

**WELCOME
TO
BAY COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY (BCAS)!**



Bay County Audubon Society is a charitable organization as determined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. A copy of official registration #CH52150 with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as well as financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

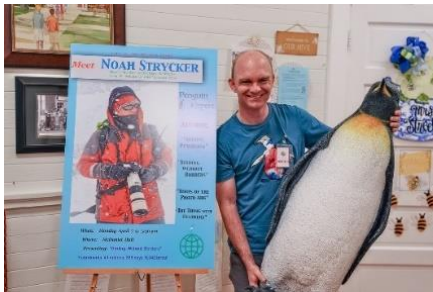
Are you FOR THE BIRDS?!

Join us as we actively engage in bird-related activities and stimulate environmental awareness through educational initiatives and birdwatching activities!



BCAS meets on the second Monday of every month from September through May at 6:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1607 Baker Court. We serve refreshments, socialize and listen to stimulating and well researched presentations by local and national birding authorities.

Every month we gather for field trips and bird and wildflower hikes; we go on overnight trips in the Florida Panhandle and visit special bird watching regions in neighboring states. We are especially interested in migration routes in the Southeast.



We sponsor Nature Connection bringing nationally recognized authors, biologists, photographers and birding authorities to Panama City. These dynamic speakers interact with students in our local schools and universities. Because of these successful activities, we were awarded the Audubon Florida



Chapter of the Year for groups with less than 500 members!



See our website for a list of current activities and to read our newsletter with reports of field trips and other related articles! baycountyaudubon.org

You are invited to participate—as a member or just a guest. For \$20 a year you can become a member of Bay County Audubon Society, Audubon Florida and the National Audubon Society. Membership also includes a subscription to the *Audubon* magazine.

Yes, please enroll me as a new member of the National Audubon Society and of the local chapter, Bay County Audubon Society (E20). Be sure to include this code (E20) on your check. Please send Audubon magazine and my membership card to the address below and email Bay County Audubon's newsletter *Conservation Chronicle* to the email below.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society and mail this application to

Bay County Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1182, Panama City FL 32402

BAY COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY ACTIVITIES YOU MAY WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN

During the year BCAS hosts many different types of activities to make our community aware of the needs of the natural world around us. Here are some examples of events we have participated in.

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



ENCORE BIRDING CLASSES AT GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE



NATURE CONNECTION



EARTH DAY



BIRD PHOTOGRAPHS AT BAY COUNTY LIBRARY



SPRING MIGRATION FIELD TRIPS



WORKDAYS AT AUDUBON PRESERVES



LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS



HOW CAN I HELP?

Would you like to become a more active Participant in the Bay County Audubon Society?

BCAS is an all-volunteer not-for-profit organization. In order to continue our programs and outreach activities, we need helping hands. Do you have a special skill or talent that can contribute to our efforts?

Are you an experienced birder? Consider helping lead a bird walk or demonstrating how to use binoculars to a new person.

See Ron Houser ronhouser84@gmail.com about field trips or Norm Capra nfcapra@gmail.com about the ENCORE Birding classes at Gulf Coast State College.



Do you like to tell stories about your birding experiences? Do you take photos of nature? Submit your stories and pictures to the newsletter or to our digital photo exhibit.

Patty Kelly patty@baycountyaudubon.org is Editor of our newsletter and is always looking for articles about birding and nature-related activities.



Do you like to feed folks and enjoy socializing? Volunteer to bring refreshments and help set up chairs and tables for monthly meetings.

Sign up with Lauren Williams laurenwilliams579@gmail.com to provide drinks or snacks before our monthly meetings.

Are you skilled at graphic arts projects? Help record our group activities for our Chapter history and design posters and brochures about chapter activities.

Gail Casteel ygailfla@att.net collects photos and prepares an annual Year in Pictures for our final meeting each year.



**Are you interested in meeting new friends?
How about becoming part of our Membership Committee and welcoming people
who attend our monthly meetings?**

Contact Diane Houser dianehouser7@gmail.com to greet participants and hand out materials.



**Are you handy with tools or like to garden?
Join a work party at Parker Preserve or Laidlaw
Preserve to maintain trails, clean up, trim and
plant new plants!**

Ron Houser and Neil Lamb coordinate our preserve maintenance efforts.

