

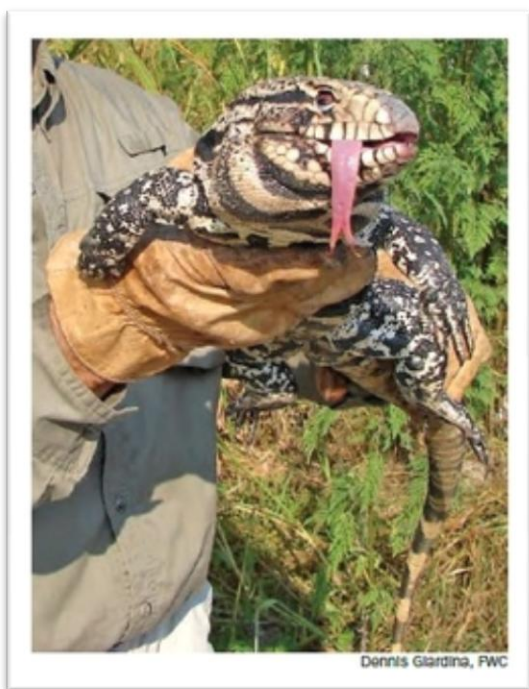


# Wing Beat

*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.*

## Protect Our Native Ecosystems- Report Invasive Animals

From pythons to tegus to lionfish, many of the invasive animals spreading throughout our state pose significant threats to native wildlife and ecosystems. As a network of citizens across the state with keen eyes and an appreciation of our most precious ecosystems, our chapter members are perfectly-suited to assist Audubon's efforts as "eyes and ears" on the ground.



Visit the website (<http://fl.audubon.org/invasive-species-task-force>) to learn how to easily identify and report non-native animals that you see while out birding, visiting your favorite park or even along highways or in your own community. Reporting only takes minutes online or using a simple smartphone app and can make a big difference to land managers who are trying to get a handle on these growing populations. You can also stay on top of invasive species news through the monthly 'Invader Updater' series on the Audubon Florida News Blog (<http://audubonoffloridanews.org/>).

New invasive animals are literally showing up every day here in Florida, and it is up to us to help detect and report them before populations establish or grow out of control!

photo by Dennis Giardina, FWC

**Clearwater Audubon Society**

December 2012, January 2013 2012

Vol. 50 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





## Ecuador: Northern Andes 2013

Paul Trunk

July 18 - 29, 2013

Dramatic Andean highlands offer unforgettable backdrops to amazing people, plants, animals and birds. Rich cloud forests dripping with orchids, showy macaws flying over vast tracts of forest, troops of monkeys clambering through the treetops, swarms of frantic hummingbirds jockeying for position at feeders, gaudy flocks of tanagers, toucans and a never-ending list of “Oh my goodness!” moments that soon become every day experiences.

Ecuador’s Andes Mountains are one of the world’s seven natural wonders:

“Ecuador’s unique geographical position, where the equator crosses the Andes, small size, stable government, and good infrastructure makes it the ideal destination for birders interested in South America, especially first-timers. Roads and lodges offer the birder rare access to two of the richest avifaunal areas in the world: the east Andean slope temperate-subtropical forest belt and west Amazonian tropical lowland rainforest, a habitat hat-trick full of toucans, antbirds and tanagers.”

This introduction by Nigel Wheatley in his book on birding in South America defines the basic attractions of birding in Ecuador. When you combine the basic details he describes so well with the birding amid these diverse habitats, along with a relaxed itinerary that takes full advantage of the region’s amazing natural areas and topped with an incredible number of tanagers, hummingbirds and antbirds, your Ecuador: Northern Andes tour may prove to be your birding adventure of a lifetime!

Mainland Ecuador supports one of the most diverse avifaunas on earth, with over 1,700 species recorded. This, combined with its small size (only one half the size of the state of Texas), provides access to an incredibly diverse group of birds while maintaining a rather relaxed pace of travel. We’ll devote most of our time to three of the more spectacular areas of Northern Ecuador: the west Andean slope and Choco habitats near Tandayapa and Mindo, high elevation east Andean slope in Antisana National Park and Papallacta and mid elevation and foothills of the eastern Andes at the justifiably famous Cabinas San Isidro and newly opened Wild Sumaco.

Contact Paul Trunk [ptrunk@gmail.com](mailto:ptrunk@gmail.com) or see [clearwateraudubon.com](http://clearwateraudubon.com) for details.



Barbara Walker

A BIG thank you to Progress Energy for a \$25,000 Foundation Grant. The grant will be used to erect and maintain osprey platforms, retrofit structures for avian safety, provide educational programs to the public regarding birds of prey including topics such as climate change, energy and how to prevent wildlife outages by reporting nests on lines.

