



# Wing Beat

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*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.*

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## Upper Pinellas Rooftop Nesting 2013

-John Hood

There were few rooftop sites in upper Pinellas County this year. Space center and Commerce center did not have birds. There was a small colony at Dimmitt Cadillac and a new small colony was discovered at an abandoned shopping center at the northwest corner of Missouri and Rosary that included Black skimmers as well as Least terns. Our mega colony at Ulmerton industrial mart did quite well with several hundred nests producing fledglings. Due to the fence around the rooftops the only birds that were banded were 7 fledglings that managed to fly over the fence but could not find their way back up.

Would you like to volunteer? [Click here](#) to learn more.



[Click here to download](#)  a copy of CAS Field Trips and Programs for 2012-13

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**Clearwater Audubon Society**

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

August, September 2013

Vol. 54 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





## Audubon Explorers

-Lynn Summerson

### *CALLING ALL PINELLAS COUNTY STUDENTS IN GRADES 4-6 [AGES 9-12]*

Audubon Explorers is a program, sponsored by Clearwater Audubon Society, for students in grades 4 - 6 (9 - 12 years old) who want to learn about birding, the nation's most popular outdoor activity.

There are twelve openings in the 2014 program. The cost is \$25 per Explorer; no charge for parents who *MUST* accompany their Explorer(s). Explorers should bring binoculars.

Explorers receive a name badge with lanyard, a Pinellas County bird checklist, a journal for record keeping, in a binder with other important information.

Explorers and parents will learn about the birds of Florida, who are either full time residents or seasonal visitors. Birders of all levels are welcome to join us.

Audubon Explorer field trips will visit Pinellas County Parks on six Saturdays from February to May, 2014. Field trips will be in the early morning since birds are most active at that time. Field trip sites will vary with the season and month to maximize identification of birds, plants and wildlife.

Field trip leaders are experienced birders and naturalists who will help identify birds by sight, song, behavior and habitat. The program goal is to locate and identify as many bird species as possible.

Audubon Explorers have experienced positive results when applying for special scholastic programs.

**EXPLORER DETAILS:** [clearwateraudubonsociety.com](http://clearwateraudubonsociety.com), our Facebook page, or Lynn Sumerson at 727-215-7477.

Audubon Explorers and parents are cordially invited to attend Clearwater Audubon Society's first Monday monthly meetings at Moccasin Lake Nature Park and our scheduled field trips, which are listed in our Program and Field Trip Brochure, at [clearwateraudubonsociety.com](http://clearwateraudubonsociety.com), or on our Facebook page.

**RESERVE EARLY TO GUARANTEE YOUR PLACE!**

#### Office Hours By Appointment



**Kamilla Sztanko, DMD, PA**  
3830 Tampa Road, Suite 100  
Palm Harbor, FL 34684  
Telephone (727) 789-4044

**Michael J. Adams, DDS**  
**Pamela G. Adams, DDS, MS, PA**

15 North Missouri Avenue  
Clearwater, Florida 33755  
(727) 461-4832 fax (727) 461-4835



### 3 Rooker Round-up

-John Hood

Three Rooker Bar is a small island just to the north of Honeymoon. It is about 2.5 miles long but only 300-1500 feet wide. There is no fresh water on the island and therefore no mammalian predators unlike its larger cousins Honeymoon to the south and Anclote to the north. It has wide sandy beaches on the gulf side and mud flats and grass flats on the bay side as well as a bountiful wrack line. These factors make it a perfect place for nesting sea and shore birds. Every spring thousands of birds gather here to nest and raise their young. These include the solitary nesters – American oystercatcher, Snowy plover, and Wilson’s plover – as well as the colonial nesters – Least, Caspian, Royal, Sandwich terns, Laughing gulls, White ibis, and Black skimmers. Herons and egrets – Reddish, Tricolor, and Great blue also nest in the trees. We hope some day to get Roseate spoonbills.



The beauty of this island also attracts many boaters especially on weekends. On holiday weekends one can almost walk from boat to boat off shore without getting ones feet wet. Needless to say this puts great stress on the birds. Enter Clearwater Audubon Society and the Florida Parks service. For years the parks department has posted environmentally sensitive areas year round. Posting consists of inserting PVC stakes into the ground and connecting them with string and putting informational signs on the posts. At the beginning of the nesting season the island is intensively monitored and as soon as nesting activity is noted that area is posted. On May 1<sup>st</sup> an area of beach at the southwest corner about 1/4 mile long that historically has been intensively used by the birds has fences erected at each end and “no entry” buoys placed in the water. Shortly thereafter the stewarding program starts. This consists of ferrying folks out to the island and placing them at each fence line and adjacent to the other posted areas. They are provided with umbrellas, chairs, literature, and “ask me about the birds” signs. They also walk the beach and remind those folks with dogs that they need to keep the dogs on the boat. The stewardship program is continued until August 1<sup>st</sup> when the fences and buoys are removed. By this time all the chicks have fledged.