Other ways you can become a more active Participant in the Bay County Audubon Society

These committees are looking for your help to promote our society goals:

Conservation—reports the current status of issues acted on by the Board; and informs the membership of public hearings and legislative meetings that have an impact on our community [nfcapra@gmail.com].

Education and Outreach—informs and educates the public about conservation efforts and the natural environment; arranges courses, workshops and seminars at local schools, colleges and universities, as well as civic organizations [earl.hendersdon@hotmail.com].



Field Trips—develops a schedule of field trips and bird walks, recruits leaders for those and assists in the Christmas Bird Count [ronhouser84@gmail.com].



Historian—maintains BCAS scrapbooks, gathers photos and news from members and maintains the historical records of the chapter [ygailfla@att.net].

Webpage/Publicity—manages the official BCAS webpage and ensures that updates are made as needed; publicizes the affairs of the Society throughout the county, utilizing local newspapers, radio, and television stations [aleighsa@baycountyaudubon.org].

Social Media—manages, updates and coordinates various Social Media accounts, including Facebook [aggie9296@aol.com].

Programs—arranges a variety of programs about birdwatching and other conservation efforts for membership meetings [dcronwell@comcast.net].



Hospitality—provides refreshments for meetings and maintains an adequate supply of refreshments and serving accessories; assures that chairs and equipment are arranged prior to each meeting; and ensures that the meeting hall is left in an orderly condition [laurenwilliams579@gmail.com].

Inventory—maintains a current inventory of all BCAS equipment, supplies, and promotional items (Merchandise) [treesafl@gmail.com].

Preserve Management--schedules workdays to maintain paths and boardwalks, and control invasive plants/animas.



Membership—maintains accurate records of current members based on the National Audubon Society lists and local membership lists; maintains a list of members and guests attending regular meetings [dianehouser7@gmail.com].

Newsletter—solicits and receives articles and photos for bi-monthly newsletter [patty@baycountyaudubon.org].

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB)—promotes accessibility, inclusion, and opportunity for people of all backgrounds, lifestyles, and perspective; supports community-centered conservation; prioritizes historically marginalized and underrepresented groups in the positive impacts of our work. [bdusseault@aol.com].

Your donations are greatly appreciated and support our ongoing efforts to bring more people to an appreciation of the beauties of our natural world.

BCAS PROGRAMS 2025-2026

Membership meetings are held the second Monday of every month from September through May at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1607 Baker Court. We start with a social time (with refreshments!), followed by a short business meeting and then high-quality photo presentations on a wide range of subjects. Here are the topics for this year's membership meetings:

Sept. 8	Landscaping for Wildlife Using Native Plants—Ron Houser
Oct. 13	Audubon Community Science: How Volunteer Data Helps Our Birds and Informs Conservation Policy—Norm Capra
Nov. 10	Eastern Bluebirds at Home—Pam Overmyer
Dec. 8	Christmas Banquet with presentation by Bay Education Foundation and Dirty Santa gift exchange
Jan. 12	St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge—Don Morrow, naturalist
Feb. 8	Wildlife Corridors—speaker TBD
Mar. 9	Birding at 29 Below—Jim Anderton
Apr. 23	Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC)—speakers Joe Morcate and Adam Lache
May 11	Year in Review with a short presentation by Panhandle Wildlife Rescue—Gail Gasteel, et al.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

In addition to regular monthly meetings, BCAS hosts Nature Connection, a chance to meet and hear nationally known birders, photographers and naturalists. In March we will present **Doug Tallamy** a leading entomologist and well known for advocating the use of native plants to create wildlife habitats in home landscapes, and authoring best-selling books like *Bringing*



Nature Home and *Nature's Best Hope*.



Scott Raschid will also come to Panama City in March; the “Owl Man” is a well-known author, artist, bird rehabilitator and winner of the 2025 Champion of Owls award.

In conjunction with Nature Connection the Panama City Center for the Arts will host a juried Art and Photo event, using Immersive Technologies which blend digital and physical realities to create interactive, sensory experiences, of nature related subjects.



FIELD TRIPS FOR 2025-2026

Led by experienced birders, all our trips are free and open to the public.

Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Bring sunscreen, insect repellent, snacks and drinks. If you don't have binoculars, we have some to lend.

See newsletter for more details. Trips and times are subject to changes due to weather.

