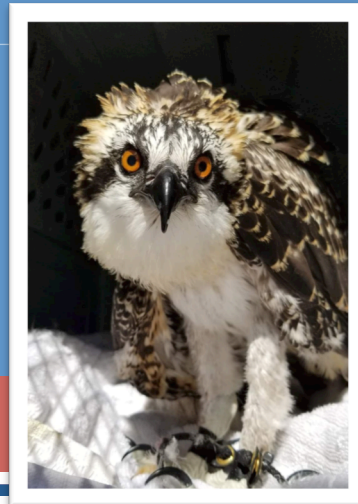
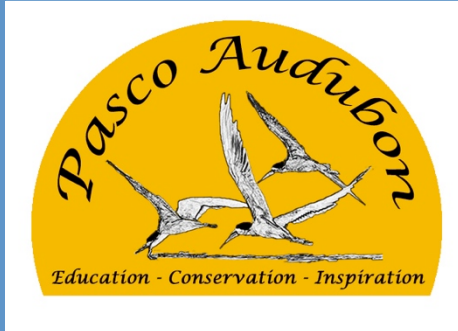


Pasco Audubon



November 2023

Upcoming Events

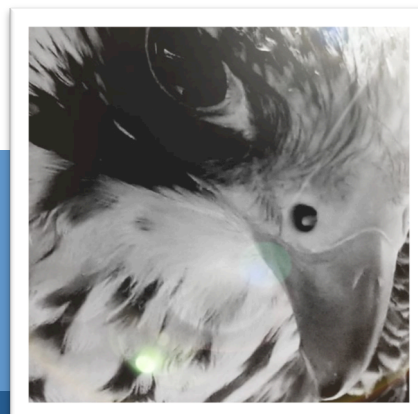
- November 4
8am** Bird Walk in Starkey Park.
Meet at 8am in the
Education Center parking
- November 4
11am** Global Raptors – Barbara
Walker
Read more to your right,
the meeting starts at 11am
in the Starkey Education
- November 5
8am** Birding by Bike – Starkey
Park See details on page 2.
- November 18
8am** Field trip to Lake Apopka
Wildlife Drive – see details
on p.2.

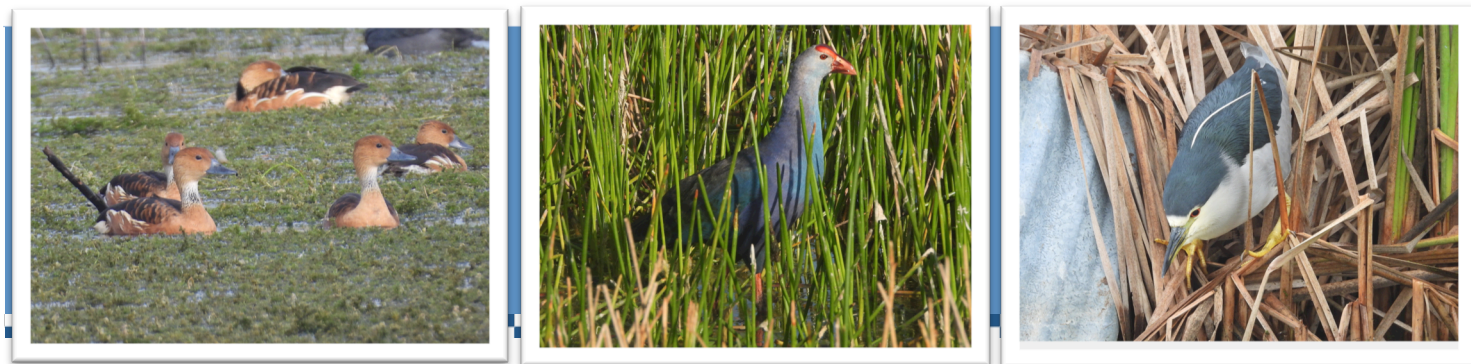
November 4th - Global Raptors Barbara Walker & Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue

Do you know what the three globally distributed raptors are? Would you like to meet one of each of these species? Join us to meet Charley the Osprey, Joe the Barn Owl and Spirit the Peregrine Falcon. We will discuss each species and make interesting comparisons between them. Plenty of time will be given for Q&A and photographs.

**Meet at the Starkey Environmental Education Center at 11am.
Free, and light refreshments provided.**

We are especially grateful to Barbara for stepping in at short notice when our originally planned presenter needed to reschedule.





