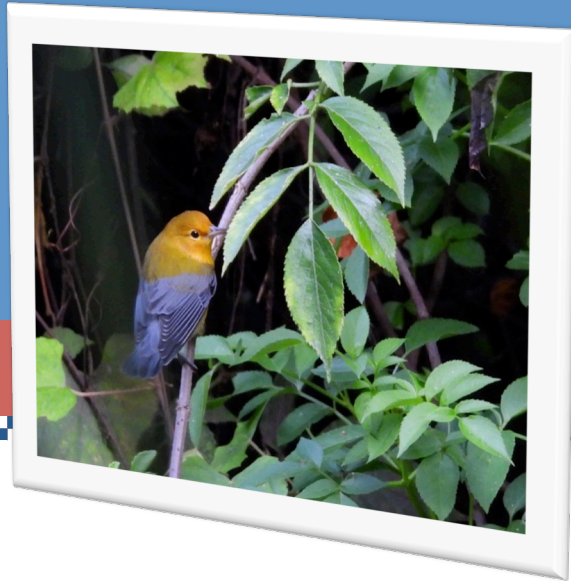


Pasco Audubon



September 2023

Upcoming Events

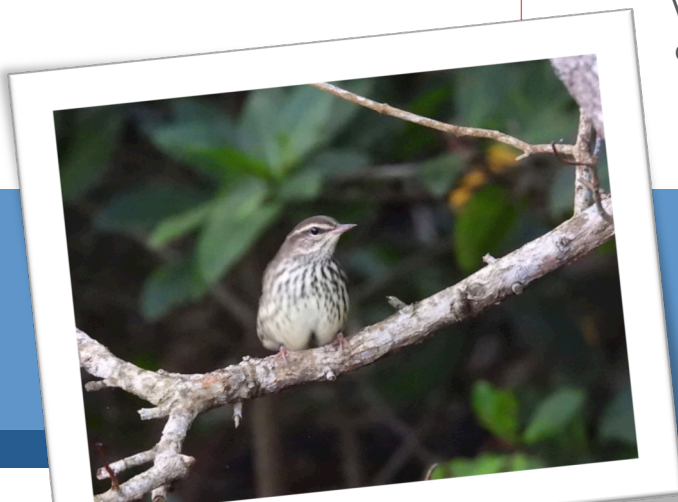
- Sept. 2nd **Bird Walk in Starkey Park.**
Meet at 7am in the education center parking lot
- Sept. 29th **Getting to Know Florida's Beach Birds** with Patricia Goldberg at Land O'Lakes Library at 2pm
- October 7th **Britain for Birders** by Patricia Goldberg and Christine Rowland at 11am in the Starkey Education Center.

