

Wing Beat

Conservation Through Education
The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society
Nov-Dec 2021 Vol. 103

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

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.

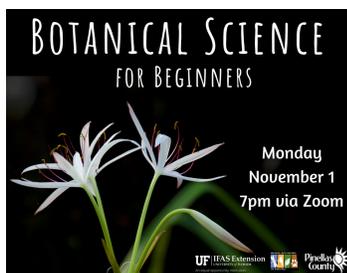
December 6th Zoom Program



During the winter months, Florida experiences the migration of a few “snowbirds.” Seabirds and shorebirds travel long distances and spend great amounts of energy to overwinter right here in Tampa Bay. **Holley Short, the Shorebird Program Manager for Audubon Florida in the Tampa area**, will discuss shorebird migration and the amazing species that spend their winters with us. [HERE IS THE LINK!](#)

November Zoom Program

James Stevenson, UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension Services



Botanical Science for Beginners

How do plants work? How do they interact with the environment? How do they defend themselves? We will investigate the fascinating and complex Plant Kingdom in an introduction to Botanical Science.

Did you miss it? You can watch it on our YouTube channel along with other past programs. [YouTube](#) channel

REMEMBERING JOHN RIPPON

By Jo Hubbard



I was surprised to learn yesterday that Clearwater Audubon Past President John Rippon died in 2019 and even more surprised to learn that nothing has been written about him. John was a major figure in our club when I moved back to Pinellas County in 1998. He made presentations, led field trips and gave of his great knowledge, not only in birding but also in music, botany and the identification of fungi.

I had the pleasure of going to the Peruvian Amazon with John and other Clearwater Audubon members in 1999. As you can see here, John in his bright orange rain poncho. It was October and I told him he looked like the Great Pumpkin. John was fun loving and loved to learn. He managed to be bitten by a Bot fly while on the Amazon trip and was thrilled to watch it develop under his skin until it matured and erupted. I told him

he was the only person I could imagine to feel gifted by a Bot fly.

While we were at the lodge, John gave lessons to the native guides on how to identify the fungi we saw growing, even drawing pictures so they would have a record.

I worked in Microbiology in Morton Plant Hospital and came across the book John wrote, *Medical Mycology*, in our mycology department. I took it to him when I saw him next and he autographed it for me with the dedication, "Thank you for the honor and the royalty"

I couldn't see another day pass without honoring this brilliant and so personable human being. I will not forget him and I know there are many others who feel the same. Among them would be the ten masters or doctoral students benefiting from the scholarship program John W. Rippon Research Award beginning in 2008.

Following are portions of the obituary published online by Dignity Memorial: The link for the obit in its entirety is:

<http://obits.dignitymemorial.com/dignity-memorial/obituary.aspx?n=John-RIPPON&lc=2881&pid=192249341&mid=8226489>

Dr. John W. Rippon passed away peacefully at the age of 86 on March 20, 2019.

John grew up in Toledo, Ohio and showed scientific promise at an early age, winning a Westinghouse Scholarship for Science. John received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1959.

After teaching at Loyola University for a few years, he became a professor at the University of Chicago Department of Medicine, where he taught and researched from 1963-1989. Besides overseeing the mycology diagnostic lab there, he taught courses in medical mycology, medical microbiology, and dermatology.

Dr. John W. Rippon was among the foremost medical mycologists of our time, having written seven books and more than 80 scientific publications on medical mycology.

Dr. John W. Rippon wrote the first edition of Medical Mycology the pathogenic fungi and the pathogenic actinomycetes in 1974, even before the AIDS crisis had started, with more people becoming susceptible to fungal infections.

Dr. John W. Rippon was a lifelong birdwatcher who identified more than 4000 species of birds as he roamed every continent, swam in every ocean and most of the seas.

Dr. John W. Rippon explored natural wonders from Iguassu and Victoria Falls, to Madagascar and the Milford Track; rode railroads including from St. Petersburg to Moscow, Sydney to Perth Australia (the Ghan) and Mexico's Copper Canyon (Barrancas del Cobre).

Dr. John W. Rippon was a true Renaissance Man: Fluent in Spanish, Latin, some French, Italian and German; with expertise in field mycology, botany, birds, opera, classical music, jazz, fine cuisine, wines of the world, science, natural history, classic literature, as well as liberal and environmental issues; Dr. John W. Rippon was a dedicated oenophile with expert knowledge of the world's wines.