Left to right: Fulvous Whistling-ducks, Gray-headed Swamphen, Black-crowned Night Heron by Christine Rowland

November 18th: Field Trip to Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive

Lake Apopka Wildlife Drive is located in Orange County, and is one of the top birding destinations in Florida. While it is quite a long drive to get to, it has some birds not usually seen in Pasco including Fulvous Whistling-ducks and Gray-headed Swamphen. Huge numbers of ducks and other waterfowl can be viewed at much closer quarters and in far greater numbers than are typically seen.

The site is an 11-mile drive with a speed limit of 10 miles per hour, and lots of pull-overs to facilitate viewing and photography. If you decide to join us for this expedition, please bring your lunch and beverages with you (there is nothing to purchase in the park and not much in the surrounding area either). The park does have basic restrooms. With the drive taking the best part of two hours each way and planning for 3-4 hours making our way around, it is best to think of this as an all-day trip.

Meet us at the location. Once you drive through the gate of the property, pull over and wait at the rest area that is 100 yards or so inside the gate. We will set off from this location at **8am**. For those arriving early there is great birding in that first stretch from the gate to the rest area. Questions? Contact me at president@pascoaudubon.com.

Birding by Bike: Starkey Park on Sunday, November 5th

Do you enjoy a bit more physical activity with your birding? If so, you might really enjoy this Sunday's Birding by Bike experience. Join **Bob Burkhard** in the **Environmental Education parking lot at 8am**. You'll be riding on the multi-use trail through the park, giving you a great opportunity to see and hear some of the birds that we don't see so often up front, such as Northern Bobwhite, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Bachman's Sparrow. This event is free and open to all. If you have additional questions, Bob's email is robertburkard9@gmail.com.



From left to right: Piping Plover, Wilson's Plover & American Kestrel by Noriko Buckles

Honeymoon Island Field Trip – Report

By Christine Rowland

On October 21st, 18 of us visited Honeymoon Island. We spent time on the south beach – walking south of the main Pavilion, and then walked Osprey Trail, finishing up behind the Nature Center. We saw 44 species of birds, and our list with photos can be viewed at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S152764323>. Highlights included good opportunities to view Wilson's Plovers and Piping Plovers on the beach. Piping plovers are endangered and a red watch list species, with a continental concern rating of 18 out of 20. The global breeding population is only 8,400 individuals. So we were very happy to find 3 of them on the beach – none of them banded! Wilson's Plovers aren't faring much better, with a US breeding population of only 8,600 breeding birds. They are a Yellow Watch List species with a global concern score of 16 out of 20. We saw two of them on the beach.

We were very happy to have photographer and park volunteer Roy Lockwood spend some beach time with our photographers, showing them some of his favorite spots. Our photographers had a great time with all the shorebirds and some opportunities for action shots. Thank you Roy!

The weather was lovely. After the beach we walked the Osprey Trail, and although we missed the Eagles this time around, we saw a pair of Great Horned Owls, American Kestrels, Eastern Wood Pewee, and even a migratory Scarlet Tanager. Thanks to all for making it a lovely morning. Photos on this page are by Noriko Buckles – thank you Noriko!

November 11th - Wonders of Wildlife Festival

Edward Medard Conservation Park

Kim Rexroat has asking me to share information on the Wonders of Wildlife Festival – a fundraiser for Raptor Center of Tampa Bay. I did not have space to reprint this flyer at full size, but you can find additional details about this event on November 11th at <https://www.raptorcenteroftampabay.org/wonders-of-wildlife-festival>

Sounds like a fun day out for all the family!



Final Call - Pasco Audubon Tee Shirts



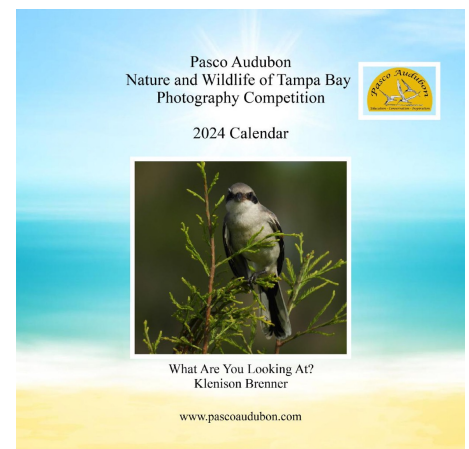
Now that we are transitioning to Pasco Audubon, Pat Goldberg has tweaked the design elements of our T-shirts, and we are now taking orders. In order to avoid any waste, we are going to take pre-orders either via email (to projects@westpascoaudubon.com) or in person at our October or November meetings. We'll place the order immediately after the November meeting, anticipating that you will be able to pick up your T-shirt in December. Each T-shirt will cost \$20 for Audubon members or \$25 for non-members. They are a 50/50 cotton/poly blend, and are available in small, medium, large, X-large and XX-large. The color is the one shown above. Want to see how the sizes work out? We'll have samples of each size available at our October and November meetings for you to see and/or try on. What does Pat need to know from you? Your name, your email, phone number, T-shirt size and quantity. Payment will be due when you pick up your T-shirt.

