

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.

Proper Kudos

-John Hood

Two of our long time members were honored at the recent annual Audubon Florida Assembly in Maitland. Congratulations to both these extraordinary ladies.



Marianne Korosy, Audubon Florida staff employee, Jay Watch coordinator and instructor, Important Bird Area Coordinator for the entire state, PhD, and all round great person received the Audubon Florida Staff Member of the Year award.



Barbara Walker, Eagle/Osprey/Swallow-tailed kite Watch Coordinator, grant getter extraordinaire, Moccasin Lake Birds of Prey Director, CAS Media Chairperson was elected to Audubon Florida Board of Directors as the Gulf Coast Region Chapter Representative.



Clearwater Audubon Society

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

Decemeber - January 2015-16

Vol. 68 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





Florida's Beach Birds Need Your Help

RECENT AUDUBON VIDEO: CLICK TO VIEW IN BROWSER



Bald Eagles of West Central Florida

Saturday, Dec. 5 10:30 am-12 pm

Barb Walker of Clearwater Audubon presents a program rich in history, field accounts, photography, biology and behavior of Bald Eagles in West Central Florida. Rare photos and data span more than a half-century of field work by professional and citizen scientists. Pinellas eagles are covered extensively.

To register, [click here](#).

Brooker Creek Preserve is located at 3940 Keystone Rd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34688
For additional activity listings, visit www.brookercreekpreserve.org.



Bald Eagle © Jody Leak



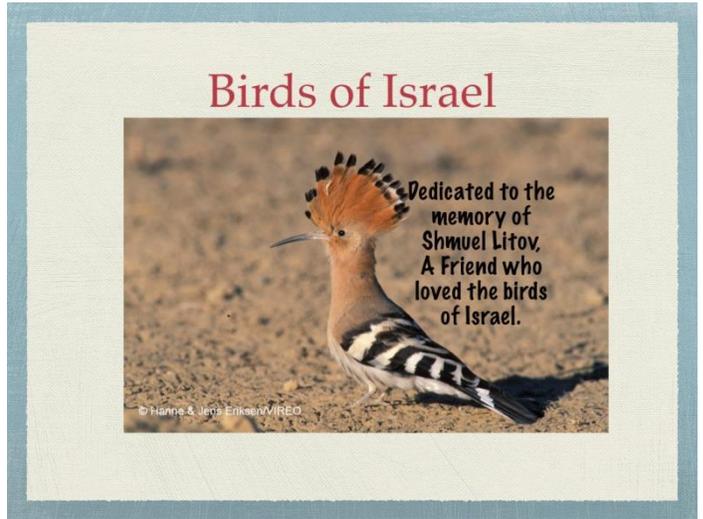
November Program: Dr. Lynn Sumerson

Dr. Lynn Sumerson presented and reported on the Clearwater Audubon Trip to Israel which took place in November 2014. His presentation included a tour of the country as well as informing the audience of the unique variety of birds which were seen both at a distance and close up. The trip included cities, a cruise on the Galilee, visits at Kibbutzim and historical sites.

The presentation began with the National Bird of Israel, the Hoopoe. This bird is visually unusual and lots of fun to watch. We observed on film a mother bird feeding her chicks. Among the other birds which were identified: ravens, eagles, robins, wag tails, mynah birds (which have become a pest) wrens, cormorants and many others.

Our Tour Guide, Shai Agmon was well versed in bird identification, and he presented most of the birds in Hebrew, English and Latin. Right in the Center of Jerusalem is a unique site, The Jerusalem Bird Observatory. We spent an entire morning there as we watched birds, banded birds and learned how they follow the flights of the birds that travel through the Observatory. Due to its unique location, Israel is en route from Africa, Europe and as well as Asia. The variety was most impressive.

Israel hosts BIRDING FESTIVALS, and they have inspired birdwatchers from several countries to visit and to enjoy the many species which both reside in Israel year round and those who pass through. A fantastic learning experience was enjoyed by all.



Hog Island Report



The Clearwater Audubon Society recently provided Lindsey Day, Director at Large a scholarship to attend this year's [Hog Island Audubon Camp](#). Since 1936, the Audubon Camp in Maine has offered environmental education programs for adults, teens, families and conservation leaders on Hog Island in Muscongus Bay, Maine.

While at the camp, Lindsey met many other enthusiasts like [Scott Weidensaul](#) (taking a selfie with Lindsey). Scott is a Pennsylvania-based naturalist and author. He was a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction for his book *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere With Migratory Birds*.



Clearwater Audubon Program Preview

Monday, December 7

A History of Bird Conservation in Tampa Bay **Ann Paul**, Regional Coordinator for Audubon's FL Coastal Islands Sanctuaries centered in the Tampa Bay region, will present a history of bird conservation in the west coast area of FL. Paul will outline current Sanctuary bird protection activities and highlight Audubon Florida's statewide conservation initiatives. 7:00 PM

Monday, January 4, 2016

Tom & Lindsey Bell - Kenya Join world travelers and expert tag team speakers Tom & Lindsey Bell for a colorful and fascinating view of the birds and other animals of Kenya. 7:00 PM

Monday, February 1, 2016

Landscaping for Birds **Dr. Huegel** teaches subjects related to ornithology, botany, and ecology at St Petersburg College, runs a small native plant nursery from his home, and consults state-wide on ecological issues. He is a specialist and state-wide authority on native FL plants and will speak to us about how to use natives to attract birds to our own landscapes. 7:00 PM

