



September 2024 Newsletter

PASCO AUDUBON

Formerly known as West Pasco Audubon

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 7th

Bird walk in Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park. Meet at 7:30am in the Education Center parking lot.

Sunday, September 8th

Birding by Bike - Pinellas Trail

Meet at 8am in the Brooker Creek Preserve parking lot.



Our 2024-5 season of educational programs and field trips begins in October. Find details on our webpage at <https://pascoaudubon.com/schedule.html>



Yellow Warbler

Upcoming September Events

As summer draws to a close and fall migration approaches, we are beginning to see some of our earliest arrivals - the Yellow Warblers and Black Terns are among the earliest to pass through on their journey south. While peak migration is still several weeks away, those of us who love birds will be eagerly looking out for the first arrivals.

On September 7th, we'll have our monthly bird walk in Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Park, leaving from the Education Center parking lot at 7:30am for this walk. This will be our final 'early' start of the year.

And on Sunday, September 8th we will see our monthly Birding by Bike adventure - on the Pinellas Trail this month. Meet Bob Burkard in the Brooker Creek Preserve parking lot at 8am for an enjoyable trip along the trail while looking for our departing summer resident birds and our fall migrants. Questions? Reach Bob at robertburkard9@gmail.com.

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birds.

TROPICAL | AMBASSADOR
AUDUBON | PROGRAM



Roseate Spoonbill. Photo: Jean Hall



Tropical Audubon's Ambassador Program

By Klenisson Brenner

Have you ever wished that you could do a bit more to help our feathered friends? Well, the Tropical Audubon Ambassador Program is an award-winning education program that teaches people about the environment in South Florida and how to advocate for it. This year it will run from September 12 to October 24 with online meetings occurring every Thursday, from 6-7:30-pm. Thanks to partners like The Miami Foundation, Everglades Foundation, and the Audubon Collaborative Grant this program is FREE of charge, and it is open to everyone.

There are also field trips (you need to register in advance due to limited space), but you are not required to go on these trips in order to complete the program. You can get more information and register on this website: <https://support.tropicalaudubon.org/a/tropical-audubon-ambassador-program-2024>

I participated last year and I promise you this is a really interesting program and worth participating in. I will be participating again. You will learn about South Florida's ecosystem and will get insights on how to advocate for the environment in Pasco (or wherever you are).

Registration closes on August 30. I hope to see you there.

NOTE: Klenisson will be our featured speaker on October 5th, when he will present "Birding in South Florida". He will also be leading our January 25th-26th weekend trip to the Miami area.



Great Horned Owl on our field trip to Honeymoon Island
last October

Our State Parks are Under Threat

The following information is provided by Audubon Florida.

State parks have always balanced nature-based recreation with resource protection, and Florida's is the only state park system in the country to win the gold medal for state parks FOUR TIMES. State parks protect Florida's most scenic landscapes, safeguarding resources not only for wildlife, but also for water quality, fire protection, flood control, drinking water supply, and more. Often they protect some of the last, best remaining examples of rare habitats and views left in our rapidly urbanizing state. Many of these parks are already operating at peak visitation within communities that have ample lodging, golf courses, and pickleball courts.

Florida has no shortage of places to swing a golf club, sample the continental breakfast, or try your hand at pickleball—but increasingly rare are the opportunities to spot the deep blue feathers of a Florida Scrub-Jay, witness the miracle of neotropical bird migration, or experience Florida in all its natural beauty.

What You Can Do

Write to DEP and Governor DeSantis and tell them that you do not support these changes to our state parks. [Click here.](#)

Additionally, as of going to press, local meetings to discuss these changes with the public are being hastily arranged for larger venues, as the original choices were evidently not going to be large enough. Please let Don Fraser (dmfraser31@gmail.com), our VP for Conservation, know if you would like to receive updates on meetings giving you an opportunity to weigh in on the prospective changes. He is leading our local response.

Volunteers Still Needed

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. Please let me know at president@pascoaudubon.com.

Pasco Audubon Board of Directors

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