



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.

Burrowing Owl Festival

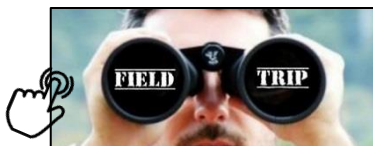


Rotary Park Environmental Center, Cape Coral

Travel Day February 23rd 3pm and Festival on February 24, 2017 return after dinner on the road. Includes...transportation, hotel, breakfast, entrance fees & festival bus tour.

Cost: \$280 single occupancy, \$240.00 double occupancy Limited Space: Only 7 spaces remaining.

Contact Dale Goebel @ 727-510-1462 or sheirah11@verizon.net



Download the 2017-2018
Field Trip Brochure

Clearwater Audubon Society

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

October, November 2017

Vol. 79 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





Membership

Membership Application

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)

Past Issue of Wing Beat

[click issue to view](#)

Oct-Nov 2017



**"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](#)

Clearwater Audubon Society

Annual Report

Last year was great and we have more new plans for the coming year. Your board of directors would like to thank you for your physical, emotional, and financial support during this past year. This is our ninth achievement and appeals letter. In this letter, we would like to provide a recap of what we have accomplished over the past year and, with your help, we would like to begin planning for the next year.

BIRDING

450 Participated in 19 field trips
9 local, 7 out-of-county
+ Maine and Washington state.

Christmas Bird Count=159 species,
45 participants, 22,417 birds!

Surveys of wintering, migratory, and
nesting birds on our beaches

CONSERVATION

County-wide Beach Steward Program:
15,000 chicks fledged

Sand Key Monitoring:
560 Black skimmers producing
155 fledglings
South Clearwater Beach
100 fledglings

Environmental Protection Advocacy

Bird Banding and Reporting

Beaches and Barrier Island
trash removal

Eagle and Osprey Watch
100% Nest Monitoring

MLNP Birds of Prey

40 Rooftop Rescue & Return
@Space Center of Hercules

EDUCATION

Local Eco-Fests and Edu. Booth

Supported Audubon Adventure
instructing 160 students

Education via our website
Clearwateraudubonsociety.org

Monthly Educational Meetings
@Moccasin Lake Nature Park

Scholarship 2 Members to
Audubon Hog Island Camp

Terrace Community Middle School
Outdoor Classroom Partnership

Participated in Raptor Fest
with over 3,000 Attendees

Bird Blind @ MLNP

WingBeat eNewsletter

FINANCES

Provide local birding trips at no cost

Donated \$6,842 to educational endeavors
including Audubon Adventures,
Audubon Explorers, youth camps, etc.

Donated \$6,329 to conservation projects

Received \$1,139 from National Audubon
(\$1.13 per person annual dues)

GIVING

In order to continue our work of education and conservation we are asking for your help with a donation to the Clearwater Audubon Society. Without your help our activities to educate the public and to protect and preserve the environment will be curtailed.

Your donation will help further our efforts to educate students and adults about the natural world around them and to extend our efforts to protect birds as they try to survive in an increasingly challenging environment.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

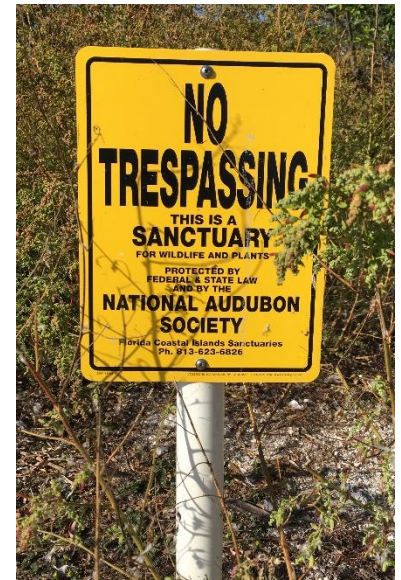


Loud... Smelly... and Fun!

~ Erich Glanz

On Sunday November 19, five intrepid custodians of the earth set off for the yearly clean up of three St. Joseph Sound spoil islands used for nesting by herons, pelicans and cormorants. Our mission was to pick up the human trash that accumulates and can be a threat to nesting birds. Posted Audubon signs indicate these islands are bird sanctuaries, off limits to humans except for those participating in Clearwater Audubon's annual cleanup. November is the best month for the annual cleanup, as late nesting birds are finished and early nesting birds have not yet started.

Led by Clearwater Audubon Society president John Hood aboard the vessel Audubon Protector, Liza, Paul, Stephanie and I visited Marker 26 Spoil Island and then Ozona Spoil Island East, both along the inter-coastal waterway north of the Dunedin Causeway.



Marker 26 Spoil Island is posted to prevent disturbance by humans

At Marker 26 Island, we were greeted by many dozens of loud vocal birds, grunting and croaking and whining. This was the largest island we visited and there were birds everywhere. Magnificent Frigatebirds use this island as a roost, hundreds there some nights. We saw a Frigatebird heading off as we approached shortly after 9:00 AM. A flock of more than one hundred Double-crested Cormorants stood on the beach, eyeing us suspiciously, as Brown Pelicans, Great Blue Herons, White Ibis, Fish Crows and Black-crowned Night Herons sat in the trees. As we moved about looking for trash, some birds flew off but most stood their ground and continued to vocalize.