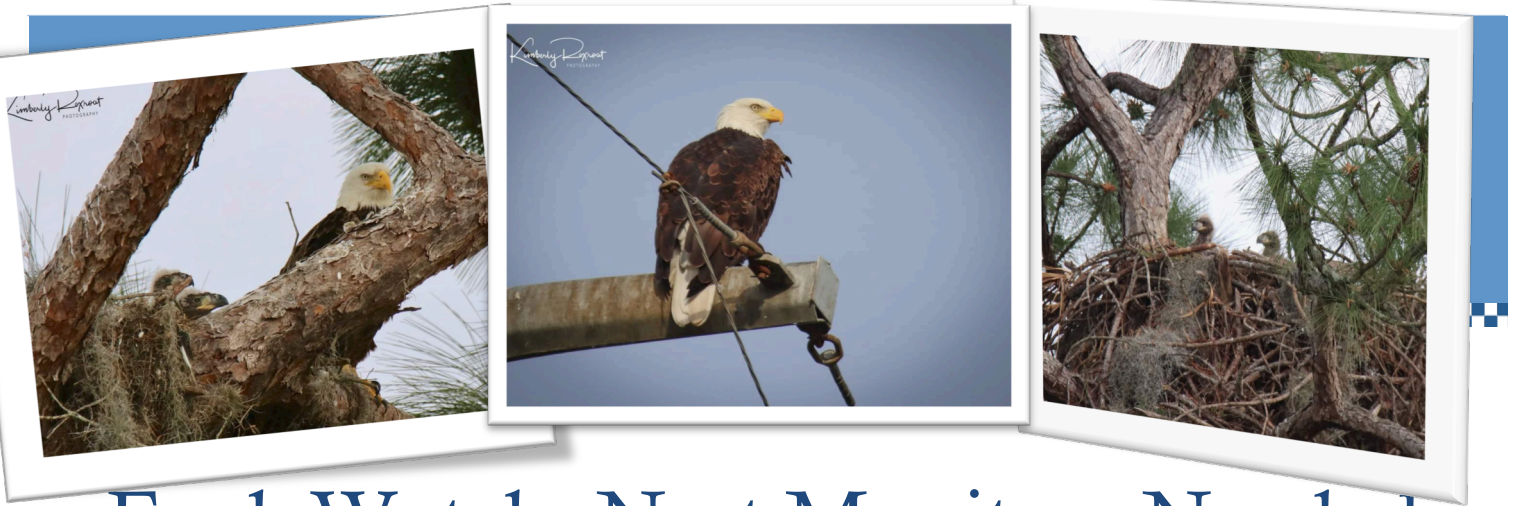
Fall Migration has Begun

Over the past couple of weeks we have begun to see the arrival of the first of our fall migrants. Those lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time will have caught American Avocets, Yellow Warblers, Prothonotary Warblers and others as they migrate south for the winter.

This week comes with a major dose of uncertainty, and we very much hope that you and your loved ones all stay safe as Idalia moves by us. We plan to go ahead with our usual monthly bird walk this Saturday as long as Starkey Wilderness Park is open. I'll email all if we need to change the plan.

With October we will begin our 2023-24 season in earnest, resuming our educational programs and field trips.





EagleWatch: Nest Monitors Needed

Kimberly Rexroat

Pasco and Hernando EagleWatch Coordinator

It's that time of year again! Our Bald Eagles are returning to their nesting territories and getting ready for the upcoming nesting season, which begins October 1. With all the development in Pasco County it is extremely important that we continue to monitor their nests. If you would like to take part in Eagle Watch, we'd love to have you on our team.

Trainings are free but registration is required to attend. Below are the scheduled dates and times. Click the link to register for the date/time that works best for you to:

Saturday Sept 9th 10am-12pm EST via Zoom

<https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtcumqrDgrH9Cjw6EszcAVHMSnSuDI2Y2D>

Saturday Sept 16th 10am-12pm EST via Zoom

<https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAsf-qrqTgvH9CeHgZ1ndcPQRrNuKHJClol>

Tuesday Sept 19th 6pm-8pm EST via Zoom

https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0tf-6rqzwrHdGd_6m4UTBjs1iIP0XEQISj

Sunday Sept 24th 2pm-4pm EST via Zoom

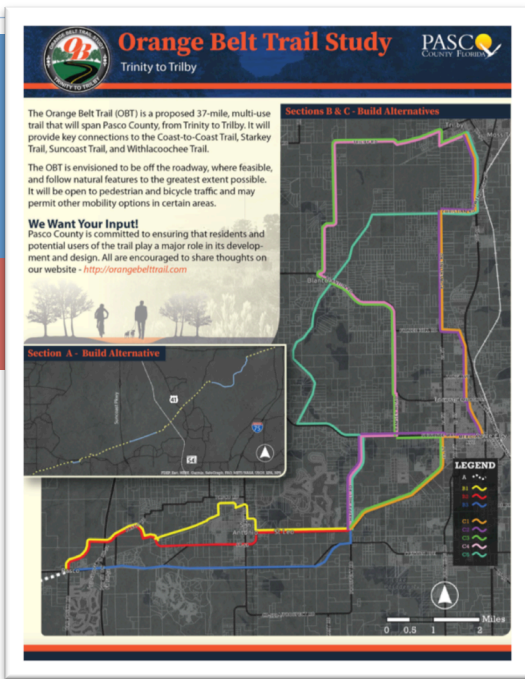
<https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwkc-moqT4qGtxs9Vtpotj2Mhqrgcr8z0E1>

Sunday Oct 1st 2pm-4pm EST via Zoom

https://audubon.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtf-2tpzMpG9XzTAyQh5HtyANAZjU_kFcz

Questions or issues registering? Contact Shawnlei Breeding at Shawnlei.Breeding@audubon.org. After you submit your registration, you will receive an automated email with a link to join the training. If a conflict arises later and you need to cancel or change your registration, email Shawnlei and she can change that for you.