Thank you to the volunteers that have worked so hard on this program for several years and made it a success. We are excited about this because we can see the difference we are making!



## Christmas Bird Count 2012

John Hood

Volunteers needed: North Pinellas Christmas Bird Count

The 113<sup>th</sup> annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC) window is December 14<sup>th</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup>. The North Pinellas CBC will be held within this window for the 37<sup>th</sup> consecutive year!

Volunteers with beginning, intermediate, or advanced birding skills are needed to fill out a few bird count teams on the North Pinellas CBC date – Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Teams in this count circle will tally one of the state's highest species counts as we have in the past few years. Last year our CBC participants identified a total of 168 species, one of the top 3 counts in Florida.

There are 10 count areas within the 15 mile diameter circle, which is centered at the intersection of Tampa Road and U.S. Highway 19 in Palm Harbor. Each count area has a designated team leader who coordinates meetings time, location, and the day's survey route. Participants are invited to attend a "countdown" potluck dinner at the end of the count day at which we tally up the day's species list.

Survey areas are:

Area 1 – Tarpon Springs

Area 2 – West Palm Harbor/Dunedin

Area 3 – Honeymoon Island

Area 4 – Caladesi Island

Area 5 – Clearwater

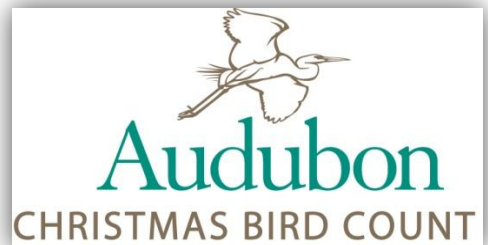
Area 6 – Safety Harbor

Area 7 – East Oldsmar/west Hillsborough

Area 8 – Brooker Creek Preserve

Area 9 – John Chestnut Park/East Lake Road

Area 10 – west Oldsmar/north Safety Harbor



The first Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on December 25, 1900 when 27 participants counted and identified about 18,500 birds, mostly in the northeastern U.S. Today, volunteers brave snow and chilly temperatures to identify and count birds throughout the 50 states and in Canada. Last year, over 2200 counts were completed and 61 million birds were reported! CBC data helps scientists understand how bird populations have changed over the past century.

Anyone interested in participating can contact John Hood at [jhood2@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jhood2@tampabay.rr.com) Phone 727-461-4762 or Marianne Korosy [mkorosy@gmail.com](mailto:mkorosy@gmail.com); 727-772-7584.



## 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)

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### Past Issue of Wing Beat



*click issue to view*  
Oct- Nov 2012

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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*

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## Clearwater Audubon Society Program Snap-Shots

CAS October, 2012 program on Conserving Fish in the Gulf of Mexico

Clearwater Audubon Society Programs by Cynthia Kluss

The Clearwater Audubon Society thanks Sharon McBreen, a senior outreach associate for the Pew Environment Group's Gulf of Mexico Fish Conservation Campaign, for an informative and eye opening view of the overfishing problems just off our coast. Sharon travels throughout five Gulf Coast states for support on conservation projects that impact all of us economically and ecologically.

The goals for the Gulf of Mexico Fish Conservation Campaign are abundant species, healthy oceans, and a strong economy. Overfishing is one of the major behaviors that can be changed through education and protective actions. Those changes are key in achieving the goals of the Fish Conservation Campaign.

Overfishing occurs when catching fish exceeds the levels of reproduction for each species. Examples of species being impacted by overfishing include:

- \*Gag Grouper (*Mycteroperca microlepis*) which has current catch rules implemented to allow for rebuilding the breeding population within ten years,
- \*Atlantic menhaden or forage fish (*Brevoortia patronus* and *B. tyrannus*) which are ecologically critical fish as described in the book *The Most Important Fish in the Sea: Menhaden and America* by H. Bruce Franklin (available at the St. Petersburg Main Library and South Branch Library: 597.45 Franklin), and
- \*Red Snapper (*Lutjanus campechanus*) which are presently at stable fishing rates but research reveals population numbers and ranges that are recovering and expanding but not considered fully healthy.

The forage fish are critically important as a part of the diet for the numerous beach nesting birds and raptors that we value. The Menhaden species are important for both the top and bottom segments of the salt water food chain. As the name implies, forage fish feed the top predators, including birds. The forage fish also multitask as filter feeders that keep the ocean system clear of excess algae for the food chain base.

The Pew Environment Group supports the Southeast Fish Conservation's goals which include:

1. advocating for more research on Gulf fish species,
2. implementing catch limits,
3. protecting habitat and spawning areas, and
4. protecting the marine food web.

