



Wing Beat

Conservation Through Education

The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society

Nov-Dec 2023 Vol. 115

Welcome Audubon CLI Interns!

We are thrilled to introduce our Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) Interns for this year! Alexis & Jason (far right) will be working on various projects and attending walks and meetings. This is our photo from the Audubon Assembly. Jessica (far left) is on our



Conservation Committee and Meichelle (top) is one of our board's intern mentors.

Audubon Florida's Conservation Leadership Initiative (CLI) is an experiential learning program providing opportunities for undergraduate college students to immerse themselves in Audubon, strengthen leadership skills, and gain an understanding of career options in the conservation field.

CLI is a unique, intergenerational experience uniting Audubon's leaders with a diverse group of college students from across Florida. The program pairs each student with an Audubon chapter leader, offering co-mentoring opportunities for Audubon leaders and college students to network, share, and learn from each other. Through this experience, students are introduced to Audubon conservation initiatives, and Audubon leaders learn how to better engage, communicate with, and develop the next generation of leaders.

Be sure to make Alexis 'Lex' and Jason feel welcome when you meet them at an event.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Sign up now to participate in the Christmas Bird Count!

November 18th John Chesnut Sr. Park [Add to Calendar](#)

Meet at Shelter 6 at 8am.

Leader - Steve Reardon (727) 871-2706

November 25th Safety Harbor "Tour of Upper Pinellas" [Add to Calendar](#)

Meet at 8:00am at North City park (North City Park at 2075 Swan Ln, Safety Harbor, FL 34695), then more stops at Safety Harbor Waterfront Park, Philippe Park, RE Olds Park, and Oldsmar Veterans Park as time permits.

Leader - Bill Kaempfer (303) 717-5063

December 2nd Monthly Bird Outing at Moccasin Lake Nature Park [Add to Calendar](#)

Meet at 8:00am. Leader - Paul Trunk (727) 430-0368

Accessible with assistance 

December 9th Fred Howard Park [Add to Calendar](#)

Migrants and shorebirds Meet on the park's causeway SW corner before the beach at 7am.

Leader- John Swenfurth (813) 390-4734

December 23rd North County CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Want to help? Contact Bill Kaempfer (303) 717-5063 or Cuneyt Yilmaz (727) 657-0803

The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) occurs December 14 to January 5 every season. Sign up to participate with Bill or Cuneyt. The CBC is still a great example of how citizen science and individual observations have the power to supplement environmental research in a significant way. It's a great way to count birds, make friends and be a part of research.



EMBARK ON AN AMAZING ADVENTURE IN BIRDING!

Colorado June 19-24 2024

"When I am asked what states are the best for birding, I always have Colorado near the top of the list. Few areas in the country offer the variety of habitats that Colorado provides. Alpine species to the grassland birds, Colorado is one of my favorite places to bird. If birds were not enough, the wildflowers of Colorado are outstanding." -Paul Trunk

Join Clearwater Audubon Society next summer as we explore the best of summer birding in Colorado with our local guides, Colorado Birding Adventures, on a fantastic five-day birding tour. Our small group (maximum of 10) will travel in comfortable 7-passenger minivans. Tour price includes all meals and lodging. AND you can expect spectacular scenery, great birds, and a fun, shared adventure!

With an impressive variety of habitats, fantastic mountain scenery, and a bird list (520 species) that ranks in the top ten of all states (impressive considering the nearest ocean is 800 miles!), Colorado is on most birder's list of places to visit. Throw in warm sunny days, cool nights, low humidity, and relatively few bugs, and Colorado is the ideal summer birding destination.

Our itinerary includes two of the top birding hotspots in North America: Rocky Mountain National Park and Pawnee National Grassland. Despite being only 75 miles apart, the 7,000-foot difference in elevation between these two places creates a wealth of habitat variety and a long list of Western species.

Colorado is a big state and our route will maximize our birding in varied habitats while minimizing our driving time. North-central Colorado offers birding from the short-grass prairies to the alpine tundra and majesty of Rocky Mountain National Park

[\[VIEW FLYER\]](#)

PROGRAMS CALENDAR

Monthly meetings are held at Moccasin Lake Nature Park the 1st Monday of the month (unless a holiday) from October to May. Meet & Greet at 6:30PM, Program begins at 7PM. View our previous programs on our [YouTube](#) channel.



Join us for our December program and meet Dr. Ken Meyer.

Co-founder and current Executive Director of the Avian Research and Conservation Institute, Dr. Meyer will share why ARCI is a leader in the tracking of wild birds. Their focus on applied ecological studies of rare and imperiled birds is not only interesting, but important work. Dr. Meyer will share with us how they gather the scientific data that are used to guide conservation projects.



Cuneyt, Dana, Kara, Deborah, Dale, Stephanie

Thanks to **Kara Cook** for sharing her knowledge and passion about the Rooftop Nesting Stewardship program. It's important that we help these displaced nesting birds in their efforts to keep a healthy species.



North Shore Birding Festival

(Nov 30-Dec 4, 2023)

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive
2850 Lust Rd, Apopka, FL

This Festival is hosted by Orange Audubon Society. Space Coast Audubon supports this festival through cross promotion and members who volunteer as trip leaders. More info here:

<https://northshorebirdingfestival.com/>



PLAN AHEAD!

Birds & Brews with Jim McGinity
January 3rd @ 7PM

Calling all bird enthusiasts! Join us for an evening of bird talk and beer at Caledonia Brewing in Dunedin!

We're excited to host a special event for bird lovers of all levels of experience. Jim McGinity will be discussing the local bird population, migration patterns, and conservation efforts through his banding stations.

At the talk, you can enjoy a delicious selection of craft beers from Caledonia Brewing. We'll also have snacks and non-alcoholic beverages available.

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](#).

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
Florida Young Birder's Club & Florida Avian Conservation



CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

REV 2023

Website: www.clearwateraudubonsociety.org

Email: clearwateraudubonsociety@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____ Phone: _____ (optional)

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____.

Chapter: E36 Clearwater Audubon Society

\$20 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP - includes a one year subscription to Audubon's magazine.

Make \$20 check payable to: National Audubon Society

Send this application & check to:

The National Audubon Society

ATTN: Membership

225 Varick Street, 7th floor

New York, NY 10014

By sending in this application, you are becoming a member of Clearwater Audubon Society as well as National Audubon Society. You receive member benefits from both.

Membership can also be accomplished online at:

<http://www.clearwateraudubonsociety.org/membership.html>