

# Wing Beat

**Conservation Through Education**  
The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society  
January-February 2021 Vol. 98

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## Birdability

... because birding is for everybody!



**What is [Birdability](#)?** Birdability focuses on removing barriers to access for birders with mobility challenges, blindness or low vision, intellectual or developmental disabilities (including autism), mental illness, being Deaf or Hard of Hearing and other health concerns.

Accessibility challenges are the difficulties someone experiences while interacting with the physical or social environment when engaging in a meaningful activity... in this case, birding! **Beginning in 2021** we will use symbols on our field trip info to include the birdability of a location.



Accessible trail



Accessible with assistance

# CONSERVATION TOP STORIES



Mike Bitler prepares to rescue a pelican trapped in fishing line on the old Skyway

## We are friends with ['Friends of the Pelicans'](#).

Fishing line entanglement is the number one cause of death for brown pelicans. If free of human interference, Brown Pelicans could live to the age of 40 years in the wild. However, studies show only 30% of all pelicans will survive their first year – only 2% will live to reach the age of ten years. In addition to pelicans, fishing line entanglement also kills Herons, Egrets, Ibises, Cormorants and all of the other seabirds roosting in the mangrove rookeries.

Jeanette Edwards, founder of Friends of the Pelicans, Inc., describes the mission as **\*Protecting** the right of all birds, and pelicans in particular, to live out their lives free from harm due to human interference, specifically fishing line entanglement, through specific programs aimed at preventing fishing line entanglement, **\*Educating** the public about fishing line entanglement and **\*Rescuing** entangled birds. In short to be a Friend.

KIM BEGAY is a wild bird rescuer and the VP of Conservation on the Clearwater Audubon Board of Directors.

# TAKING ACTION >>> Gladys Douglas Property

Recently, the Board of Clearwater Audubon voted unanimously to pledge \$15,000 to the Pinellas Community Foundation for the preservation of this property. It is not only a critically endangered rosemary scrub habitat, but also a necessary sanctuary for migrating birds. It is imperative that this property be preserved. This is the largest undeveloped sandy ecosystem remaining in North Pinellas County. One thing in Florida that we cannot create more of... is land. And we could not let this responsibility pass us by without taking action.

Many of you *already know* this is important, but are not sure how to become a part of this initiative. You can express yourself with the simple act of generosity. You can take action by donating to the [Pinellas Community Foundation's website](#) or text ROSEMARY to 71441 to make your donation.

[Participate virtually](#) in the Benefit postered here and be an integral part of this historic opportunity.

Invite others to take action to create this legacy of conservation in Pinellas County.



## Live-Streamed Benefit Concert



**January 27, 6-9pm**

**Woodwright Beer Garden**  
[tinyurl.com/savetheGDPLive](http://tinyurl.com/savetheGDPLive)

Tune in live for local musicians, engaging speakers, and the premier of the Gladys Douglas Property documentary! Help protect 44 acres of pristine land and critically endangered scrub habitat in Dunedin.

**Silent Auction begins January 23rd**  
[tinyurl.com/GDPauction](http://tinyurl.com/GDPauction)

**LIVE MUSIC**

Host - Craig Huegel

**The Florida Boys**

Peter Gallagher, Pat Barmore,  
Bart Hanchey, Raymond Solomon

**Wendy Barmore**

**Aimee Trachtenberg**

**Keith Hope**

**Treble Hook**

## How Can I Help?

### ATTEND

Tickets for live event are sold out!

Tune in live at [tinyurl.com/SavetheGDPLive](http://tinyurl.com/SavetheGDPLive)

**DONATE MONEY - [tinyurl.com/FNPS4GDP](http://tinyurl.com/FNPS4GDP)**

or text ROSEMARY to 71441

**DONATE ITEMS OR BID!**

[tinyurl.com/GDPauction](http://tinyurl.com/GDPauction)

**LEARN MORE & SHARE**

[#SavetheGDP](http://tinyurl.com/SavetheGDP)

All proceeds benefit the fund to Save The Gladys Douglas Property managed by the Pinellas Community Foundation. The Florida Native Plant Society will match proceeds up to \$5k. Funds are needed by Jan 31.