Our vessel, the Audubon Protector.

Photos by Erich Glanz



Loud... Smelly... and Fun! (cont.)

Copious quantities of guano, bird excrement, covered the ground and plants, filling the air with an acrid stench and making many places white as snow. Plastic water bottles that had washed up and been there a long time looked like they were covered in white paint. Here and there was an occasional bird skeleton, evidence of evolution at work. We recognized pelican and cormorant skulls, as well as individual bones of large birds, all covered in white guano, an eerie and unique tableau.

“What about this was fun?” you may be asking yourself. The opportunity to visit these islands, off limits to humans, inhabited only by birds but littered with human trash, is an ironic study in contrasts. We slipped between trees and bushes and waded around the mangroves, collecting items which had probably washed up when dropped by boaters or blown over from the mainland. Plastic water bottles, beer cans, plastic bags, parts of hats, stray sandals, pieces of Styrofoam, the occasional fishing lure, and an orange plastic safety whistle were among our findings.

The rocky beaches on the northwest side of these islands face the open water of St. Joseph Sound and are occasionally pounded by larger waves, which scour the shore, keeping vegetation from gaining a foothold. In contrast, the south side of each island is covered by the thick vegetation of black and red mangroves, and is protected from wave action by the Dunedin Causeway.

When Marker 26 Spoil Island was cleaned of human trash, we motored over to the smaller island known as Ozona Spoil Island East, where there were no visible signs that birds had nested recently. Paul wondered if raccoons might swim out from the mainland to this island, which is much closer to shore, and disrupt nesting attempts. Stephanie made the best find of the day, an intact sea urchin skeleton, called a test, about three inches in diameter and thoroughly cleaned by the elements, a beach scavenger’s dream. Thick mangroves on the south side didn’t prevent Liza from cleaning up, in spite of the tangle of prop roots, and eventually she waded out to the Audubon Protector as rain began to fall. The weather prevented us from visiting our third island destination, so we made a run through pelting rain to the Caladesi ferry dock on Honeymoon Island, our boat filled with bags of trash, and headed home, wet and tired, and hoping our efforts created a better environment for nesting birds.



Great Blue Heron getting ready to nest.



White Ibis standing his ground.



— CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY PRESENTS —

BIRDS & BREWS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH @ 3PM
DUNEDIN HAMMOCK PARK THEN CALEDONIA BREWING



meet in hammock park in Dunedin in the St Andrews chapel parking lot at 3 PM and bird the park

Caledonia Brewery: 587 Main St. Dunedin, FL 34698



10th Annual Everglades Birding Festival January 11-15, 2018

Festival Site: Holiday Inn Express 2540 Davie Road, Davie, Fl. 33324 (954) 585-7071



21st Annual Space Coast Birding & Wildlife Festival

January 24-29, 2018

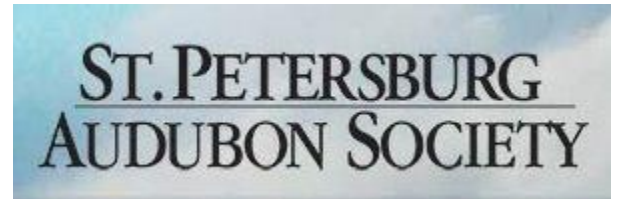
The Festival Guide includes information on the following - keynote & spotlight speakers, Saturday evening celebration, boat tours, field trips, workshops, classroom presentations, photography activities.



Organizations We Support



Audubon of Florida



St. Petersburg Audubon Society



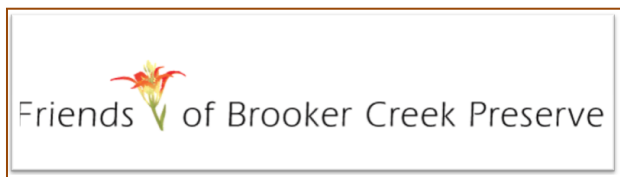
Important Bird Areas in Florida



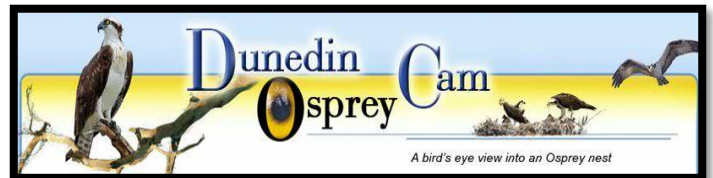
Great Florida Birding Trail



Florida Ornithological Society



Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve



Dunedin Osprey Cam





Those Who Support the WingBeat

If you are interested in advertising with us, please contact Meichelle Long.

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Pamela G. Adams, DDS, MS, PA

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

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about filling this space.



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**U Stor N Lock donates storage space
to Clearwater Audubon**

*If you need a store room, see them and please
mention Clearwater Audubon Society.*