



**Conservation Through Education**  
The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society  
July-Aug 2023 Vol. 113

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## Summer is Heating Up

With the excitement of summer and the many ways we celebrate, fireworks and frying temps are on my mind. It's too hot to do much outside during the heat of the day, but I'd like to let you know that we are actively planning for our October to May programming and field trips. Lend your thoughts on programs and projects for the upcoming year. Your input on 5 simple questions is valuable. [ [Take survey](#) ]

Fireworks are usually a 'hot topic' for July. As always, please use caution and consideration when using personal fireworks. You may have a neighbor who is a combat veteran, people with special needs, traumatic brain injury survivors, pets and kids who just need a simple notification of your celebration. In addition, it is important that we all advocate for not allowing fireworks on our shorelines. Bird stewards have photographed our shorebird babies with firecrackers in their beaks, piles of shrapnel, not to mention the initial flushing of entire colonies to be left to ruin and predation. Please lend your voice or signature on this issue whenever possible and consider becoming a bird steward to help protect their habitat.

Lastly, the temperatures have been soaring in the past few weeks! This doesn't mean you have to hang up your birding binoculars and wait for cooler temps. The best time to spot active birds during the summer is in the morning just before dawn until about 10am. Birds also become more active in the evening when temps start to drop with the setting sun. In heavily wooded areas with lots of shade, birds tend to be more active, but not if you are also active. Find a nice shaded spot and try to keep as still as possible. The less you move, the more comfortable wildlife becomes and you will notice more birds moving around. Watch by the water. Wading bird species can be found nearly all day hanging out in the shallows of the bays and wetlands. Roseate spoonbills, Great egrets, Little blue herons, and other waders can be found stirring the shallow waters for fish, crab, and small reptiles. Always remember to take water with you and let someone else know your birding plan.

Happy Birding!  
Méichelle Long, WingBeat Editor

# NEXTGEN CONSERVATION

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## We Welcome our Newest Board Member

Did you meet **Jessica Hughes**, one of our interns for the past school year? She is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science and Environmental Studies at Eckerd College. At our June board meeting, Jessica was unanimously voted aboard our Conservation Committee, chaired by Kim Begay.

She is the next generation of conservation leadership for Clearwater Audubon and comments that she is, “excited to learn and grow as a conservationist”. She is bringing her Marine Science focus to initiate programs which highlight the importance of healthy marine ecosystems for birds and vice versa.

Jessica has been working this summer on a research project involving Black skimmers. You may have seen posts on social media by Dr. Beth Forsy. Results of the study should be available by the end of the summer.



# Maine Birding Trip with Clearwater Audubon “From the Mountains to the Sea”

by Dana Kerstein

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Bird photos by Dale Goebel



Maine has long been a magnet for birders. The beautiful state supports a variety of boreal and coastal birds. At the end of May, our guide Seth Benz, from Schoodic Institute, located in Acadia National Park was knowledgeable, calm, friendly, patient, and tireless in sharing his knowledge of Maine’s natural history, biology and birds.

We spent 2 nights in Baxter State Park where my highlights were lakeside views of Mt. Katahdin and many boreal warblers. Particularly ubiquitous were Black-throated green, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Blue, Ovenbirds, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, Black-and-white, Northern Parula, Magnolia, Chestnut-sided and Blackburnian Warblers.

White-throated & Chipping sparrows serenaded us with their beautifully whistled melody. We were lucky to have good long views of a Ruffed Grouse in the middle of the road and a close moose, out in the open.





The second section of our trip was the Schoodic Peninsula section of Acadia National Park and the surrounding county. We saw many more warblers, an incredible field full of displaying Bobolinks, a slow-moving porcupine, and a beaver.

On a calm water day aboard a lobster boat, we went to Petit Manan Wildlife Refuge Island. The group was delighted to see so many Atlantic puffins, Razorbills, Black Guillemots, and Arctic and Common Terns, as well as a lighthouse and the gorgeous rocky Maine coast.



Another rewarding adventure involved driving around Washington County's blueberry barrens (fields). We scored big time by being able to see Upland Sandpipers in a telescope.