Contact Ron Houser (850-774-9733) for latest updates.

Saturday, Sept. 13, 7:30 a.m.—Beginner Bird Walk, Panama City Garden Club, 810 Garden Drive. Instructions on how to use binoculars and bird sitting (a way to watch birds from a stationary position). Refreshments will be served. Meet in parking lot in front of the building.

Saturday, Oct. 18, 9:15 a.m. (Eastern time)—Fall birding at Frank Pate Park, Port St. Joe, Cape San Blas. Lunch at local restaurant.

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 4:00 p.m.—Birds and Brews at Lake Caroline off Beach Drive. Meet at parking area; dinner afterwards at Little Village, 2808 W 12th St.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 8:15 a.m.—Lynn Haven Bayou Park & Preserve (4800 CR 2321) with Native Plant Society. Meet in Parking West lot (third parking lot with playground).

Saturday, Nov. 15, 8:15 a.m.—St. Andrews State Park. Meet at Gator Lake.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 7:45.—Panama City Beach Conservation Park, 100 Conservation Drive at the end of Griffin Boulevard (off Hwy 98 past Hwy 79) with Choctawhatchee Audubon.

Friday-Sunday, Jan. 16-18—St. Marks/Panacea/Wakulla Springs. Stay at Magnuson Hotel Wildwood Inn in Crawfordville (866-884-9656).

Saturday, Feb. 14—TBD

Saturday, Mar. 14, 8:30 a.m.—Florida Caverns State Park, 3345 Caverns Rd., Marianna. Meet at visitor center.

Thursday, Apr. 18, 9:00 a.m. (Eastern time)—Spring migration at St. George Island State Park, 1900 E Gulf Beach Dr, St George Island. Meet at restrooms by youth camping area. Bring lunch.

Friday-Sunday, Apr. 24-26—Spring migration at Dauphin Island, and Fort Morgan, Alabama. Stay at Gulf Breeze Motel, 1512 Cadillac Avenue, 251-861-7344 (minimum 2-night stay; reservations required).

Saturday, May 16—Spring birding at Beulah A. Laidlaw Preserve, Vernon, with Choctawhatchee Audubon.

Recurring event:

4th Saturday morning every month, Camp Helen Bird Count, 6:00 a.m.



BCAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President:	Brian Dusseault bdusseault@aol.com
Vice-President:	Earl Henderson earl.hendersdon@hotmail.com
Recording Secretary:	Josh LaBranche jocelynlabranche@googlemail.com
Treasurer:	Donna Cronwell dcronwell@comcast.net
Immediate Past President:	Teri Floore treesafl@gmail.com

Standing Committee Chairs:

Conservation/RCC:	Norm Capra nfcapra@gmail.com
Education/Kiosk:	Earl Henderson earl.hendersdon@hotmail.com
Field Trips:	Ron Houser ronhouser84@gmail.com
Historian:	Gail Casteel ygailfla@att.net
Hospitality/Welcome:	Lauren Williams laurenwilliams579@gmail.com Teri Floore treesafl@gmail.com
Membership:	Diane Houser dianehouser7@gmail.com Amy Wilson amy@howellcpagroup.com
Newsletter:	Patty Kelly patty@baycountyaudubon.org
Preserve Management:	Neil Lamb
Programs:	Dale Cronwell dcronwell@comcast.net
Website, Publicity:	Aleighsa Wright aleighsa@baycountyaudubon.org Norm Capra nfcapra@gmail.com
Social Media:	Pam Overmyer aggie9296@aol.com

Special Committee Chairs:

Conservation Easement Oversight:	Phil Herndon herndonmech@embarqmail.com
Earth Day Liaison:	Frank DePinto fdepinto2@hotmail.com
Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging (EDIB):	Brian Dusseault bdusseault@aol.com
Inventory:	Teri Floore treesafl@gmail.com
Merchandising:	Diane Houser dianehouser7@gmail.com , Aleighsa Wright aleighsa@baycountyaudubon.org
Rare Bird Alert/eBird:	Pam Overmyer aggie9296@aol.com
Major Programs:	Brian Dusseault bdusseault@aol.com
Special Events:	PRN

MORE EXAMPLES OF WHAT WE DO MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS



LOCAL FIELD TRIPS



LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

