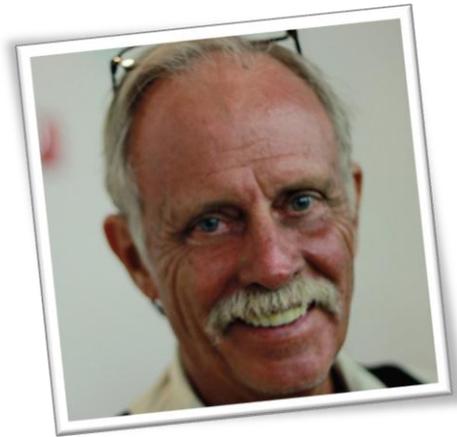


Wing Beat

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.

**WE
WON ON 1**



-John Hood

As you all probably know amendment 1 passed with a 75% win in the recent election. Here are some of the statistics behind the win:

1. More than 4,000 volunteers gathered petition signatures.
2. Over 400 nonprofit and civic organizations endorsed it. This included your society.
3. Nearly 1 million voters signed the petitions to place it on the ballot.
4. More than 50,000 voters became involved in the campaign.
5. More than 20 editorials in leading newspapers endorsed the amendment.
6. Over 50 elected officials from both parties endorsed the campaign.
7. Over 4,500 individuals contributed money including your society.

This win has sent a strong message to the Florida legislature. Now we have to keep a close eye on them to make sure they spend the money wisely.

Clearwater Audubon Society

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

December 2014, January 2015

Vol. 62 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





October 2014 Programs

-Linda Cooper & Cynthia Kluss

The October program was provided by Linda and Buck Cooper who shared their adventures on a three week trip of a lifetime cruising on a small ship from Ushuaia, Argentina to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia and the Falklands. They began the program by displaying a cord that measured 11 feet. Check for yourself using a measuring tape. Eleven feet is impressively long. That is the wing span of the Wandering Albatross. Just one of the numerous hardy species they encountered on their trip into the heart of the southern hemisphere.

Buck explained the importance of the Antarctic convergence and how that phenomenon keeps the Antarctic so unique. The Coopers toasted their arrival on Antarctica with champagne and an Irish whiskey toast to the memory of Shackleton at the Whalers' Church cemetery.

What does a penguin taste like, not chicken. Of course, when they came upon the penguin colonies there was lots of noise and aromas. The Coopers saw six species of penguins in their colonies - Adelie, Chinstrap, Gentoo, King, Magellanic, and Rockhopper, plus a lone Macaroni that wandered onto the beach during a zodiac landing. The penguins were not the only birds encountered. The Coopers observed and experienced the speed and agility of Prions, Petrels, Shags, Southern Fulmars, Antarctic Terns, and Gray-headed, Light-mantled, Wandering, Royal, and Black-browed Albatrosses. Of special interest was seeing several Yellow-billed Pintails, the only carnivorous duck, at Grytviken. There were numerous seal and orca species observed. Their photo of the leopard seal on a small iceberg with only the heads of two fellow travelers in a zodiac on the far side of the ice flow put the danger of their adventure into perspective.

They explained that silence was one of the most impressive and hard to describe components of their adventure. Buck and Linda shared a quote from John Steinbeck that summed up their journey: "A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policing, and coercion are fruitless. We find that after years of struggle that we do not take a trip; a trip takes us". All the photo credits are complements of Linda and Buck. Enjoy some pages from their photo and travel journal, complements of Linda and Buck Cooper.

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THE COOPER'S TRIP TO ANTARCTICA ABOARD THE CLIPPER ADVENTURER

ANTARCTIC DREAMS



ANTARCTIC CONTINENT LANDING ON DECEMBER 24, 2006 WAS CELEBRATED WITH CHAMPAGNE.

GENTOO PENGUIN

Ushuaia, Argentina, southernmost city in the world,

is where our Antarctic adventure began. This is where we met our small ship *Clipper Adventurer* and our 112 fellow passengers and 85 staff and crew. Ushuaia, a small town where the Andes begin (or end, at least above sea level), is nestled between the mountains and the Beagle Channel. This trip - three weeks of huge concentrations of wildlife and achtingly beautiful scenery - has proved to be most difficult to summarize. It is not written chronologically but by the best way we can think of to share our experiences with you.



SOUTHERN FUR SEAL



ICEBERG



ROCKHOPPER PENGUINS

Photo credits Linda and Buck Cooper



DECEMBER 2006 - JANUARY 2007



KING PENGUINS

WHALING STATION AT GRYTVIKEN

BUCK AND WHALE BONES

ADELIE PENGUINS GETTING READY TO SWIM

CLIPPER ADVENTURER AND ZODIACS

Photo credits: Linda and Buck Cooper



DECEMBER 2006 - JANUARY 2007



KING PENGUIN COLONY AT SALISBURY PLAIN
GLACIER AND MOUNTAINS
MACARONI PENGUIN AND GENTOO PENGUINS
SOUTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL
LINDA AT THE CHILEAN RESEARCH STATION

Photo credits Linda and Buck Cooper



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

Raptor Fest @ Boyd Hill NP



February 7, 2015 Free Admission

<http://raptorfest.org/>

"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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Touring Timeline of the Israel Trip

-Lynn Sumerson

Our trip officially began on Saturday evening, November 8 at the Dan Panorama Hotel in Tel Aviv. There we met our extremely accomplished Tour Guide, Shai Agmon. Prior to this, we took a walk on the stunning beach where a Hoopoe, Israel's National Bird greeted us and posed for a photo.



