



October 2024 Newsletter

PASCO AUDUBON

Formerly known as West Pasco Audubon

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 5th

Bird walk in Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park. Meet at 8am in the Education Center parking lot.

Talk: Birding in South Florida with Klenisson Brenner -

11am in the Starkey Education Center

Saturday, October 12th

Birding by Bike - Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park

Meet Bob Burkard at 8am in the Education Center parking lot.

Saturday, October 19th

Field Trip to Honeymoon Island, starting at 8am



Blue and Yellow Macaw by Klenisson Brenner

New Season Opener: Birding in South Florida

Come find out why South Florida is one of the most sought after birding destinations in the country. We're so happy to have Klenisson Brenner - formerly one of our most active members locally- back to tell us what it is like to bird there. And we're actually planning a weekend trip there for later in January with Klenisson, so this is a great chance to learn something about what you might actually go see. The presentation will be on October 5th at 11am in the Starkey Environmental Education Center and is free - all welcome.

Before Klenisson's talk, we'll have our monthly bird walk in Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, leaving from the Education Center parking lot at 8am for this walk. We have some migrant warblers passing through and our fall arrivals beginning to show up. Hope to see you there!

Our 2024-25 schedule is now available online at <https://pascoaudubon.com/schedule.html>



Eastern Towhee



Piping Plover

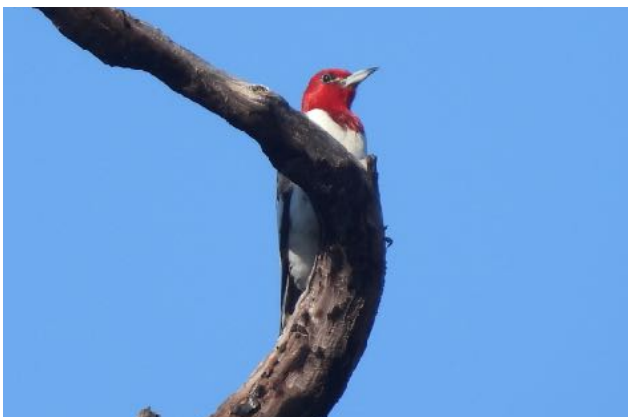
Field Trip to Honeymoon Island

Saturday, October 19 at 8am

Honeymoon Island is always a popular trip, not too far from home and yet a balance of shorebirds and land birds along the Osprey Trail. We'll begin by gathering on the causeway outside the park, which will allow us to consolidate vehicles - hopefully with some of us holding State Parks passes. Without a pass the entry is \$8 per vehicle. Once we enter the park, we'll take in shorebirds along the southernmost beach, which last year included Piping Plovers, Wilson's Plovers and Red Knots, along with lots of waders and sandpipers. After this we'll make our way to the Osprey Trail where we hope to find Great Horned Owls, tanagers, flycatchers and more.

We'll likely head to the nature center after this for some additional views of the east side of the island. For details of our meet-up, do let me know if you plan to attend this trip at president@pascoaudubon.com. Especially in the context of Hurricane Helene, we may need to make adjustments to our schedule.

All photos on this page taken on last year's trip.



Red-headed Woodpecker



American Kestrel



Purple Martins



Enjoying the Experience

Saturday, October 12th

Birding by Bike with Bob Burkard

This month's ride will be in Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, leaving from the Education Center parking lot at 8am. As with our walk the previous weekend, we're right in the heart of migration, and there should be plenty of birds to see while riding the trail and stopping periodically. Please email Bob your intention to attend, just in case of any last minute adjustments. Bob's email is robertburkard9@gmail.com.

Last month the Birding by Bike trip took in the Pinellas Trail, starting at Brooker Creek. The group saw over 30 species of birds, including the ones with photographs on this page. Thanks to Bob for leading these experiences and for sharing his photographs!



Eastern Meadowlark



Bald Eagle

Could You Be Our Next Board Member?

We're at that time of year when we think about Board elections. Each year 2 or 3 Board members are up for reelection - a feature that helps us keep some institutional memory in place while allowing us to bring in new members and ideas. This year it is Mike Kell and Peter Day, both members of our executive. Mike has announced that while he is willing to continue on the Board, he is stepping down from his role as Vice-president for Education, a role he has held since 2018. He will continue as our webmaster and handling the technology for our monthly meetings - thank you Mike! And thank you for all you have done to further our education program across the years.