General questions about Eaglewatch should be directed to Kim Rexroat at KREXROAT@tampabay.rr.com



Conservation Report: Orange Belt Trail Study

Don Fraser, Vice-President for Conservation, updates us on an ambitious project in Pasco County to create a multi-use trail across the county. Don has been attending meetings and staying on top of developments. Here's his take.

Pasco County has initiated a study for a 37-mile long multi-use trail (the Orange Belt Trail) from Trinity to Trilby. The trail is proposed to be a 12- to 14-foot-wide paved pedestrian/cycling trail that will generally follow the path of the old, abandoned Orange Belt Railway ("rails to trails"). It is intended to provide key connections to the Coast-to-Coast Trail, Starkey Trail, Suncoast Trail, and Withlacoochee Trail, while linking the communities of Trinity, Odessa, Land O'Lakes, Wesley Chapel, San Antonio and Dade City.

The County and its consultant team are currently assessing various alternative trail alignments from Land O' Lakes through the built-up portions of San Antonio and Dade City. Although the trail is intended to run adjacent to existing roadways where possible, it will also follow

natural features such as woodlots and wetlands. Members of your board have attended public workshops in April and August of 2023. Although we are generally very supportive of this pedestrian/cycling link that will provide valuable passive recreational opportunities to many of Pasco's citizens, we also have some concerns about the proximity of some potential trail sections to important bird habitat. To that end we have requested a meeting with the County and its environmental and engineering consultants to review the mapping in detail. This will allow us to impart our specific local knowledge and potential areas of concern to the study team.

The County is presently soliciting input from the public on the alternative alignments. We encourage all members of Pasco Audubon to acquaint themselves with the particulars of this study

and to provide and comments/concerns you might have. A link to the Orange Belt Trail study is provided below: <https://orangebeltrail.com>

Comments can be provided via phone or email to:



Erin Swanson, Pasco County Project Manager, (727) 777-5808 eswanson@pascocountyfl.net

OR

Wiatt Bowers, Consultant Project Manager, (813) 785-5012 wiatt.bowers@atkinsglobal.com

Pasco Audubon Tee Shirts Available for Order



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 meetings, 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.

Tampa Bay Birding and Nature Festival

October 12-15

Do check out the wonderful festival schedule of field trips, seminars and keynotes at

<https://www.floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org/schedule.html>

We're lucky to have this great annual festival so close to us. Do register ASAP as field trips fill up!





Pasco Audubon Talks Britain for Birders



Presented by Christine Rowland and Patricia Goldberg

Kings, castles, and birds? See what Britain has to offer beyond the typical tourist highlights of London! Join us as Christine Rowland and Pat Goldberg share their experiences as locals in a land steeped in history, culture, and unexpected natural treasures.

Saturday October 7, 2023

11:00 am

Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park Education Center

Also presented virtually via Zoom

© Patricia Goldberg

Getting to Know Tampa Bay's Beach Birds



Presented by Dr. Patricia Goldberg



Join us as biologist and photographer Pat Goldberg showcases some of Tampa Bay's most common coastal birds, exploring reasons why there are so many species here, how they divide up and share resources, and ways in which each is so uniquely adapted to flourish along the bay.

Friday September 29, 2023

2:00 pm

Land O Lakes Library

2818 Collier Parkway

© Patricia Goldberg



Hummingbirds – Departure is Imminent

Some Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have already begun migrating, but many are still here with us. As they lose half their body weight on the journey, it is important that they gain weight before undertaking what can be an 18 hour non-stop flight! Keeping your feeders up until you haven't seen any for a few weeks is helpful. Most will leave in September, a few will hang on through October. Finally, a very small number over-winter with us .

Remember – a simple solution of one part refined sugar to 4 parts water (can be 3-4 parts water at either end of the season) will be good. Please clean feeders and replace nectar every 4 days.

Pasco Audubon (Formerly West Pasco Audubon)

P.O. Box 1456
Elfers, FL 34680

Pasco Audubon Board of Directors for 2023

Christine Rowland, President - president@westpascoaudubon.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