The first bird I saw in Israel. The National bird of Israel: The Hoopoe



Rare sighting of a Jungle Cat



Flight of the thousands of Common Cranes.

NOVEMBER 09 TEL AVIV: We took a morning tour of Tel Aviv which included a visit the many distinctive neighborhoods of this modern city with an emphasis on Bauhaus Architecture. The birds which we were able to observe were the Yellow-vented Bulbul and the Chiffchaff. We toured the city of Jaffa, site of biblical and historic events. The afternoon provided us with an opportunity to visit a park where we observed the Great as well as the Pygmy Cormorant. The weather continued to cooperate so we also saw the Lesser Black Back Gull, the Palestine Sunbird, the Hooded Crow, and the Armenian Gull. A delightful dinner in the Yemenite quarter concluded our day.

NOVEMBER 10 ON THE ROAD TO HAIFA (Israel's third largest city) we traveled along the seacoast to King Herod's "residence" in Caesaria we had an extensive tour of this site which included his palace, his race course and his residence and ruins of significance. we continued up the coast, we arrived at Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael, an educational center for birders - especially groups of young children. Since this location is a major seasonal route for migratory birds, we spent the morning observing birds up close. The afternoon included a visit to Megiddo, the chariot city of King Solomon. Megiddo is also known as Armageddon, as described in the Book of Revelations. Shai also took the group to his secret location where we observed birds. On our way to Haifa, we stopped for dinner at the home of a Druze family where we learned about their traditions and history in Israel.

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Touring Timeline (cont.)

-Lynn Sumerson

NOVEMBER 11 HAIFA The day began in Haifa with a visit to the Baha'i Shrine and the Persian Gardens, we traveled to the historic City of Acco with its marketplace and colorful stores that see Jordan and Lebanon from Israel. At scenic Rosh Hanikra, we took the "shortest" cable trip in Israel to view the underwater grottoes. Whenever possible, we stopped on our way to Kfar Blum, we stopped for bird watching.



The beautiful Baha'i Shrine and gardens



Grotto in Rosh Hanikra



Common Kingfisher. "I can't believe they put common in my name. I'm flat out spectacular!"

NOVEMBER 12 KFAR BLUM AND THE GALILEE: We awoke early in the HULA VALLEY to tour a camouflaged observation area where we were thrilled to see thousands of COMMON CRANES, PIED KINGFISHERS, and the White-breasted KINGFISHER. We observed how family oriented the Cranes were in caring for their young. There were varieties of waterfowl in the waterways. We continued to KIBBUTZ S'DE ELIYAHU whose members are acknowledged leaders in organic farming and agriculture. We learned how this Kibbutz makes use of Barn Owls for effective rodent control instead of pesticides. They also have a BIO-BEE System which produces bumblebees which enable natural pollination. As we toured the Kibbutz, we observed their fish ponds, their fields, EURASIAN SKYLARKS, CRESTED LARKS, EAGLES, HARRIERS AND KITES. We also saw a SYRIAN WOODPECKER, Israel's only WOODPECKER. This KIBBUTZ even breeds bugs for pest control purposes. Our afternoon trip was to the City of Safed, known for its historic Synagogues as the center of KABBALAH teachings and the ARTISTS QUARTER.

NOVEMBER 13 ONTO OUR FINAL DESTINATION - JERUSALEM: We visited the sites on the historic SEA OF GALILEE where we toured a Museum which contained a recently excavated boat which has been proven to be over 2000 years old and likely from the time of Jesus. A boat trip with explanations of historic sites and birding opportunities completed a wonderful morning. We saw many birds which included ARMENIAN GULLS,, COMMON KINGFISHERS and RAPTORS. We passed through historic cities, including Tiberias, on our way to Jerusalem. In the distance, we saw the lights of Jericho. Our first night in Jerusalem included a 'NIGHT SPECTACULAR' sound and light show depicting the history of Jerusalem on the walls of THE CITADEL MUSEUM.

(continued on next page)

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



Touring Timeline (cont.)

-Lynn Sumerson

NOVEMBER 14 MASADA AND THE DEAD SEA: We arrived at Masada, and we toured another of the residences of KING HEROD. We took the gondola to the TOP where we explored the structure of the site which has been extensively excavated. There were birds to observe, rooms to photograph and an opportunity to feed some snacks to birds which joined our group. We continued to the DEAD SEA for swimming in this unique body of water. After changing into bathing suits, our intrepid travelers walked onto stones down the path to effortless floating. We returned weary, but with experiences to share, to our hotel.



One of our intrepid group feeding Mina birds on Masada.



Boat retrieved from the Sea of Galilee approximately 2000 yrs old about the time of Christ.



