

Pasco Audubon



October 2023

Upcoming Events

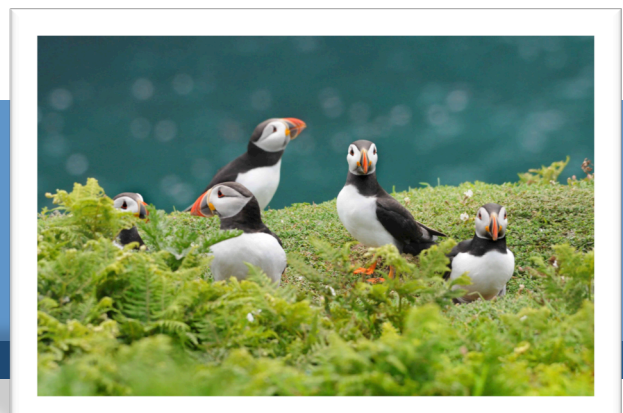
- Oct. 7th **Bird Walk in Starkey Park.**
Meet at 8am in the Education Center parking
- October 7th **Britain for Birders**
Read more to your right, the meeting starts at 11am in the Starkey Education Center
- October 21st **Field Trip to Honeymoon Island.** See details on page 2.
- October 26th **Swallowtails to Skippers: the Butterflies of Hernando County by Don**

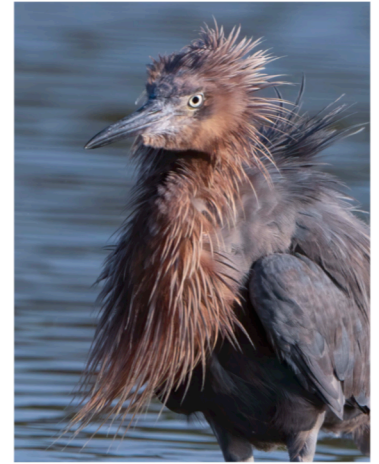
October 7th Presentation: Britain for Birders

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

In addition to this presentation, **Kamarri Davis**, our Conservation Leadership Initiative student for the 2022-23 season and Student Advisor to our Board, will share with you a free handy resource that they have developed for residents in our area incorporating native plants into our yards, along with a synopsis of his research!

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





October 21st Field Trip: Honeymoon Island

We haven't visited Honeymoon Island in a few years, and we're excited to bring you this field trip with a twist. We'll have two groups – a photography-focused group, and a birding focused group.

Photography on Honeymoon Island – led by Roy Lockwood

Roy is both an excellent photographer and a regular Honeymoon Island volunteer. He will lead the first 10 photographers to register on a special tour, giving you plenty of time to get the perfect shot in each location. You see the photographs above? They're all Roy's. Roy will also give you lots of tips for photography in the park. We will keep this photography group to 10 participants, so please do register with me at president@pascoaudubon.com.

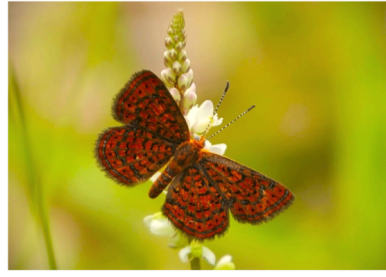
Birding on Honeymoon Island

Our remaining participants will be birding. There are a good range of shorebirds on the island most days, and there are also trails. The Osprey Trail includes a Bald Eagle's nest and Great Horned Owls, along with a good number of additional species. Please be prepared to walk trails and on sand for this trip. Please let me know if you plan to attend this trip and Roy and I are trying to gain early access to the park for our group and I need to be able to pass along details. It will be no problem to cancel later as long as you let me know if your plans change.

Birding 102 Returns by Christine Rowland

After a summer hiatus, this month sees the return of Birding 102 – our Wednesday birding walks program. Originally intended for beginning birders, it has come to attract others who enjoy birding together as well. Each week a different local location is chosen – the idea is to get to know all the species of birds found in Pasco, and to familiarize ourselves with a range of local hotspots.

The walk location for the week is announced on Monday mornings, with the walk itself taking place on Wednesday. Generally the walks run 8-10am, but this does vary slightly. If you are already signed up to receive the weekly emails there is no need to contact me, but if you're interested in joining the group, please contact me at president@westpascoaudubon.com and I'll add you to our list.



Swallowtails to Skippers: the Butterflies of Hernando County

By Don Fraser

The presentation will cover most of the species known to still occur in the County, grouped by each of the five families of butterflies found here. It will point out characteristics to differentiate among similar-looking species, and provide life history information on the habitat preferences and general distribution of some of the butterflies found in central Florida, including several very rare ones. Recommendations on resource material for when and where to find butterflies will be provided, as well as tips on how to observe, photograph and identify them, including field guides and available on-line data sources.

Don, our Vice-president for Conservation, is providing this talk for Hernando Audubon on Thursday, October 26, 2023. The meeting begins at 7pm.

