



Wing Beat

Conservation Through Education

The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society

May-June 2024 Vol. 118

Clearwater Audubon's Florida Feather Frenzy BIRDATHON 2024

Seven teams, 30 days and hundreds of supporters cheered on our first annual Birdathon.



Donate to
Clearwater Audubon Society

The Birdathon's mission is to enhance people's knowledge and enjoyment of birds through education, conservation and research.

\$ 20 USD
 \$ 50 USD
 \$ 100 USD
 Other

Use this donation for
Team Sponsor

- Team Sponsor** ✓
- Business Sponsor
- I just love birds

Add \$1.52 USD to help cover the fees.

 **Donate with PayPal**

Donate with Debit or Credit Card

The results are not all compiled, however we can tell this has been a successful event for comradery, competition and conservation. Seven teams, comprising of 22 birders ranging from ages 11 to 70, planned their perfect storm for peak migration birding. Teams from Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough and Sarasota counties participated and crossed county lines in pursuit of a successful birdathon checklist. They submitted a combined total of 59 checklists, reporting 168 species total and raising nearly \$2,000! Watch your email for award winners!

You can still support our Birdathon Beneficiaries with your contribution. Click the link [HERE](#), enter your donation amount, then select Team Sponsor, Business Sponsor or I just love birds. On the next screen, you can enter a Team Name if you choose to support one.

Learn more about the beneficiaries [HERE](#).

Meet the Birdathon Teams

BIRDATHON TEAM
Anhinga
anhinga




Justin DeFonzo & Jess Smolen
 We love exploring State Parks, birding, reading, board games, and spending time with our cats. Our favorite birds are the Anhinga and the Burrowing Owl. We enjoy traveling and always include a birding adventure in our plans.

BIRDATHON TEAM
BIRDZILLA



Paul & Deb Trunk
 We are grateful to sponsor a wonderful event. Supporting environmental causes is what we are all about.

Pamela Graber
 Christine Rowland
 Patricia Goldberg
 Lily J Saul

BIRDATHON TEAM
PASCO PLOVERS



Pasco Audubon friends aiming to find at least 100 species in 24 hours in Pasco

BIRDATHON TEAM
SUNSHINE BIRDERS



Archer Woodams
 Rachael Woodams
 Deborah Woodams

Our team consists of 3 multigenerational birders from the same. An 11 year old boy, a mom and a grandma! We have been birding about 4 years and have loved every minute of it. We have been inspired by how kind everyone we have met along the way has been, and how they are willing to share their knowledge to help grow ours!

BIRDATHON TEAM
THREE LITTLE BIRDS



Jennifer Zelik
 Christina Maurice
 Alie Ratay

Birding with friends.

BIRDATHON TEAM
WEST FLORIDA 4



Sophia Haakman
 Zachary Matthews
 Roland Bendever
 Sanjay Velagapudi

All-Youth
 Young Birders Club
 Florida Natives

BIRDATHON TEAM
WILD BIRD LADIES



Lucy Polak
 Catherine Hammer
 Jenna Sanzone
 Wendy Hathaway

We are the staff and customers of WBU Tampa!

Wild Birds Unlimited
 Tampa, FL

Thank you, Sponsors!



UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Most trips are led by volunteer Clearwater Audubon Society leaders. Unless otherwise indicated, they are free and open to the public. Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the scheduled meet time designated.

May 4th Monthly Bird Outing at Moccasin Lake Nature Park [add to calendar](#)

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

Accessible with assistance 

May 11th Sand Key Park [add to calendar](#)

NOTE There is a PARK Fee at Sand Key Park...arrive earlier than usual.

Meet at the SWcorner of the beach parking lot at 8:00 am 1060 Gulf Blvd, Clearwater, 33767

Leader - Madeleine Bohrer (727) 748-6885

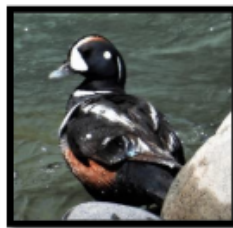
Birding Western Washington State



Sooty Grouse



Glaucous-winged Gull



Harlequin Duck



Steller's Jay

August 9th – 18th, 2024 [Download the flyer](#)

Birding Panama



January 8th – 15th, 2025 [View the details](#)
Join Madeleine Bohrer on this amazing trip!

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.



Monday, May 6th

Join us on Monday May 6th, as we welcome speaker **Jeanette Edwards with Friends of the Pelicans**. She will discuss how fishing-line entanglement harms coastal birds at the Sunshine Skyway Fishing Pier and how her organization is working to curb this deadly threat. Pelicans are icons of coastal Florida, but did you know that fishing-line entanglement is the number one cause of death for brown pelicans?

Fishing-line entanglement also kills herons, egrets, ibises, cormorants, and other seabirds.

In the last three years, Friends of the Pelicans has documented thousands of rescues and hundreds of coastal bird deaths at the Skyway Fishing Pier. Come out and learn how you can make a difference.

OUTREACH VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Can you serve on the board or on a committee? It takes only a few hours per month and it's a rewarding experience.

We develop our list of speakers by committee. **We need someone to schedule the speakers, confirm their speaking dates, update a spreadsheet with the information and share the speakers with our membership.**

To view a full list of all positions on the board or on a committee, please view BOARD POSITIONS on <http://www.clearwateraudubonsociety.org/board.html> or email clearwateraudubonsociety@gmail.com

PREVENTING BIRD- WINDOW AND BUILDING COLLISIONS

Article authored by **Jessica Hughes**, Eckerd College - Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science and Environmental Studies
Jessica currently serves on the Conservation Committee for Clearwater Audubon

Building collisions are one of the greatest anthropogenic causes for avian deaths which continues to worsen as taller reflective buildings become more prevalent in cities (Feinstein, 2023). Behavior indicates that the birds perceive our reflective structures as invisible, causing billions of avian deaths each year globally (Klem Jr, 2009). Additionally, the intense lights emitted from these same buildings and cities causes further disorientation. While this news is disheartening, there are many things you can do to prevent bird strikes from occurring near your homes and offices.