Peter Day, however, is resigning his role on the Board after many years of service. Since 2018 Peter has held the title of Corporate Secretary, and in the past has also been our president. As our secretary, Peter has diligently kept the minutes of our monthly meetings (virtual since 2000) and has helped in numerous ways in providing guidance to yours truly along with the rest of the Board, and in proofing and feeding back on documents including this newsletter. He will be much missed. At 96 though, we recognize that he is more than due a little peace and quiet.

So, might you be able to step into Peter's shoes? According to our bylaws, our elections are announced at our October meeting (so I'm jumping the gun here), and we take nominations which are announced at our November meeting. Finally, we vote at our December meeting. So if you have questions about what this entails, or would like to know more about it, please reach out to Peter, myself, or another member of the Board. It would be remiss not to mention that our December election only elects members to the Board. It is our January Board of Directors meeting that annually holds a meeting to elect executive officers (president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary). That said, knowing that we need to fill this particular spot, we are hoping that candidates for the board will be willing to step into the role of secretary.

Volunteer(s) Needed to Help with Refreshments

Do you have a little time on your hands on the first Saturday of the month from October through April to help out at our meetings during the season? In April Laurie Kell stepped down from running the refreshments after many years of providing this service for our members. Would anyone be willing to step into her shoes? It means arriving at meetings early - about 45 minutes before they start - to set up coffee and other light refreshments for our birders and guests. JoAnn Sinatra has kindly agreed to help out, but would like someone else to take the lead. It doesn't have to be one person, if you have a friend or two who would share this task with you, that would be wonderful too. As we have had no volunteers so far, Laurie has kindly agreed to take the task on one final time at our October meeting. Please let me know at president@pascoaudubon.com.



Baltimore Oriole at the Mulberry Patch



Group at Aripeka Sandhills Preserve

Birding 102 - Wednesday Birding Outings Resume

Want to learn a little more about birding, local birds and a range of great spots to find birds locally? Birding 102 may be right for you. We keep the group small (usually less than 10) and visit a different park or locale each Wednesday morning. Our group includes birders from beginner to experienced, and we welcome all. Our trips are not posted on the website, you have to be on the group list to receive info on Mondays for Wednesday's trip. Want to be added to our list, or have a question - email Christine Rowland at president@pascoaudubon.com.

Festival Postcard

Join the flock! Come celebrate the birds, wildlife, and natural lands of West Central Florida.

FLORIDA BIRDING & NATURE FESTIVAL

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A FOUR-DAY FESTIVAL OFFERING EXPERT SEMINARS, FIELD AND BOAT TRIPS, KEYNOTE SPEAKERS, EXHIBITS AND VENDORS!

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6650 Dickman Rd, Apollo Beach, FL 33572

Learn more at fbnfestival.org

October 17-20, 2024

If you haven't visited before, Florida Birding and Nature Festival is an awesome inspiring and educational experience right here in our area. Do check it out at fbnfestival.org.

Looking Ahead - November Events

- November 4 - 8am Bird Walk in Starkey Park
11am Recycling in Pasco County with Sally Conde (at the Starkey Environmental Education Center)
- November 9 - 8am Birding by Bike on the Pinellas Trail (meet at Brooker Creek)
- November 16 - Field trip to Bahia Beach Nature Preserve with Lilian Saul
- November 23 - Red-cockaded Woodpeckers with Vince Morris (at Heartwood Preserve)

Pasco Audubon Board of Directors

- Christine Rowland, President - president@pascoaudubon.com
- Mike Kell, VP for Education - jmike65@gmail.com
- Don Fraser, VP for Conservation - dmfraser31@gmail.com
- Lilian Saul, Treasurer - ljsaul604@gmail.com
- Peter Day, Secretary - pird@mac.com
- Patricia Goldberg, Special Projects projects@westpascoaudubon.com
- JoAnn Sinatra, At-Large
- Ken Landry, At-Large
- Stasi Gerges, Student Advisor

Other Important Contacts:

- Fran Sigurdson, Membership Chair fsigurds@gmail.com
- Bob Burkard, Birding by Bike and the Bluebird Project robertburkard9@gmail.com

Missed Out on our Costa Rica Trips?
While our February trip remains full, our March trip (March 2-9 2025) has 2 spots open due to an unfortunate cancellation. Want to know more specifics? Details at <https://holbrook.travel/pasco-cr325>