



# Wing Beat

**Conservation Through Education**  
The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society  
May-June 2023 Vol. 112

## Next Gen Leadership

Audubon CLI Student & Eckerd College Internships



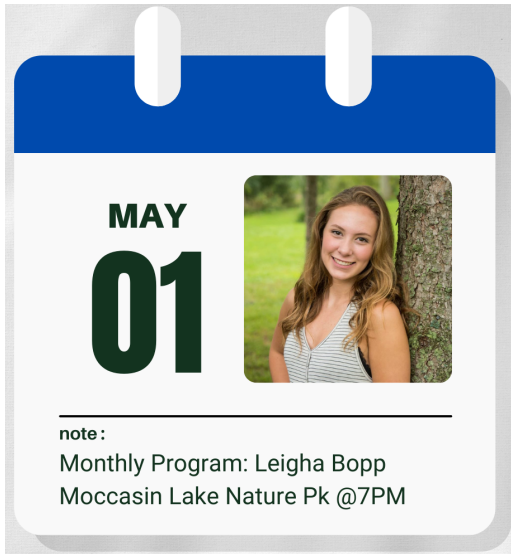
Meet **Victoria Germany**, our Audubon CLI Student for the past school year. She is a Biology & Environmental Studies student at Eckerd College volunteering on several projects including bird banding and Plants4Birds.

What is CLI? It stands for Chapter Leadership Initiative; a unique intergenerational experience uniting Audubon's leaders with some of the best and brightest college students. CLI includes a co-mentoring opportunity for Audubon leaders and college students to network, share, and learn from each other.

Victoria's internship is one of six that Clearwater Audubon hosted this school year—all Environmental Studies majors at Eckerd College. This is of great value to the students, but also in securing the next generation of environmentalists, biologists, non-profit

managers and global citizens. We help them to gain an understanding of future opportunities in conservation careers and discover avenues to engage with other partnering organizations and a career path.

# UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS



## **May 1st Monthly Program: Human Impact on Florida Birds**

Meet Leigha Bopp, She is an Eckerd College student and Clearwater Audubon intern. She will be sharing impact information on specific species with science-based research.

**Meet & Greet at 6:30, Program at 7PM.**

## **May 6th Monthly Bird outing at Moccasin Lake Nature Park**

Meet at 8:00am. Leader - Madeleine Bohrer (727) 748-6885

Accessible with assistance 

## **May 26th-31st Maine**

Mountains to the Sea with Seth Benz

[\[View the Flyer\]](#) Reservations required

## Your Opinion Matters

Help us plan programs and projects for the upcoming year.

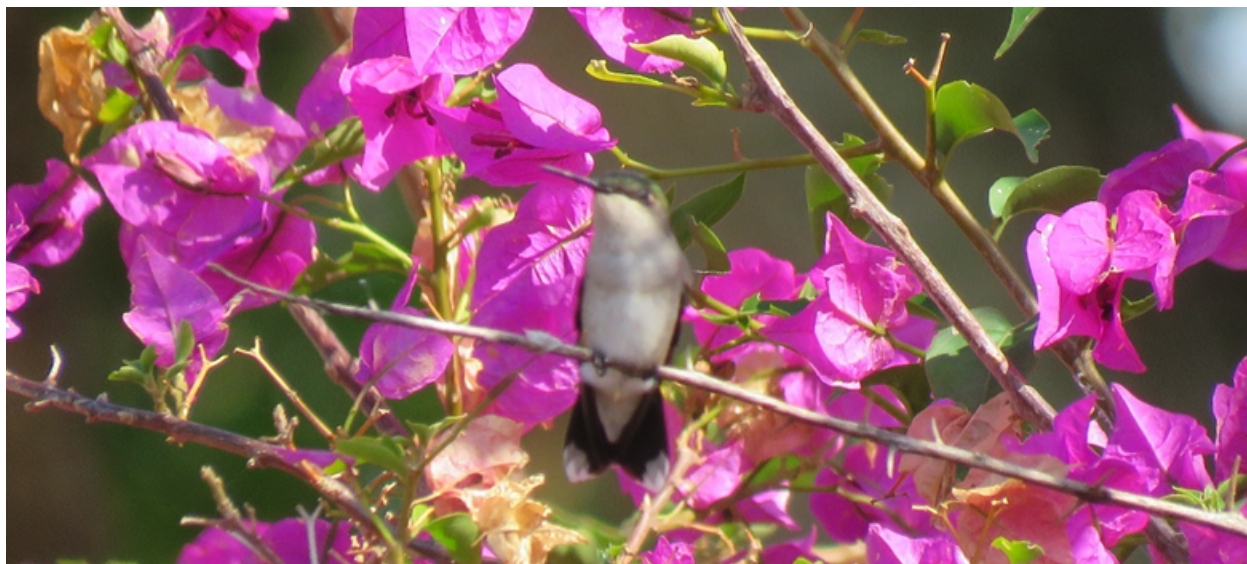
Your input on 5 simple questions is valuable.