My memories include sharing the experience with a van full of delightful and happy birding companions. Once again Dale Goebel did a masterful job arranging our wonderful trip.

P. S. One of my new birding friends taught me about the [Merlin Bird ID](#) phone app that listens to a bird sing and then identifies it for you! Now I can more confidently ID those hard to see singing birds.

Thank you, Clearwater Audubon, for yet another adventure.

## Clearwater Audubon Society offers a diverse lineup of outings.

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/outings at Moccasin Lake Nature park Oct-May, which is free to the public. Out of town and nationwide trips require pre-registration and deposit. All listed on the [ [Field Trip Page](#) ] in late summer.

# FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT

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## Salty Soul Foundation Cleanups Make a Difference in Dunedin



Dunedin, FL - Salty Soul Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the natural beauty and integrity of our beaches and oceans. They do this through education, community engagement, and proactive measures to eliminate

litter and protect marine life.

One of the ways that Salty Soul Foundation makes a difference is through their beach cleanups. Every other month, they organize volunteers to clean up beaches in Dunedin and other areas of Florida. Since 2017, they have removed over 26,000 pounds of trash from beaches in the area.

The trash that Salty Soul Foundation removes from the beaches is a variety of items, including plastic bottles, cans, food wrappers, and cigarette butts. This trash can pollute the water and harm marine life. For example, plastic cans can entangle sea turtles, and cigarette butts can contain harmful chemicals that can be ingested by fish.

[Salty Soul Foundation](#)'s beach cleanups make a real difference in the health of our beaches and oceans. They are a great way to get involved in your community and help protect the environment. If you are interested in volunteering for a beach cleanup, you can visit Salty Soul Foundation's website to learn more.



2023 DUNEDIN CAUSEWAY CLEANUP:  
JAN 14TH - 9:00-NOON  
MAR 18TH - 9:00-NOON  
MAY 13TH - 9:00-NOON  
JUL 8TH - 8:00-11:00  
SEP 9TH - 8:00-11:00  
NOV 11TH - 9:00-NOON

@SALTYSOULFL #PROTECTTHELOCALS

Here are some of the benefits of volunteering for a beach cleanup:

- ★ You will help to make a difference in the health of our beaches and oceans.
- ★ You will get to spend time outdoors and enjoy the beauty of nature.
- ★ You will meet new people and make new friends.
- ★ You will learn about the importance of environmental protection.
- ★ You will feel good about making a positive impact on the world.

If you are looking for a way to get involved in your community and help protect the environment, I encourage you to volunteer for a beach cleanup with Salty Soul Foundation. You can make a real difference! **[Saturday, July 8 @ 8 AM – 11 AM](#)**  
**Meet on the Dunedin Causeway near the restrooms. Look for the Salty Soul Jeep!**



# SUMMER SIDE TRIPS

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## **Sunday Bird Hike (FREE)**

**July 2 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm**

Come out for this “early morning” walk in the woods with Alexa to seek out the resident and visiting birds of Brooker Creek. Beginners and all levels of birders are welcome. Meet in the parking lot at 8:00 a.m. This is a free hike, however space is limited. Please be courteous and do not register unless you plan to attend and cancel your reservation if you can no longer attend.

>>> [REGISTER HERE](#) <<<

## **Talk Plants with Me (FREE)**

**July 6 @ 11:30 am - 12:00 pm**

Ask a Horticulture Agent [Webinar!](#)

Submit your questions to our Horticulture Agent for live Q&A. We will talk about hot topics in the plant world and may have a few guests join us along the way.

>>> [WEBINAR REGISTRATION](#) <<<

## **Moth Night! (FREE)**

**July 14 @ 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm**

Discover Denizens of the Dark at the Brooker Creek Preserve Environmental Education Center. After a brief lecture and hands-on science experience, we will venture into the night to find moths of many sizes and colors, all attracted to our artificial lights. Registration is required. Space is very limited. Once registered, please check your confirmation email for important details on where to meet.

