

Wing Beat

We represent Audubon Society members in Northern Pinellas County and provide services to all who are interested: free local field trips with expert birders; inexpensive extended field trips within the US and to other locales, free monthly programs, volunteer & networking opportunities within the local conservation community; scholarships to local summer camps and speakers for a variety of classrooms and groups.



Volunteers Needed

-John Hood

The beach nesting bird season is upon us. The first survey started on the 18th and one AMOY nest has been discovered on the Gandy even before the survey started. We need volunteers for several projects.

- 1 Hopefully the LETE and BLSK will be back on Sand Key. We need folks to monitor the colony.
- 2 Hopefully the LETE will return to the Ulmerton rooftop after missing last year. We'll need folks to monitor that colony and return birds to the roof that manage to escape the fence and fall off.
- 3 Our 3 Rooker bird stewardship program is in the final stages of the details being worked out. We need folks for this.
- 4 A new banding program for BLSK will be implemented. We need folks to gather up chicks and hold them while the glue dries on their bands.

As you can see the summer may be very busy and we can use all the help we can get. If any of these programs is of interest to you please contact me jhood2@tampabay.rr.com. Thanks.

Clearwater Audubon Society

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

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Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





CAS Programs

-Cynthia Kluss

February Neo-tropical Migratory Bird Banding program update

Think like an Ovenbird. That was the challenge given by Jim McGinity to the Clearwater Audubon Society (CAS) members attending the February program entitled “Bird’s Eye View of Migration and Hammock Park”. Plus, there was a group bird identification test.



Ovenbirds by Dave Noel

Neo-tropical migratory species are on the move. Like the Ovenbirds, they take flight from their winter homes in Central America and travel North over the Gulf of Mexico and the Straits of Florida to their summer breeding ranges. Such a long trip requires feeding and resting oases along the way. The Hammock Park in Dunedin is one of those natural migratory way stations. A live oak hammock is one that provides everything a migratory species needs to complete its journey northward and to begin preparations for spring breeding.

Jim introduced the members to the capture, banding, and release process. Why go to all the effort to band birds? Because the information gathered about Ovenbirds and other migratory bird species provide vital data and creates a record and timeline for each bird. This information helps build a database maintained by the U. S. Geologic Survey. The details collected through the Survey expand knowledge about migratory species and provides the data needed for modeling trends and migratory patterns.

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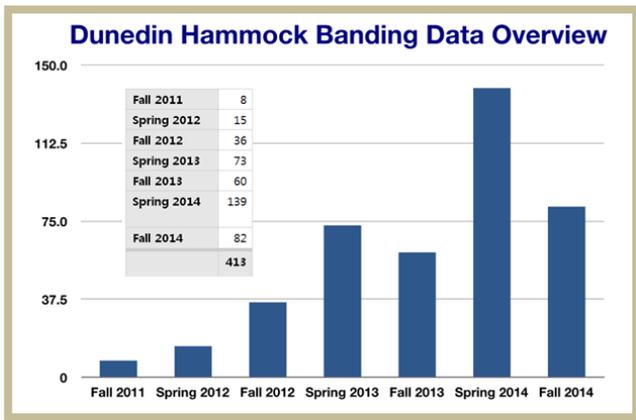
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CAS Programs (cont.)

Migration involves more than traveling vast distances and preparing for spring breeding. Jim alerted the members on the hazards facing migratory birds. The remains of banded species are found at the sites of hazards like glass enclosed buildings, predation and nesting spots, and wind turbine fields. What can we do to help the migratory species? Jim recommends providing food and cover by using native plants; keeping our pets especially cats indoors, tethered, or caged; and bird-proofing windows especially large window arrays. Plus, we can encourage others to do the same.

CAS February General Meeting by Cynthia Kluss



The Hammock Banding Project continues to evolve. Since the initial test cycle in 2011 over 25 species have been banded in the Hammock. Care to be a booster? Come to the San Mateo Dunedin Hammock Park entrance and follow the signs to the banding station on the following days: March 22nd and 29th, April 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. Or you can support Jim McGinity's work by contributing through the Clearwater Audubon Society website (www.clearwateraudubonsociety.org) donation section, just select Hammock Bird Banding. For more information and great photos you can also visit Jim's blog at hammockbirdbanding.wordpress.com. During the program Jim introduced Dave Noel, who is the official photographer for the banding project. Dave's blog contains more birding and bird rescue adventures at davebrd05.wordpress.com.



photos by Lynn Sumerson

[Click here to download](#)  a copy of CAS Field Trips and Programs for 2014-2015



In Memory of a Dedicated Man

-Paul Trunk

John Alton was born in Sandusky Ohio in 1917. At the age of 17 he moved to Cleveland for a job. A veteran of the US Army, John was a member of the Masonic Lodge #127. He worked for Warner and Swasey for 45 years as the shop manager. W&S made precision machinery. That is where he met Edna. John continued at W&S while Edna raised 2 children. After they flew the nest Edna worked at Lakewood Hospital in the biometrics dept. In that department Edna did EEG, EKG and other tests.