<https://forms.gle/ErJeRz6qno28AocA6>

# Until Later

by Madeleine Bohrer

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Photos by Madeleine

The past couple of weeks I have been able to thoroughly enjoy spring migration—the crisp coloration of the birds and the urgency of their feeding while anticipating in the back of my mind the bitter-sweet surprise of silence as they slip away on a quiet evening that only their pure instinct can choose. One week there is a Grey Catbird here and there, plaintively mewing and keeping us company on our walks then a short time later, they are everywhere you look! They know: it’s time to get ready. No calendar, no internet, no phone calls...they are preparing to leave for their breeding grounds and I have no choice but to say goodbye.

Today, with migration in full swing, I had an off day—no parks, no woodsy

walks, and (heaven forbid!) no binoculars. I was home, though, so the binocs were close at hand. As always, we spent a family day on the back porch and in the yard. Suddenly, my daughter yelled “Hummingbird!”



Those binoculars were in our hands in two seconds flat and we spent the next half hour watching a female



Ruby-throated hummer darting about, living her best life, flitting about our trees and blossoming shrubs. Will she stay here and nest? Will she be gone tomorrow? She knows and I implicitly trust her. As for me, being stationary after a huge migration week wasn't so bad after all.

Springtime in Florida is like no other season but when it ebbs and the summer nudges its warm way into our days, I say bye to the birds and so long to many birding friends too, and I try not to feel sad as they leave. They'll be back with the next turn of

the season. They will know when it is time to come back too... I will be here waiting, and it will be a gleeful reunion!

*Do you have a story to tell?*

*Email it with photos to*

[newsletter@clearwateraudubonsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@clearwateraudubonsociety.org)

## Become a Bird Hero

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2023 AT 7 PM – 8 PM

**Bird Steward Training - Pinellas Co.**

Online event

Join Audubon Florida coastal staff to learn how to be an effective bird steward on the beach. You will learn about each nesting site located on multiple public beaches throughout Pinellas County, including Ft. De Soto County Park, St. Pete Beach, and Redington Shores. Bird stewards are needed to chaperone nesting sites and chicks while educating the public about sharing the beach with shorebirds. This is a great volunteer opportunity for anyone interested in shorebird conservation and education.

In this training, you will learn about how to identify threatened shorebird species of Florida, how to effectively educate the public, and how to sign up for volunteer shifts.

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7z43s5>

# PROGRAM RECAP

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**March Program:** Dave Goodwin presented a fantastic program on the Crested Caracara. This program took a look at the most unusual member of the falcon family in Florida. We will discuss the current status of this species in Florida, looking at its behavior, breeding, and adaptation to changing habitat within Florida.



**April Program:** Ron Smith drew quite a crowd of interest with his presentation on the Butterflies of Pinellas County. His [new book's](#) name sake and an amazing amount of knowledge was enjoyed by all.



# 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  
Programs/Outreach: **Position Available**

## Officers:

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

## Board Member at Large:

Mardy Hornsby  
Diane Ives  
IP President: John Hood

## 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 Application](#)



[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](#)