How can we help? We can visit [www.PewEnvironment.org/GulfFish](http://www.PewEnvironment.org/GulfFish) . We can contact Sharon McBreen at 407-256-2812 or [smcbreen@pewtrusts.org](mailto:smcbreen@pewtrusts.org) for fish news and/or volunteer opportunities. We can subscribe to the available newsletters, attend Fishery Management Council and public hearings, and write letters to government officials and newspaper editors.

December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bird Songs Paul Trunk will discuss the strategies birds use when they sing.

January 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30 Meet & Greet, 7:00 Program. Joint meeting with [SPAS](#). at Pinellas County Extension (12520 Ulmerton Road Largo, Fl 33774) in the Magnolia room. Join us in welcoming environmental photojournalist Carlton Ward as he tells us about the Florida Wildlife Project, 1000 miles in 100 days and partnerships with farmers, ranchers and land ethics. Carpooling recommended; parking and seating is limited.



## November 2012 Program

Cynthia Kluss

The Clearwater Audubon Society's (CAS) annual potluck dinner was a feast of culinary delights. There were salads, casseroles, meats, pizza, and desserts. This year drinks were available, including a wonderful lemonade prepared by our hospitality committee.

John Hood provided results from conservation projects over the late Spring and Summer 2012. The Least Tern (LETE) and other beach nesting birds breeding season was disrupted by Tropical Storm Debby. The Ulmerton Road nesting sites underwent a big change with roof-top fencing keeping the chicks on the roof and not down the drain pipes. Despite reduced banding opportunities, surveys via camera footage provided data on a successful roof top nesting season there. The floating nesting platforms finally produced about 20 fledglings that were successfully banded. For more details on the LETE nesting season check out the CAS website and <https://sites.google.com/site/bandedleاستterns/>. The migratory and nesting bird projects will need more support and volunteers in 2013 to help protect and preserve those species and their breeding habitats.

John shared views of the Moccasin Lake Nature Park bat house and the McGough Nature Park red shoulder hawk enclosure. The former was built by an eagle scout and funded in part by the CAS. The latter was constructed by John Hood and funded by the CAS. Both structures are worth visiting during your trips to those parks.

In the CAS history segment, the Wing Beat scanning continues with a call for access to issues older than December, 1984. Members with other items of historical value are encouraged to contact the CAS historian, Cynthia Kluss. If you have a question about a past CAS event or project, you can contact the historian to obtain the information you need. The current Wing Beat contains contact information.

Conservation through Education is a primary focus of the membership meeting programs. Your ideas and input on how the programs fulfill that purpose are important. The 2013-2014 programs schedule is in the planning stage. Input from you on the topics that interest you are an important part of the planning process. Please forward your ideas to [programs@clearwateraudubon.com](mailto:programs@clearwateraudubon.com) or talk with one of the board of directors at the next meeting or field trip. If you have a program in mind, we are looking for those who are willing to share their skills with the CAS membership. So do not be bashful. There is over a year to prepare, so form a team, if you like, and share your expertise. Preparing to teach a topic is a great way to hone your skills. The membership wants you to succeed, so express yourself. An expanded CAS program season is being planned for the summer of 2013. The topics considered are wildlife and environmental films. One source of films is <http://wildlifefilms.wordpress.com> then select library search and then completing the keyword birds. If you see something of interest, please let us know.

Left: Red Shoulder Hawk  
Enclosure at McGough  
Nature Park



Right: Bat House at Moccasin  
Lake Nature Park





## Amazing Migration Tidbits

John Hood

1. 40% of the world's species migrate.
2. The highest migrant is the Bar headed goose which flies 5.5 miles high over the Himalayan mountains. The highest documented bird flight was that of a Ruppels griffon vulture which was sucked into the intake of a jet in 1975 an altitude of 7 miles.
3. The long distance record holder is the [Arctic tern](#) which has been documented at 49,700 mile in one year. This is twice around the earth. Over a 30 year life span it is the equivalent of 3 trips to the moon and back.
4. The long distance songbird record holder is the Northern wheatear at 9,000 miles. This bird weighs less than an ounce.
5. The fastest migrant is the [Great snipe](#) which will travel around 4,200 miles at speeds of up to 60mph.
6. The bird with the longest nonstop flight is the [Bar-tailed godwit](#) which has been documented to fly nearly 7,000 miles nonstop over 8 days.
7. The Blackpoll warbler will double its body weight before it flies 2,300 miles nonstop over 3 1/2 days.
8. In the United States up to 1 billion birds die each year from window collisions and another 7 million die from striking TV, radio and cell towers.