Hyrax. "I'm a relative of the elephant so don't mess with me!"

NOVEMBER 15 JERUSALEM: In the center of Jerusalem is THE JERUSALEM BIRD OBSERVATORY which is literally on a major street. It is a center for education, bird watching and strolling along beautiful paths. We arrived and were greeted by a volunteer and his young son. They had already caught birds in the mist nets which they had earlier set. They removed them all from the net, weighed them and measured their length. If the bird was not banded, they showed how this banding is done. We saw as they banded EUROPEAN ROBINS and WAG TAILS. Two members of our group had the opportunity to release the birds after banding. Each bird is assigned a number, and the information is then forwarded to a data base. We proceeded to the bird blind where we continued to see the various visitors to the site. Our afternoon was spent on Mount Herzel where we walked through the gardens, had a view of the Old City of Jerusalem and watched birds on the ground and in the air.

NOVEMBER 16 JERUSALEM: THE OLD CITY AND ITS SITES: We began the day in the Marketplace with its various vendors, interesting characters and sites of historic significance. There was an opportunity to visit THE WESTERN WALL OF THE SECOND TEMPLE. We then went down into the Old City where we toured the excavated areas. We traveled along the narrow streets and alleys of the VIA DOLOROSA and arrived at THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE. Our visit to THE OLD CITY included THE CARDO, the HERODIAN MANSIONS and the BURNED HOUSE from the year 70 AD. These sites literally made the history of Jerusalem come alive.

NOVEMBER 17 JERUSALEM: TWO IMPORTANT MUSEUMS: The Museum of CITY OF JERUSALEM welcomes visitors with a complete model of Jerusalem at the time of King Herod. The model includes the Second Temple. The history of the city is illustrated with photos and ancient vessels, musical instruments, scriptures which include scraps of the DEAD SEA SCROLLS. During the afternoon, we toured YAD VASHEM, Israel's HOLOCAUST MUSEUM. This provided a sobering experience for all. Our group enjoyed a FINAL MEAL at a restaurant in Jerusalem where we bade farewell to our GUIDE EXTRAORDINAIRE, Shai and our SUPER DRIVER, Abraham.



2014 Monofilament/ Trash Cleanup

-John Hood

On Saturday 11/29/14, 5 of your society's members (John, Lindsay, Dana, Harvey, Anastasia) went out on a beautiful day to clean up monofilament fishing line and pick up trash in St Joseph sound and Clearwater harbor. 4-5 large black garbage bags were filled with the pickings. Marker 26 island and sand Key West islands were cleaned.

For more information about volunteering with Clearwater Audubon Society, please contact John Hood:

president@clearwateraudubonsociety.org





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Prime Winter Birding in Florida

One of the most popular birding sites in the Southeast is the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. It's home to the last of the old-growth cypress forests and rare orchids and represents a number of habitats for large concentrations of birds and wildlife. A 2.5-mile boardwalk into the 14,000 acres provides easy access. (A shorter 1-mile boardwalk is best for kids.) To get to the sanctuary east of Bonita Springs, take County Road 846 (Immokalee Road) east from Interstate 75 about 15 miles to the sanctuary and follow the signs. General adult admission \$12; open daily year-round. 375 Sanctuary Road W, Naples. (239) 348-9151; corkscrewsanctuary.org.

Fort De Soto Park, at the southern tip of Pinellas County, is home to several bird habitats. Birding is popular all along Mullet Key leading to the park as well as inside it. A 2.25-mile canoe trail and several nature trails provide vantage points. A 2,200-foot barrier-free self-guided nature trail accommodates wheelchairs. 3500 Pinellas Bayway S, Tierra Verde. (727) 552-1862; pinellascounty.org/park.

Stormwater Treatment Area 5 (called STA-5 by birders) is an artificial wetlands area 20 miles south of Clewiston. Birds and waterfowl flock to the area in some of the greatest concentrations in the state. Guided tours of the rustic levee trails are available through the South Florida Water Management District; reservations for individual parties are required and visitors are limited. The STA-5 schedule and information about reservations are posted on the Hendry Glades Audubon website at hendrygladesaudubon.org, or call Margaret England, coordinator for the tours, at (863) 674-0695.

Winter is the peak season at Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, which features 140,000 acres of protected lands near the Kennedy Space Center. It's a major stopover point on the Atlantic Flyway migration route and hundreds of thousands of birds can be seen making their way to and from their northern homes. Two adjunct refuges — the St. John's National Wildlife Refuge and Lake Woodruff National Wildlife Refuge — also are managed from Merritt Island. The Visitor's Center maintains a "recent sightings" list for birders and provides maps to the series of trails set through the impoundments where best birding is found.

Others: Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge west of Boynton Beach, the "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island, Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Crystal River and the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge in the Big Cypress Basin 20 miles east of Naples are favorite birding areas. For information on all of the above, go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website, fws.gov. For a comprehensive list of the Great Florida Birding Trail sites with maps and information, go to floridabirdingtrail.com.

We will guide you! [Click here to download](#)  CAS Field Trips and Programs for 2014-2015

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