Bird-friendly architecture has become increasingly popular as groups like Audubon have advocated to consider ways to prevent collisions. Audubon has its Lights Out Program, designed to help birds avoid disorientation for safe migration. Some of the solutions include using automatic motion sensors to reduce the period lights are on, turning off decorative lighting, use window blinds and coverings, especially on the higher floors of buildings, reduce the use of strobe lighting, etc. (Audubon, 2024).

To prevent daytime strikes it is necessary to reduce the reflection on windows. You can try adding decals or stickers to reflective surfaces, closing your blinds more frequently, moving indoor plants further away from windows, and adding screens outside

your windows (Audubon, 2023). A study by Klem Jr (2009) suggested that one-way films and ceramic frit glass are highly effective in comparison to window decals and stickers.

While some solutions may seem more feasible than others, it is our duty to alleviate the pressures we place on avian populations. Adjusting your own home is a great starting point but consider contacting your local representatives, officials, and building managers to raise awareness and make a greater impact (Audubon, 2024).

References

Audubon. (2024, January 11). Lights Out Program.
<https://www.audubon.org/our-work/cities-and-towns/lights-out>

Audubon. (2023, February 21). Reducing Collisions with Glass.
<https://www.audubon.org/news/reducing-collisions-glass>

Klem Jr, D. (2009). Preventing bird–window collisions. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*, 121(2), 314-321. <https://doi.org/10.1676/08-118.1>

Feinstein, N. (2023, November 2). Tropical Audubon Society Needs Help Monitoring Bird Deaths in South Florida. *Miami New Times*.
<https://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/migratory-birds-are-dying-in-south-florida-building-collisions-audubon-chapter-says-18149104>

Resources and Videos

Download a two-page [fact sheet](#) that has an overview of the issues and what people can do to help.

See a sampling of [bird-window collision prevention methods](#) with relative costs and download a brochure with recommendations on [Making Your Windows Safer for Birds](#), produced by the Bird-Window Collision Working Group (BCWG), a collaboration between The Acopian Center for Ornithology, Muhlenberg College, Lehigh Valley Audubon Society, Wyncote Audubon Society, and Audubon Mid-Atlantic.

You Found a Bird That Crashed Into a Window. Now What?

Building strikes are an unfortunately common occurrence, especially during migration season. [Here's what to do if you find a collision victim.](#)

Additional collision prevention resources are available on [Audubon's Lights Out](#) page.

TRAVELING WILSON

Bob & Denise Lane / Clearwater- Pinellas County

We normally don't think of a Wilson's Plover being a migrant. A few months ago on February 26th, we photographed and documented a banded Wilson's, in the company of five others, by The East Beach Turnaround Area at Fort Desoto County Park in Pinellas County. After receiving a reply of the bands data, we were surprised to find that the individual had originally been banded as a chick on June 30th, 2023 in the panhandle on Gibbs Island at St Marks National Wildlife Refuge. After researching the fact that the Wilson's had traveled about 212 miles to the southeast across the Gulf Of Mexico, or about 255 miles following the coast, to reach Fort Desoto, we discovered that some Wilson's actually do leave Northern Florida to winter farther south. Little did we know!



Like this article? Become a Bird Steward

It's that time to get out on the beach with the birds. There is already a lot of action happening, from Ft. De Soto all the way up to 3 Rooker! As we're getting ramped up, we need you now more than ever to make sure these eggs hatch into cute little chicks. In a few months, we hope to have chicks that are growing up fast and ready to fledge.

If you haven't been a bird steward or it's been a few years... Bird stewards are needed at shorebird and seabird nesting sites along Pinellas County beaches to ensure the safety of nests by minimizing disturbances through public outreach and education. Audubon Florida provides everything you need to be successful – outreach materials, beach chairs, umbrellas/canopies, parking, and most importantly, training! We provide shirts to help you stand out and find other stewards when coming out to the beach.

Contact [Holley Short](#), Tampa Bay Area Shorebird Project Manager

You're Invited!



Friends of Moccasin Lake

Presents

Birds of Prey Education and
Conservation Programs

by Barbara Walker

Who We Are, What We Do, How We Work
Moccasin Lake Permitting, USDA Licensing
Meet Some Birds, How We Meet the Birds' Needs



Wednesday May 15, 2024

6:30 – 8:00 pm

Classroom, Moccasin Lake Nature Park

2750 Park Trail Lane

727-562-4315

Your Clearwater Audubon Society Board

Executive Committee:

Dale Goebel
Lynn Sumerson
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 Members 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 & Businesses



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[St. Petersburg Audubon Society](#)

[Tampa Audubon Society](#)

[Pasco Audubon](#)



[Important Bird Areas in Florida](#)

[Great Florida Birding Trail](#)

[Florida Ornithological Society](#)

[Wild Birds Unlimited Tampa](#)



[Moccasin Lake Nature Park](#)

[Moccasin Lake Raptor Sanctuary](#)

[Friends of Moccasin Lake](#)



[Pinellas Chapter FNPS](#)

[Safety Harbor Garden Club](#)

[Florida Suncoast Sierra Club](#)

[Florida Herb Society](#)

[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](#)