In 1981 John and Edna moved the Clearwater to help care for her parents. When time allowed Edna and John volunteered at the small Clearwater Hospital. Both Edna and John joined Clearwater Audubon and met so many great friends. Both John and Edna meant a lot to Clearwater Audubon. They were active in all aspects of the organization. They participated on many bird trips and were admired by the members. I do not have a count of the number of schools Edna and John attended for the Pelican talks but there were a lot. Edna was always the spokesperson and John was the quiet one giving some students what questions to ask after the talk. John always had the scope in the car and they both monitored the eagle nest on Belleair and Lake. (That was a 5 year study). I don't know the exact details but at one point they strapped a rather large dead bird to the trunk and brought back so it could be inspected.

After Edna passed in 1985, John continued to meet new friends and he always had a smile on his face and a story to tell. He could remember phone numbers and birthdays in his head. His computer was his brain. He continued to remember names and greeted everyone by their first name. One thing no one's knows (I Doubt) he loved to go to Tarpon for Greek gyros and a koulouria.

John Alton 97, of Seminole, passed away on Feb. 14, 2015 in Clearwater. Thank you, friend, for your dedication and life's stewardship.

Become a Climate Change Messenger- for the Birds!

Sea level is rising along Florida's coastline – the experts agree. With a rise of 9 inches over the past 100 years we're seeing more frequent inundation and more rapid erosion of barrier and mangrove islands and coastal beaches that provide nesting grounds for colorful American Oystercatchers and Black Skimmers, Roseate Spoonbills and Brown Pelicans, plovers, gulls, terns and many other species of wading birds. We're watching mangroves migrate into saltmarshes and saltmarshes migrate landward. And Florida's iconic Everglades ecosystem is threatened with saltwater intrusion if restoration plans aren't kept on track to increase freshwater flow southward to keep the rising saltwater at bay. The special places where Florida's coastal birds now nest, feed, and rest are some of our state's most important "climate strongholds". If birds aren't protected where they nest now, their populations will continue to decline as sea level rises leaving them little capacity to adapt to future changes in habitat, temperature, and rainfall conditions.

Given the uncertainty around projected timing and magnitude of future sea level rise, and the focus of local and regional agencies on protecting the human-built environment from erosion and inundation, we call on our chapter members to get involved locally in public discussions focused on protecting **coastal and tidally-connected freshwater habitats** from rising sea levels.

What can you do to help? View and download the three short videos at FloridaClimateMessenger.com



Officers of Clearwater Audubon Society

Membership

[Membership Application](#)

Size : 141.717 Kb

Type : pdf

Monthly Meetings

October – May

The first Monday of each month at Moccasin Lake Nature Park:

Meet and Greet @ 6:30PM

Public Program @ 7:00PM

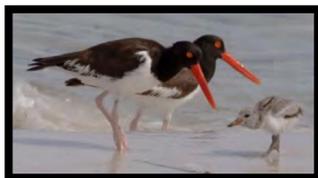
(Unless otherwise noted)

First meeting is October 6



Did you miss the last WingBeat?
Click above to read it online.

"A Boater's Guide to Clearwater Harbor & St. Joseph's Sound including Three Rooker Island, the Anclote Keys and Anclote Bar" is now available online.



click picture to view

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Make Your Voice Heard on Amendment 1

Tell the Florida Senate that Amendment 1 calls for renewed state spending on water and land conservation. Legislators need to hear from passionate nature advocates like you! The Senate DOES NOT use bonding and only provides \$2 million for Florida Forever. The bill does match the \$20 million for Kissimmee River restoration in the House Bill and funds Everglades related water quality along with projects to support the C-44 and C-43 reservoirs to help coastal estuaries.

When the Senate Appropriations Committee considered the bill **Senator Thad Altman** (R-Cape Canaveral) offered and then withdrew an amendment to fund Florida Forever at historic levels. Altman promised to return to the issue when the bill hits the Senate floor. Senate Democratic Leader **Arthenia Joyner** (D-Tampa) also offered an amendment to shift \$80 million from other capital expenses to Florida Forever. She withdrew the amendment but promises to return to the issue on the Senate Floor.

[For more information on Amendment 1, please click here to see an article from the DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL.](#)

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Raft of Redheads

-Shutterbug: Lynn Sumerson



These photos were taken just north of the Belleair causeway. There is a ramp that goes off of the causeway allowing you to take your car down to the water.



An aptly named diving duck, the Redhead can be easily identified by its bright red head and gray back. Many female Redheads make no nests of their own, but instead lay their eggs in the nests of other ducks.

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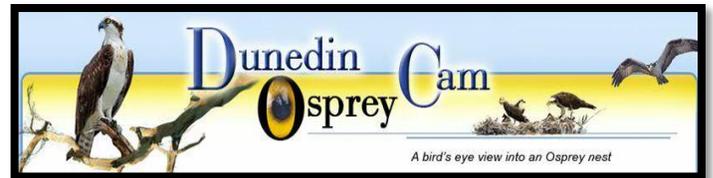
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