Monday, March 7, 2016

Florida Sandhill Crane Conservation Come and learn from **Barbara Walker** about Florida Sandhill Crane populations, their life cycles and their sensitive habitats. Florida Sandhill Cranes easily meet the criteria for a threatened species. 7:00 PM

Monday, April 4, 2016

Dragonflies of Pinellas County Natural history, biology and identification of common dragonflies in Pinellas County by our own **Paul Trunk**. 7:00 PM

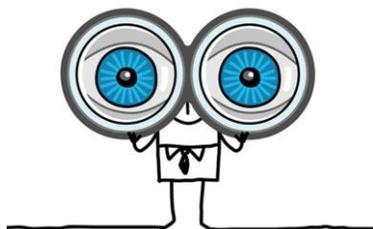
Monday, May 2, 2016

Raptors of a Different Sort by **Paul Cutlip**. Paul grew up on the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in SW FL which his dad managed for the National Audubon Society. He attended FSU and Texas A&M Univ. and is currently Professor of Geoscience at St. Petersburg College. He'll be speaking on the relationship between birds and dinosaurs and the nature of the extinction that ended the age of the dinosaurs. 7:00 PM

Where: Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, FL 33759, ([map](#))

MeetUp: <http://www.meetup.com/clearwateraudubonsociety/>

[Click Here](#) to download our 2015-16 Field Trip and Program brochure.



NATURE'S

STORE HOURS					DELI HOURS
Mon-Sat: 8am-9pm Sun: 9pm-8pm					Mon-Sat: 8am-8pm Sun: 9pm-7pm

FOOD PATCH

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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 5

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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.





Successful Island Clean-up

-John Hood

A group of Clearwater Audubon volunteers ventured forth on Sunday the 29th of November to clean up the Audubon posted islands in St Joseph sound and Clearwater harbor. It was a gorgeous day with temps in the upper 70's, no clouds, calm seas, low tide. The boat started, didn't have to call sea tow, and didn't run aground. No rain, fog, brisk winds, chilly temps, choppy seas or landing on the wrong island (been there done that).

We were able to gather up several large black plastic bags full of trash from the wrack line area. The primary offenders were plastic bottles, aluminum cans and flip flop shoes. There was a small amount of monofilament line with lures that was recovered also. The birds do love the island. There was so much guano on some of the vegetation that one wonders how the plants were able to photosynthesize.

Following that we went to the island called Dunedin Sank Key West but were unable to approach due to low tide. We would have had to trek across 200 yards of shoe sucking off muck. The island had been cleaned up a few months before when new signage had been erected so a repeat cleaning would have yielded a sparse mount.

All in all it was a successful outing.

Clearwater Audubon is now on MeetUp!



Meetup is the world's largest network of local groups. Meetup makes it easy for anyone to organize a local group or find one of the thousands already meeting up face-to-face. More than 9,000 groups get together in local communities each day, each one with the goal of improving themselves or their communities.

Our Meetup group for anyone interested in birding, nature and learning about the local environment etc.

All skills levels are welcome. We started this group to offer our expertise. Looking forward to exploring the outdoors with everybody interested in learning about Pinellas county's unique habitats and the birdlife associated with it.

<http://www.meetup.com/clearwateraudubonsociety/>



Standing for the Future of Florida State Parks

This was on a handout passed out at the Audubon Assembly.

State parks were established for the benefit of the people of Florida by preserving the state's important natural and cultural resources and making them available for public use and enjoyment. Our elected and appointed officials are not providing leadership to fund, manage and expand Florida's state parks. Citizens who care about Florida's state parks stand together in supporting the following principles:

1. State parks will be managed for the primary purpose of conserving their natural and cultural resources and providing compatible resource-based recreation. Secondary uses will be approved only where they do not conflict with the primary purpose. (No cell towers, billboards, etc.)
2. State parks will meet recreation demand by expanding the park system and developing facilities at under-utilized parks rather than by accommodating additional visitors at parks where visitation already meets or exceeds their ecological carrying capacity. Park improvements that degrade resources or visitor experiences will not be made.
3. State parks will receive annual appropriations adequate to meet the needs for management of natural and cultural resources and recreation opportunities.
4. Cattle grazing will be conducted only on an improved pasture as a temporary maintenance activity until ecological restoration can occur. Cattle leases will not be issued in natural areas and park land will not be converted to pasture.
5. Timber harvesting and thinning will be conducted only for resource restoration purposes. Sustained-yield forest management practices and commercial harvesting of forest products will not be conducted in state parks.
6. Recreational hunting will not be expanded beyond the three parks properties where is presently occurs: Cedar Key Scrub State Reserve; Rock Springs Run State Reserve and the Marjorie Carr Cross Florida Greenway.
7. "State parks" will be exempt from future legislation that requires agriculture or multiple-use to be approved on state conservation lands.
8. Public hearings will be conducted before any disposal of state park lands or transfer of parks to other management agencies.
9. DEP will be open and transparent to the public when considering changes in the way state parks are managed. The public will have ample opportunity to review and provide oral and written comments before changes are adopted.
10. And NO RV's at Honeymoon Island State Park!!!



Shutterbug Spotlight

-Lynn Sumerson

Limpkin photographed at Circle B Bar Preserve

Aramus guarauna

An unusual bird of southern swamps and marshes, the Limpkin reaches the northern limits of its breeding range in Florida. There, it feeds almost exclusively on apple snails, which it extracts from their shells with its long bill. Its screaming cry is unmistakable and evocative.

Call: A loud, unmistakable scream, usually in series of four to ten at a time

[>Click to hear call](#)



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[Great Florida Birding Trail](#)



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