Pasco Audubon Calendar, 2024

Featuring winners of the Nature and Wildlife of Tampa Bay Photography Competition, 2023

If you enjoyed the photography competition images, you might enjoy our new 2024 Pasco Audubon Calendar. Pat Goldberg has pulled together images from our winners and compiled them into a lovely calendar. All calendars can be viewed and purchased at

<https://www.createphotocalendars.com/Store/2024+PA+Calendar-8741203863>. They are \$29 each (that's a \$19 cost plus \$10 donation). We will have a sample available at our October meeting if you'd like to take a look at the quality of the product. Thanks to all of our photographers for permission to use their work, to Don Fraser for the idea and to Pat Goldberg for making it happen!



Board Elections and Replacement Needed: Treasurer

Pasco Audubon bylaws stipulate that Board members serve 3-year terms. In order to ensure continuity on our Board, we rotate members who are up for re-election. This year we have at-large Board members JoAnn Sinatra and Ken Landry, who are both seeking re-election, and our Treasurer, Susan Greenstein, who will be stepping down when her term concludes at the end of the year.

As you can imagine, Susan will be really hard to replace as she has done an amazing job of handling our financial affairs, and keeping our membership records. For personal reasons she needs to step back at this time. The position just involves a few hours a month, handling a budget of less than \$5,000, and we see fewer than 40 checks a year. Could that be you? We hope so. Please reach out to Susan at Treasurer@westpascoaudubon.com with any questions you have about the position.

Our schedule is as follows:

October 7th – Nominations open

November 4th – Nominations are announced (Just a few days away)

December 2nd – Elections (at our annual meeting)

January 1st – New terms begin

January Board of Directors meeting is where executive members are elected by the Board.

If you'd like to nominate someone for the Board, please reach out to a member of our nominating committee. The nominating committee is as follows:

Patricia Goldberg - projects@westpascoaudubon.com

Joe Colantonio - jcolantonio@verizon.net

Pamela Graber - pamela.graber@gmail.com

Birding 102 – October Report

Our 102 group resumed our Wednesday walks this month. If you'd like to be added to our notification list for this group, please contact me at president@pascoaudubon.com. View the lists for each walk to see the birds we saw and/or heard, and to see some of the photos we took while out there.

October 4th – Key Vista Nature Park

Eight of us walked the main loop at Key Vista Nature Park. We saw 46 species of birds (you can view the list and photos at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S151412623>) including Great Horned Owl, Whimbrel and Roseate Spoonbill.

Continued on the next page...

Birding 102 Report (continued from p.5)**October 11th – Holiday Recreation Complex**

Eight of us enjoyed a walk around the site on a cooler slightly gray morning, finding 44 species of birds (list at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S151950067>). Birds seen includes the Nanday and Monk Parakeets, Bald Eagles, American Kestrel, Yellow Warbler and Yellow-throated Warbler.

October 18th – Aripeka Sandhills Preserve

Six of us walked two miles on a cool morning, finding 38 species. While we did not find the migratory warblers we'd hoped to see, we did all see Ovenbirds, a first-of-the-season Wilson's Snipe, and some of us got distant views of a Snail Kite – a rarity here in Pasco (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S152564343>).

October 25th Lake Blanche Drive/Berry Pick Area

Eight of us got together for this walk – a simple up and down the drive, finding 39 species of birds (<https://ebird.org/checklist/S153040527>). These included Sedge Wren, just returned for the winter, Roseate Spoonbill and virtually all the wading birds.

Pasco Audubon (Formerly West Pasco Audubon)

P.O. Box 1456
Elfers, FL 34680

Pasco Audubon Board of Directors for 2023

Christine Rowland, President - president@pascoaudubon.com

Mike Kell, VP for Education - jmike65@gmail.com

Don Fraser, VP for Conservation - dmfraser31@gmail.com

Susan Greenstein, Treasurer - treasurer@westpascoaudubon.com

Peter Day, Secretary - p1rd@mac.com

Patricia Goldberg, Special Projects – Projects@westpascoaudubon.com

JoAnn Sinatra, At-Large

Ken Landry, At-Large

Kamarri Davis, Student Advisor