

Perspectives from the Next Generation of Conservationists



Steffanie Munguía

**Florida International University Doctoral Student
National Audubon Society Board Member**

Steffanie Munguía (she/her) is the Pan-Flyway Regional Director. A native of Puerto Rico, she grew up in Central Florida, where she first became involved with Audubon in middle school through her local Lake Region Audubon Society chapter and volunteering for the Center for Birds of Prey. Over the past 15 years, she has dedicated her efforts to increasing youth and minority engagement in Audubon, co-coordinating the state's Conservation Leadership Initiative for several years.

As a biologist, Steffanie has participated in songbird research in the Great Plains and New England, and is currently studying the management of important stopover sites in coastal wetlands of the Caribbean. Through these experiences, she has learned that Audubon is not just about the birds—it is about the people: the committed members who dedicate their time and energy to conserving birds and their habitats so that generations to come may be as enthralled with them as we have been since the Society's formation. Such a commitment requires coordination between members, chapters, the national board, and across flyways.

Now pursuing a doctoral degree, she is excited to bring this energy to increasing student and young professional opportunities in Audubon across the flyways. Steffanie hopes to contribute meaningfully to efforts to bring more communication and integration to our chapters and members as we look toward the future of Audubon while honoring our rich history.



Brian Cammarano

**Senior Coordinator, Shorebird Stewardship (Panhandle Region)
Audubon Florida**

Brian Cammarano (he/him) was born and raised in South Florida and attended college at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, earning his bachelor's degree in Ecology, Evolutionary and Conservation Biology. He is currently the senior coordinator of shorebird stewardship for Audubon Florida in the Panhandle region, where he works with volunteers to educate the public about the importance of protecting imperiled beach-nesting birds. Before calling Panama City Beach home, Brian worked seasonally conducting bird research in the Eastern grasslands of Montana, on an island off the coast of Southern Maine, and on projects throughout South Florida.



Kayla Ehrlich

**University of Florida Student
Alachua Audubon Board Member**

Kayla (they/them) is a fourth-year environmental science and sustainability studies major at the University of Florida. They have been bird watching for two years and this is their second year serving the Alachua Audubon Society as a board member, focusing primarily on social media. They got involved with Audubon as a Conservation Leadership Initiative mentee and has been engaged with conservation as a career path since. In their free time, Kayla enjoys hiking, painting, and frequenting coffee shops.



Kristen Ranges, JD, PhD

**Education Coordinator, Mote Marine Lab and Aquarium
Adjunct faculty member, Everglades University**

Kristen Ranges (she/her) received her law degree and PhD from the University of Miami School of Law and Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Sciences. Her research focuses on the effects of oil exposure on the nervous system and neurobehavioral disorders in Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) as an example of how and why we should expand the use of animal model studies as evidence in toxic tort litigation. Dr. Ranges is currently working at Mote Marine Lab and Aquarium as the Education Coordinator, developing curriculums for programs that will be offered through the forthcoming Mote SEA facility's teaching labs. She is also an adjunct faculty member at Everglades University, teaching science and legal studies courses.



Emily Johnson

**Research Technician
Audubon Florida's Everglades Science Center**

Emily Johnson (she/her) is an early-career bird biologist at Audubon Florida's Everglades Science Center. She got her start birding in college at Ohio Wesleyan University. After graduation, she worked on a captive research flock of eiders in Alaska for two and a half years before pivoting to do more field research. She spent a season conducting seabird colony surveys on Kodiak Island in Alaska before moving to North Carolina, where she started a master's degree studying King Rails. Upon finishing her master's, she worked a seasonal position for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in North Dakota, monitoring Piping Plovers and Least Terns. In 2021, she started work at the Everglades Science Center, running the Roseate Spoonbill nest monitoring program for Florida Bay.



Zachery Holmes

**University of Florida Graduate Student - Wildlife Ecology and Conservation
Educational Programs Coordinator, Alachua Audubon Society**

Zachery Holmes (he/him) is currently working toward his master's degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida. He is also a board member and the educational programs coordinator for Alachua Audubon. His graduate research focuses on grassland avifauna on active cattle operations in South-Central Florida, to determine how various management strategies are impacting listed or declining avian species. His first field experience was participating in JayWatch in 2017 and he has been involved with Audubon ever since. Zachery has worked for research stations, public agencies, and private firms and looks forward to sharing his experience as a young conservationist.