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.

Upcoming trips:

November 6th Monthly Bird Walk at Moccasin Lake Nature Meet at 8:00 am at [2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater](#). Leader - Madeleine Bohrer 727-748-6885 Accessible with assistance 

November 13th Possum Branch Preserve Meet at 8:00 am at [3415 McMullen Booth Rd, Safety Harbor](#). Leader - Cuneyt Yilmaz 727-657-0803

November 20th Honeymoon Island State Park Meet at 8:30 am [1 Causeway Blvd, Dunedin](#) at the Osprey Trail head at the north end of the playground parking lot. Leader - Cuneyt Yilmaz 727-657-0803

November 27th Safety Harbor 'HOT Spots' Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Alligator Lake by the boat ramp at the south end of S. Railroad Ave. (Safety Harbor City Park at [940 7th St S, Safety Harbor, FL 34695](#), from 7th St. S., turn south on Railroad and go to the end.) We will then continue on to other hotspots in town possibly including Folly Farms, Marshall Street Park, North City Park and Safety Harbor Waterfront Park. Leader - Bill Kaempfer (303) 717-5063

December 4th Monthly Bird Walk at Moccasin Lake Nature Park Meet at 8:00 am. Leader - Madeleine Bohrer 727-748-6885 Accessible with assistance 

December 11th Fred Howard Park Meet at 8:00 am at the beach near restrooms, [700 Sunset Drive, Tarpon Springs](#). Merle Hubbard 727-743-3978 or Jo at 727-743-3372

December 26th (Sunday) North County CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Want to help? Please Contact Bill Kaempfer (303) 717-5063 or Cuneyt Yilmaz 727-657-0803

The MAINE EVENT

By Diane Ives



Thanks to the planning efforts of Dale Goebel, our CAS field trip coordinator, this past August a group from Clearwater Audubon traveled to Maine, to the Schoodic Institute in Acadia National Park. We were greeted by a wonderful steak and shrimp dinner, a harbinger of great meals to come. We also met Seth Benz, who was to be our guide. Seth wrote the Waldo County chapter in *Birdwatching in Maine*, a book to be highly recommended. Seth was a personable and knowledgeable host and guide who made sure that our stay was memorable.

<Seth with Nancy

The first morning we got up early and traveled to Bar Harbor for a whale watching trip, during which we saw many pelagic birds, including storm petrels, shearwaters, gannets and phalaropes. Some people even spotted a puffin far out in the water. And, of course, there were the whales and the most adorable little harbor seal who seemed to be watching us with as much amusement as we watched him.



< Great Shearwater



< Humpback Whale

The staff at Schoodic packed us a lunch each day and Seth always managed to find us scenic picnic areas in which to eat and many birds to see, many more birds than I could list in such a short article, though I could

mention the boreal chickadees, the spruce grouse and the red-throated loon.

And the beautiful goldfinches. Enough.





Harbor seal



Great Shearwater



Breakfast was always at 7 AM. Some arrived even earlier to look for birds on the grounds during the hour before we ate. About 8:30 we'd select our lunches and head out for the day. We hiked many parks and refuges and were even invited to the Wendell-Gilley Museum of wood carving with many exquisite carvings of birds. We usually arrived back by 5 or 5:30. Dinner was at 6 and afterwards we reviewed the birds we saw that day and planned the next day and discussed what birds we might see. The dinners provided some wonderful camaraderie, as well as great food.



Shep and Janette



On the trail

One particularly memorable trip we took was to Cadillac Mountain to the raptor program there. The views from Cadillac Mountain were spectacular. Another high point was Quoddy Head State Park in Lubec, Maine, with its lighthouse on the easternmost point in the U.S.A. We had our picture taken there together as a memento of the trip. And I must say I cannot remember a more congenial group to travel with.

And last, but not least, was the wonderful lobster dinner we had the night before we left. A fitting end to our Maine visit.



Photos by Dale Goebel

Thank you for your continued support.

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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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Media: [Position Available](#)
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Newsletter/Webmaster: Méichelle Long
Programs: [Position Available](#)
Wild Bird Sanctuary: Stephanie Anderson

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Mardy Hornsby
Diane Ives *New!
IP President: John Hood

Committees:

CBC: Bill Kaempfer
Eagle Watch: Louise Roy
Finance: **Don Peccia *New!**

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](#).