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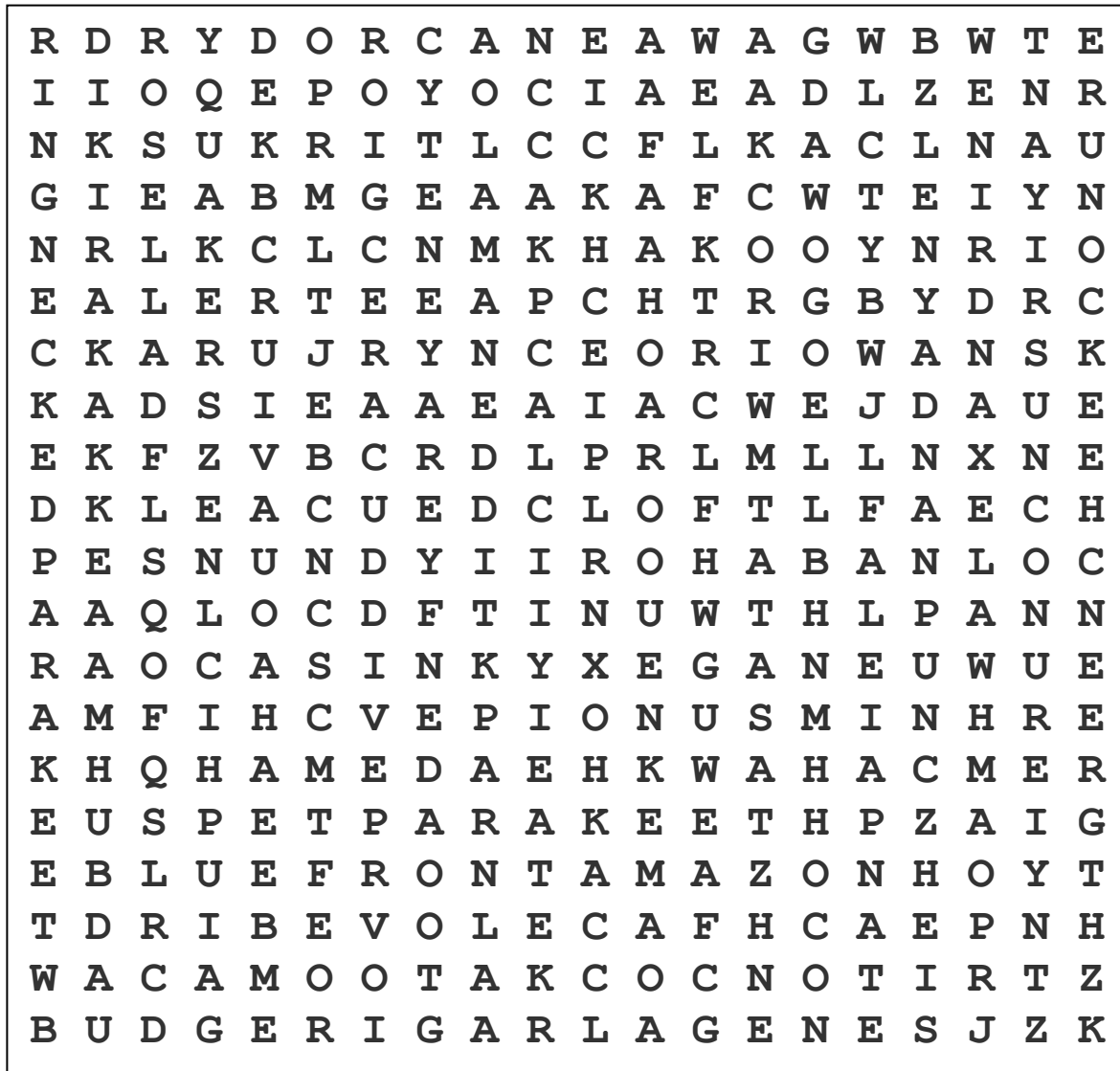
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mention Clearwater Audubon Society.*



# Avian Exploration (Bird Search)



Alexandrine  
 Black Headed Caique  
 Blue Front Amazon  
 Budgerigar  
 Cockatiel  
 Conure  
 Double Yellow Amazon  
 Eclectus  
 Galah  
 Goffin  
 Green Cheek Conure  
 Hawkhead

Hyacinth  
 Jardine  
 Kakariki  
 Kea  
 Macaw  
 Moluccan  
 Nanday  
 Pacific Parrotlet  
 Palm Cockatoo  
 Parakeet  
 Peachface Lovebird  
 Pionus

Quaker  
 Rainbow Lorikeet  
 Ring Necked Parakeet  
 Rosella  
 Senegal  
 Severe Macaw  
 Sun Conure  
 Timneh African Grey  
 Triton Cockatoo