>>> [REGISTER HERE](#) <<<

## **Nature Photography with any Camera (FREE)**

**July 22 @ 10:30 am - 11:30 am**

Join photographers Karl and Kathleen Nichter for an introduction to nature photography! Any camera can take great nature photographs! Knowing the basics of composing a photograph, and what your particular camera can do, makes your photos even better. Join nature photographers Karl and Kathleen Nichter for a program on these topics, plus nature photography do's and don'ts and tips for nature walks with photography in mind. Although we won't be taking any photographs during this session, if you have any camera questions bring your camera along and we will do our best to answer them.

>>> [RESERVE A SPOT](#) <<<

# FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

October 12 - 15 , 2023

6650 Dickman Rd, Apollo Beach, FL

Four days of field and boat trips, expert seminars, keynote speakers, and a great free nature expo!

[REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!](#)

## Field Notes

### WHERE SIGHTED

*Boardwalk in Park*

### DATE SIGHTED

*June 2023*

### ACCOMPANIED BY

*Lynn Sumerson*



### DESCRIPTION/NOTES

*Green Heron (Butorides virescens)*

*crying 'kyow', flicking tail nervously, raised and lowered its crest eating fish, The 'green' on this bird's back is an iridescent color, looks dull bluish or simply dark*

*Feeding young just outside of nest in mangrove*

### *Fun Facts:*

*The Green Heron is one of the few tool-using birds.*

*In flight, it resembles a crow, but the wing beats are slower, it's a slightly different shape, and the neck is reddish-brown.*

*Both parents incubate the eggs for 19 to 21 days (3 weeks).*

*The young can first fly at about 21 to 23 days old.*

Learn more: <https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/green-heron>





# SAVE THE DATE!

*Join Us as We Continue to Celebrate  
our 50<sup>th</sup> Year!*



## Fall 2023 FOS Meeting

Boyd Hill Nature Preserve in South St. Petersburg  
1101 Country Club Way S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705

**Friday, November 10 – Sunday, November 12**

**Field Trips** will visit Ft. DeSoto County Park, Egmont Key NWR/State Park, Honeymoon Island State Park, and other great regional birding sites.

### **Friday afternoon, 2 p.m. – Board of Directors Meeting**

Members welcome

### **Friday evening Supper & Flocking – Tales of the BBAs.**

Share your stories, slides, and remembrances of your BBA surveys and other work for BBA I and BBA II.

### **Saturday morning – Field Trips**

#### **Saturday afternoon**

Membership Meeting

Scientific Session, Student Papers, Skin Quiz

Saturday evening Banquet and Keynote Talk

Dr. Stephen A. Nesbitt, “Secrets of the Sandhills” or “The Life History of the Florida Sandhill Crane”

After 35 years of working with dozens of known individual Florida Sandhill Cranes, Nesbitt, a retired biologist formerly with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, will discuss what they learned. How can you tell an old crane from a young crane? How can you tell a male from a female? Do cranes really pair for life? What is the typical home range for a pair of Florida Sandhill Cranes? What does it take for a pair to successfully raise a chick to the age of independence? How long can a Florida crane live? What does the future for cranes in Florida look like? These are some of the topics to be discussed.

### **Sunday morning – Field Trips**

Cabins and campsites are available for rent at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve, first-come, first-served. Reserve yours today! [\(727\) 893-7326](tel:727-893-7326)

For more information, contact Mary Mack Gray [graymarymack@gmail.com](mailto:graymarymack@gmail.com)  
David Goodwin [David.goodwin@aol.com](mailto:David.goodwin@aol.com) or Ann Paul [annpaul26@gmail.com](mailto:annpaul26@gmail.com)

# 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  
Communication/Media: **Position Available**  
Membership: Cuneyt Yilmaz  
Newsletter/Webmaster: Méichelle Long  
Community Outreach: Lynn Sumerson

## Officers:

VP Conservation: Kim Begay  
Treasurer: Deborah Larkin  
Secretary: Stephanie Hall

## Board Member at Large:

Mardy Hornsby  
Diane Ives, Don Peccia  
IP President: John Hood

## Sub-Committees:

CBC: Bill Kaempfer  
Eagle Watch: Louise Roy  
Finance: Don Peccia

## 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 & Belonging](#) 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, 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 Information](#)