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

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fl.audubon.org



Audubon of Florida

St. Petersburg Audubon
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Important Bird Areas
Important Bird Areas

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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

JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



Audubon's 122nd Christmas Bird Count will take place Tuesday, December 14, 2021 through Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

The Christmas Bird Count occurs December 14 to January 5 every year.

Please contact Bill Kaempfer (303) 717-5063 or Cuneyt Yilmaz 727-657-0803 to participate.

What is the Christmas Bird Count?

Frank Chapman and 26 other conservationists initiated the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) as a way of promoting conservation by counting, rather than hunting, birds on Christmas Day of 1900. Some counts have been running every year since then and the CBC now happens in over 20 countries in the western hemisphere! [Read about the history here](#). Now a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 120 years of community science involvement, it is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the U.S., Canada (where Audubon partners with Birds Canada), and many countries in the Western Hemisphere go out over a 24-hour period on one calendar day to count birds.

When does the Christmas Bird Count happen?

All Christmas Bird Counts are conducted between December 14 to January 5, inclusive dates, every year. Each circle compiler will choose a single calendar day within those dates and your CBC birding is done on only one calendar day for each circle.

Is Participation in the CBC free?

Yes, participation is free. However, you will need to provide your own transportation, binoculars and weather appropriate clothing.

How does participation work?

There is a specific methodology to the CBC, and all participants must make arrangements to participate in advance with the circle compiler but the CBC is open to all!

Each count takes place in an established 15-mile diameter circle, and is organized by a count compiler. Count volunteers follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile (24-km) diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. It's not just a species tally—all birds are counted all day, giving an indication of the total number of birds in the circle that day.

Birders of all skill sets are involved in the CBC. If you are a beginning birder, your compiler will pair you with an expert initially.

If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangements with the count compiler.

Can I just do my own CBC and send you my data?

No. Since each CBC is a real census, effort data are collected as well as bird numbers, and since the 15-mile diameter circle contains a lot of area to be covered, single-observer counts (except in unusual circumstances) are not allowed. To participate in the CBC, you will need to join an existing CBC circle by contacting the compiler in advance of the day.

As an alternative, you may be interested in getting involved in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) organized by Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Birds Canada. It takes place on President's Day weekend each February, and you can count the birds each day in your backyard/community and then enter the results online. For more information on the GBBC, visit [Audubon's GBBC](#) page.

What is the role of a Participant?

As a CBC participant, you need to coordinate with your local compiler in advance of the count date. Next, follow the instructions from the compiler and learn what data to collect. Go out on count day to your assigned location and document your observations. Finally submit your data to your compiler in a timely manner. Then we hope you will come back next year and do it again!

Other Birding Events

NOV 13- Wading Bird Walk

Details: Sat, Nov 13, 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center
1800 Weedon Dr NE, St. Petersburg, FL

Meet the wading birds of Weedon Island on a guided hike! Learn the identifying marks and behaviors of the most common wading birds at Weedon Island Preserve during a one to two mile docent-led...[Read more on Facebook](#)

North Shore Birding Festival 2021 December 2 - December 6

<https://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/festival/>

The North Shore Birding Festival highlights the St. Johns River Water Management District's 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore, an Important Bird Area and the top eBird hotspot in Florida.

Most trips are based out of the McDonald Canal, CR 448A, Mount Dora, and allow driving into parts of the restoration area that are otherwise inaccessible except on foot or bicycle. All levels of birders, nature photographers and other outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy the field trips, which include a Sunday afternoon Beginning Birding trip at Wekiwa Springs State Park, suitable for children accompanied by an adult.

Field trips cost \$10-70, and many include a box lunch. All proceeds benefit Orange Audubon Society's fund for a nature and environmental education center or related educational programs. College students can participate for half price and there are college student travel scholarships. Reservations are required.

Orlando Wetlands Festival 2022

February 19, 2022 @ 9:00 am to February 19, 2022 @ 3:00 pm

[Register for this completely free event here.](#)

25th Annual Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival 2022

Cape Canaveral, FL, United States February 2, 2022 to February 6, 2022