## Contact

Rebecca Wellborn - 727-320-5135

[info@pinellasnativeplants.org](mailto:info@pinellasnativeplants.org)

[tracy@bluegreenconnections.org](mailto:tracy@bluegreenconnections.org)

# The Raptors are Ready

@[Moccasin Lake Nature Park](#)

MLNP is open for visitors and limited [volunteers](#). Please visit the raptors and show your support for our dedicated volunteers who have remained loyal to the care and welfare of these remarkable birds. Their support through this time of uncertainty has been constant.



## Clearwater park is a mix of nature, helping birds of prey

Moccasin Lake Nature Park Raptor Sanctuary is not only a beautiful park, but a facility that will help rehabilitate hurt birds of prey, or provide a forever home for those who can no longer survive in the wild.

By [Charley Belcher](#) |

## Spring Internships

-> [Current Internship Applications](#) <-

Our process is underway and we are currently accepting applications. Please notify us if your academic focus is biology, marine studies, ecology, or conservation.

[✉ cas@clearwateraudubonsociety.org](mailto:cas@clearwateraudubonsociety.org)

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# AUDUBON FL HIGHLIGHTS

*Click a story below to learn more*



## Chapters & Centers

### Conservation Leadership Initiative Student Attends Millennial Birding Event

The group saw iconic Florida species at the edge of Lake Apopka.



## Conservation

### Conservation Leadership Initiative Alum Reflects on Future Career in Environmental Movement

By Audubon Staff

An essay from a CLI alum.



## News

### 2021 Florida Legislature Session Preview

By Audubon Staff

The 2021 session brings new leadership to the Florida House and Senate, with the promise of new partnerships, new legislation, and new opportunities for conservation.



## Coastal Conservation

### The Data Is In! Now It's Time to Improve Water Quality in the Guana River System

By Audubon Staff

Water issues in our state not only affect the flora and fauna we love, but our own communities as well.

# Thank you for your continued support.

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# UPCOMING EVENTS >>> Programs & Field Trips

Monthly Meetings **will be held on Zoom** 7pm on the first Monday of the month October-May

## Upcoming Program

**FEBRUARY is Mix-it-up Month:** We will have two guest and a game to follow. Elimelec Medina with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will discuss a new bird survey opportunity north of John Chesnut Park. Holley Short with Audubon FL will discuss bird stewarding and how to become one yourself.

We will end the evening with a Bird ID game, so bring your beverage of choice and join us!

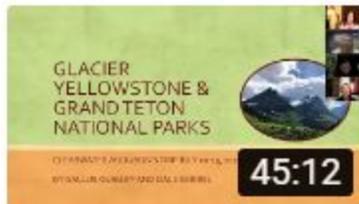
[ZOOM WEBINAR LINK HERE](#)

## Previous Programs are available on our [YouTube Channel](#)



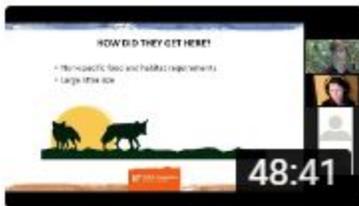
### [OCTOBER Jim McGinity](#)

Where O where Can the Songbirds Go? - Migratory Birds Along the West Coast of Florida



### [NOVEMBER Gallus Quigley Jr. and Dale Goebel](#)

Glacier, Yellowstone & the Grand Tetons field trip.



### [DECEMBER Lara Milligan](#)

Lara is a Natural Resources Agent with UF/IFAS Extension Pinellas County discussing the history and biology of coyotes, and how we can learn to coexist with them.



### [JANUARY Suzi Fleck](#)

Often called "The Enchanted Islands" – you will see and learn why the Galapagos Archipelago is highly unique and like no other place on earth.

# Field Trips

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 outings at Moccasin Lake Nature park which is free to the public. 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.