Address: GFWC Historic Brooksville Woman's Club 131 South Main Street, Brooksville, FL, 34601

Bluebird Season Report 2023 by J Mike Kell

2023 was not the best season for our Bluebird boxes. It was a hot dry year throughout the season. Here's an update from each of our locations:

The **Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park** trail was monitored by **Joanne Laspina** and **Bob Burkhard**, and 5 bluebirds fledged. During the third week in March, vandals struck and destroyed 7 of the Starkey bluebird boxes. Four boxes were installed to replace them as some of those vandalized had not produced eggs or chicks in several seasons.

Judith Zolo monitored the box at **Aripeka Sandhills Preserve**, and 4 youngsters fledged. She also monitored the boxes at **Veterans Memorial Park**, where there were 15 fledges. Unfortunately, somebody decided the birds needed food and started stuffing human food in the Bluebird box #2 disrupting the nest in progress with five eggs and the rest of the season. Judith also monitored a **Hudson** box with 7 fledges.

Mary Ellen Gotto monitored boxes at **Heartwood Preserve** and **Trinity College**, and they yielded 9 and 8 fledges respectively. **Bob Burkhard** monitored the boxes at **Jack Mitchell Park**, where there were 8 fledges from box #2 and box #1 was replaced. **JoAnn Sinatra** monitored a box in **Timber Oaks** where 12 bluebirds fledged, and **J Mike Kell** Monitored the **Seven Springs Golf Club** box where there were 3 fledges.

In spite of challenges, our Eastern Bluebird boxes helped to enable 71 fledges this season. Thank you to our wonderful volunteer monitors for their care and vigilance throughout the season.

Pasco Audubon Tee Shirts Available for Order



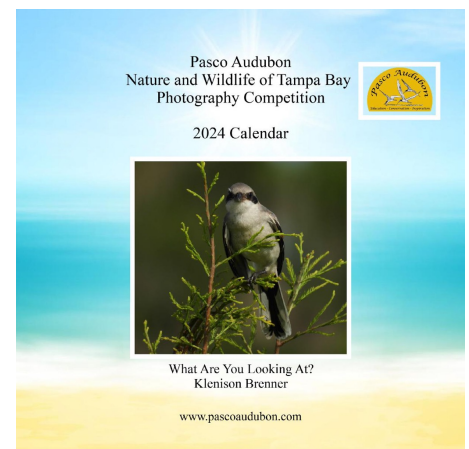
Now that we are transitioning to Pasco Audubon, Pat Goldberg has tweaked the design elements of our T-shirts, and we are now taking orders. In order to avoid any waste, we are going to take pre-orders either via email (to projects@westpascoaudubon.com) or in person at our October or November meetings. 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.

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!



Pasco Audubon Board Elections

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 all of our financial affairs, and also keeping our membership records. For personal reasons she needs to step back at this time. She assures me, however, that with an annual budget of less than \$10,000 it is not a time consuming job.

Naturally, this means we need someone else to step up. Could that be you? We certainly 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

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

West Pasco Audubon is now Pasco Audubon

Our Board made the decision to change our name to strengthen our conservation advocacy for the entire county. It seemed like a straightforward decision, but it took a lot of effort, particularly from Susan Greenstein to take care of all the bureaucratic changes, while Mike Kell handled our webpage and Audubon Florida assisted with our Facebook page. Thank you to all for making this happen, and thanks to Don Fraser for the idea! Our goal is to become more representative and inclusive of the whole County. This won't happen overnight, and the name change is but the first step. We welcome friends in the central and eastern areas of the county. Please feel free to reach out with questions or suggestions to Christine Rowland at president@pascoaudubon.com.

Birding by Bike

Initiated by Klenisson Brenner last season, we are happy to announce that Bob Burkhard has generously offered to take over leading this program after Klenisson moved to the Miami area. We all miss Klenisson and wish him well with his new exciting job, but are glad the Bob will keep this great monthly program going. Look for a schedule to be announced soon. When Bob has finalized it we'll have information here and on our website.

Bird Walk in Cunningham Park by Mike Kell

On a beautiful fall Saturday, the 23rd of Sept 2023, J Mike Kell presented an Introduction to Birding Talk, sponsored and Coordinated by Jayde Archbold of Starkey Ranch Library in Cunningham Park. Ten people had registered with the library and seven were there for the talk. The program began with a basic beginning instruction on how to adjust and use binoculars while bird watching. The park was busy as many people were enjoying the cooler weather. Birds were heard in the trees but few were visible.

A Red-shouldered Hawk called and flew over. I demonstrated using the Merlin app on our smartphones for identifying calls. We also saw or heard a Carolina Wren, Great Egret, Boat-tailed Grackle, Northern Cardinal, Anhinga, crows, and Northern Mockingbird.

I also introduced Pasco Audubon Chapter, our activities, and the schedule.

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