**NATURE 'S**

<b>STORE HOURS</b> Mon-Sat: 8am-9pm Sun: 9pm-8pm		<b>DELI HOURS</b> Mon-Sat: 8am-8pm Sun: 9pm-7pm
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\*some restrictions apply. Expires March 2014 PLU 3016



### 3 Rooker Round-up (cont.)

-John Hood

We had good success this year. Here are the numbers of babies fledged. Least tern 100, White ibis 1700, Laughing gull 3000, Royal tern 400, Caspian tern 4, Sandwich tern 300, American oystercatcher 3, Snowy plover 6, Wilson plover 3, Black skimmer 12, Reddish egret 8. The season was not without its weather related tragedies however. Tropical storm Andrea impacted the Least terns losing about 40 chicks and an unknown number of eggs.

We did fledge about 100 chicks from about 300 nests so things could have been a lot worse. The Black skimmers were devastated by Andrea and later by 6 inches of rain in 24 hours which enabled them to produce only about 12 fledges from 300 nests. A smaller colony of about 100 is still on eggs and producing chicks at the north end as this is being written so there is some hope.

It is a remarkable experience to sit adjacent to or even surrounded by thousands of birds watching adults rear their young. We will be out there again next year and you are invited to join us.

Some human induced adventures were included at no extra costs.



**Become a Bird Steward!** [Click here for the link](#)

1. You have reviewed the training video. Yes, this is everyone. Please no one under 18 years old.
2. You have an active Florida Park Service application on file. Has it been more than 1 year?  
Go to <http://www.floridastateparks.org/getinvolved/volform.cfm>
3. You have a volunteer shirt, available at <https://uniforms.vfimagewear.com/>  
User ID- VOLUNTEER password- VOLUNTEER  
Select- My own credit card purchase, continue



## Officers of Clearwater Audubon Society

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### Membership

#### [Membership Application](#)

Size : 141,717 Kb

Type : pdf

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### 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 8**

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### Past Issue of Wing Beat



[click issue to view](#)  
June-July 2012-2013

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**"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](#)

PRESIDENT: JOHN HOOD  
[president@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:president@clearwateraudubon.com)

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: BARBARA WALKER  
[barbibird@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:barbibird@tampabay.rr.com)

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: SID CRAWFORD  
[blumax100@gmail.com](mailto:blumax100@gmail.com)

TREASURER: JANE WILLIAMS  
[jwilli56@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jwilli56@tampabay.rr.com)

MEDIA: CHRISTINA KUGEARES  
[media@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:media@clearwateraudubon.com)

MEMBERSHIP: CAROL LINOWSKI  
[membership@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:membership@clearwateraudubon.com)

SECRETARY: ANASTASIA STEINBRUNNER  
[secretary@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:secretary@clearwateraudubon.com)

CONSERVATION ADVOCACY: RONDA MUSCA  
[rmusca1@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rmusca1@tampabay.rr.com)

CONSERVATION PROJECTS: DANA KERSTEIN  
[conservation@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:conservation@clearwateraudubon.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: MARIANNE KOROSY  
[shorebirds1@gmail.com](mailto:shorebirds1@gmail.com)

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT & CLIMATE ACTION CHAIR:  
MICHAEL MACDONALD  
[curmudgin@hotmail.com](mailto:curmudgin@hotmail.com)

FIELD TRIPS: PAUL TRUNK  
[fieldtrips@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:fieldtrips@clearwateraudubon.com)

EAGLE WATCH & OSPREY WATCH: BARBARA WALKER  
[barbibird@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:barbibird@tampabay.rr.com)

EDUCATION: LYNN SUMMERSON  
[education@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:education@clearwateraudubon.com)

PROGRAMS: CYNTHIA E. KLUSS  
[programs@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:programs@clearwateraudubon.com)

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: ANASTASIA STEINBRUNNER

LEGAL COUNSEL: R. BRUCE McMANUS  
[lawoffice@mcmanusestateplanning.com](mailto:lawoffice@mcmanusestateplanning.com)

WEBMASTER: PAUL TRUNK  
[webmaster@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:webmaster@clearwateraudubon.com)

WINGBEAT/NEWSLETTER: MÉICHELE LONG  
[newsletter@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:newsletter@clearwateraudubon.com)



## Join Clearwater Audubon for a Trip to Israel

November 8-18, 2014. [Click here for itinerary](#)

## CAS Summer Movie Series Continues

**Moccasin Lake Nature Center, 6:30 PM**

**Aug 5:** Legacy of the Weeks Act: 100 Years of Restoring America's Forests.

**Sept 9:** (Labor Day is the 2nd): viewer's choice from John's wildlife collection.

## 1st Annual Moccasin Lake Nature Park Bee Festival

2750 Park Trail Ln, Clearwater, Florida 33759

Phone: (727) 793-2976

E-mail: [cliff.norris@myclearwater.com](mailto:cliff.norris@myclearwater.com)

### Mission

Give the community an opportunity to see the great side of honey bees!!! We will be focusing on educating the community about the benefits and truth about honey bees. There are a lot of scary myths about bees.

### Description

August 17th is National Honey Bee Day!!

Moccasin Lake Nature Park will be hosting the 1st Annual Bee Festival on Saturday August 17th, 2013. From 9am~9pm. Please come and join us for bee festivities! There will be a honey contest, games and activities for the family, Music, Great healthy food.

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**R. Bruce McManus      Mary M. Taylor**

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