[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



## Partnering Organizations



[Audubon Florida](#)  
[St. Petersburg Audubon Society](#)  
[Tampa Audubon Society](#)



[Important Bird Areas in Florida](#)  
[Great Florida Birding Trail](#)  
[Florida Ornithological Society](#)  
[Florida Avian Conservation](#)



[Moccasin Lake Nature Park](#)  
[Moccasin Lake Raptor Sanctuary](#)  
[Friends of Moccasin Lake](#)



[Pinellas Chapter FNPS](#)  
[Florida Herb Society](#)  
[Safety Harbor Garden Club](#)  
[Florida Botanical Gardens](#)



[Friends of Dunedin Hammock](#)  
[Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve](#)  
[Suncoast Herpetological Society, Inc.](#)  
[Tampa Bay Turtle & Tortoise Society](#)  
[Friends in Focus Photography Club](#)

Do you have young people visiting this summer? Or maybe you like to color... Download the [Audubon Adventures](#) & the FWC [Snowy Plovers](#) coloring book. For younger kids, consider the color and info pages of [Birdorable](#).

adventures



## Try This!

- Explore nature wherever you find it—even in your own backyard or a city park.
- Observe birds and other animals—spy on them to see their natural behavior; try to figure out what they're doing and why.
- Protect the natural world in any way you can.
- Keep a journal for recording your observations from nature.
- Draw, paint, or photograph the plants, animals, and natural places around you.
- Inspire other people to care about and protect the natural world by sharing what you learned.



## Be a Naturalist

The National Audubon Society gets its name from John James Audubon. He traveled the United States in the 1800s painting beautiful pictures of birds. His work inspired Americans to think about, care about, and get out and enjoy nature. That's what conservation is all about. *Conservation* means to protect and save wild plants and animals and the places they live. That way, those places and those plants and animals will remain for all people to enjoy in the future.

Audubon was a naturalist, which means he was a person who loved being outside in nature finding animals and plants. During Audubon's lifetime, much of our country was wilderness. Even without wilderness, you can still be a naturalist close to home any time of the year, no matter where you live.

Imagine yourself as a naturalist and a conservationist. How would your life be different?

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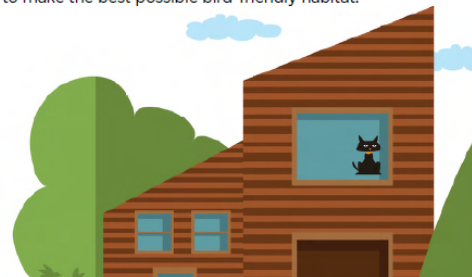
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**Audubon Creative Services:** Kristina Deckert, Art Director; Sabine Meyer, Photography

## Be a Friend to Birds

Some birds live in your neighborhood year-round, some stay for a season, and others pass through once or twice a year on their seasonal migrations. Here are some actions you can take in your own yard, schoolyard, or neighborhood to make the best possible bird-friendly habitat.



### 1. Prevent Window Crashes

Stop birds from hitting windows by putting up screens, closing drapes and blinds, or sticking decals on the outside of the glass.

### 2. Keep Kitty In

Cats that go outdoors kill birds and don't live as long as indoor pets.

### 3. Go Native

Planting native plants provides birds with the foods they need, including fruits, seeds, and tasty bugs.

### 4. Water the Birds

Provide birdbaths and protect natural water sources in your yard. Be sure to replace the water regularly to prevent mosquitoes from moving in!

### 5. Let It Be

Leaving dead trees, fallen branches, and brush piles creates nesting habitat and provides birds with shelter to keep them safe from predators and bad weather.



### 6. Lights Out

Bright lights at night can confuse night-migrating birds, so close your curtains or blinds and turn off unneeded lights.

Richards, Jesse Nelson. P4, clockwise from top left: Camilla Cerea/Audubon; Vexels.com (2); Sean Fitzgerald.

**We're correlated!** For correlations to Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Next Generation Science Standards, go to: [audubonadventures.org/Teach\\_Standards.htm](http://audubonadventures.org/Teach_Standards.htm)

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