the Education Center. After we are done, we will go into their air conditioned classroom to plan our monthly field trips for the coming year. Anyone ages 9 - 17 with an interest in birds is welcome to come!

Come join us for a bird walk then a chance to help plan our monthly field trips for the coming year. We will be in an air conditioned room at a beautiful nature center.

If you are interested, sign up at this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044fabae2ca20-fybc4>



# Thank you for your continued support.

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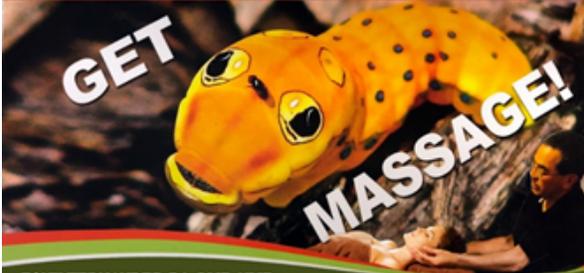
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# Your Clearwater Audubon Society Board

## 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](#)  
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](#).

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### 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



[Moccasin Lake Raptor Sanctuary](#)



# FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

October 15 - 17 , 2021

[Website](#)

Manatee Viewing Center - Apollo Beach

Three days of field and boat trips, expert seminars on Zoom, keynote speakers, and a great nature expo!

In partnership with Hillsborough County's CELM/ELAPP programs, and hosted by TECO - come celebrate the wonders of the birds, wildlife, and natural lands that we enjoy in West Central Florida.

A three-day festival offering **Zoom presentations, keynotes, field trips, boat trips, a nature expo, a silent auction, and more!**

where you can learn from renowned professionals, experience peak migration, and shop unique products...

All the details...

Lunch will be available for purchase from 11 am to 2 pm on Friday and Saturday from the Manatee Viewing Center's cafeteria.

Parking is free at the Viewing Center. The Viewing Center is a non-smoking campus. Pets are not allowed. Only service animals are permitted on the grounds. The Festival will follow CDC current Covid guidelines, and we ask for courtesy towards mask-wearers.

[Schedule Overview](#)

[Check out the list of experts.](#)

You should see a few familiar faces.



The Cornell Lab  
**OCTOBER  
BIG DAY** ✓  
9 OCT 2021  
[ebird.org/octoberbigday](http://ebird.org/octoberbigday)

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa* © Suzie McCann Macaulay Library

## October Big Day—9 October 2021

October Big Day is only a month away. Wherever you are on 9 October, take a few minutes to join the world of birding by submitting eBird checklists. What new birding heights can we reach together? Every list counts!

[How to participate in October Big Day](#)

Mark your calendars for [October Big Day](#)—9 October 2021! Big Days are a 24-hour opportunity to celebrate birds near and far.

Wherever you are on 9 October, take a few minutes to join the world of birding on October Big Day. By taking part in October Big Day you're also joining the second-ever [Global Bird Weekend](#) and celebrating [World Migratory Bird Day](#). Be a part of the global team, and help set a new record for birding.

We recognize that COVID-19 continues to impact our communities. Even if your local conditions have improved, we always encourage everyone to put safety first, follow local guidelines, and [bird mindfully](#). You can bird from home and still participate in October Big Day!