JAN	CONTACT	DETAILS
2	Madeleine Bohrer 727-748-688	Monthly Bird Outing at <a href="#">Moccasin Lake Nature Park</a> Meet at 8:00am  Accessible with assistance
9	Bill Kaempfer 303-717-5063	Tri-county Bike Trail - <a href="#">Brooker Creek</a> - Park at the lot next to the trail on Keystone Road. Meet at 8:00am 
23	Cuneyt Yilmaz & Bill K. 727-657-0803	MEET FIRST at W. E. <a href="#">Dunn Water Reclamation Facility</a> then off to <a href="#">Wall Springs Park</a> NEW EXPANSION off Alt.19 on Wai Lani Road (Just north of W. E. Dunn on the left/west side), Palm Harbor. Meet at 8:00am.
30	TRIP CANCELLED	<del><a href="#">Circle B Bar Reserve</a>, 4399 Winter Lake Road, Lakeland. MEET THERE in the PARKING LOT near the education center. Bring Lunch. Meet at 8:00am</del>
FEB	CONTACT	DETAILS
6	Madeleine Bohrer 727-748-6885	Monthly Bird Outing at <a href="#">Moccasin Lake Nature Park</a> Meet at 8:00am  Accessible with assistance
13	Bill Kaempfer 303-717-5063	<a href="#">Philippe Park</a> , 2525 Philippe Pkwy, Safety Harbor. Meet at 8:00am. Meet at Shelter 2.
20	Cuneyt Yilmaz 727-657-0803	<a href="#">Possum Branch Preserve</a> , 3415 McMullen Booth Rd, Safety Harbor. Meet at 8:00am.

# Christmas Bird Count 2020



Photo courtesy of Dan Larremore

*With Paul Trunk leading the brigade, we had 158 species on our count and 49 volunteers.*

## Here are the top 11 spotted species:

<b>Lesser Scaup</b>	<b>950</b>
<b>American Robin</b>	<b>812</b>
<b>White Ibis</b>	<b>386</b>
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>Laughing Gull</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>Foster's Tern</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>Dunlin</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Palm Warbler</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>European Starling</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>American Coot</b>	<b>200</b>

**Rare species spotted for our area: Magnolia Warbler**

## Great BYBC

Celebrate Birds! Join Audubon and others for the **Great Backyard Bird Count**. Each year birders of all ages and levels count birds in their own backyards. Since we are committing to more birding in 2021, click [here](#) to join in the fun.

Friends of Boyd Hill Nature Preserve will take its biggest annual event virtual for 2021. This year, a new event, Raptor Fest @ Home will take place Saturday, February 6, at 10 a.m. via [Facebook](#).

Raptor Fest @ Home will be interactive and educational. Starting immediately, individuals, businesses, and schools are invited to “adopt” a bird of prey. Based on the amount they contribute for the adoption, they will receive recognition during the live stream as well as other perks.

For eight years, Raptor Fest has been held at the Preserve in support of Boyd Hill’s Birds of Prey Program. It typically raises more than \$10,000 and attracts around 5,000 people, along with dozens of local vendors and environmental organizations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Friends of Boyd Hill decided that holding the traditional event was not in the best interest of safety.

Boyd Hill Nature Preserve is home to 20 birds of prey, or raptors, deemed non-releasable by a licensed rehabilitator and carefully vetted to ensure that they can be safely handled and used in educational programs. The Friends of Boyd Hill and the City of St. Petersburg share costs for food, shelter, and veterinary services, as well as responsibility for the birds' care and well-being.

We hope you will join us online for Raptor Fest @ Home via Facebook at [facebook.com/friendsboydhill](https://facebook.com/friendsboydhill) and consider adopting a raptor at [https://friendsofboydhillnaturepreserve.wildapricot.org/...](https://friendsofboydhillnaturepreserve.wildapricot.org/)

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# YOUR CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD

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John Hood  
Lynn Sumerson  
Dale Goebel  
Méichelle Long  
Cuneyt Yilmaz

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Treasurer: Madeleine Bohrer  
  
Secretary: Stephanie Hall

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Field Trips: Dale Goebel  
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Méichelle Long  
Programs: Position Available  
Wild Raptor Sanctuary:  
Stephanie Anderson

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Mardy Hornsby  
Lindsey Day  
IP President: John Hood

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

Christmas Bird Count:  
Paul Trunk & Ron Smith  
  
Eagle Watch: Louise Roy

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## Clearwater Audubon Society

<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**

[Membership Application](#)



Clearwater Audubon Society, Inc. P.O. Box 97 Clearwater Florida 33757  
EIN 59-6177460

# 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



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[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 ...](http://friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org)  
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[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](#)

