

# 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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## Three Rooker Beginnings 2014

-John Hood

By the time you read this there will be little fuzzballs running around 3 Rooker Island. We have a colony of about 100 pairs of least terns on eggs and about 4-5000 laughing gulls also on eggs. There are oystercatchers, snowy and Wilson's plovers running around but we have not been able to find nests or chicks yet. Royal and sandwich terns have formed their colonies on the tops of sand dunes and the trees are loaded with white ibis along with reddish egrets, great blue herons, etc.. Black skimmers are doing settling down activities. We successfully called FWC law enforcement and had a ticket issued to a dog owner. The FWC boat can hold 10 people so there is plenty of room and a stern ladder for easy entrance and exit. 3 Rooker is one of about 3 unspoiled barrier islands on the Gulf coast and the second most important breeding area. It is truly an awesome sight during nesting and fledging season. Come out and join us.

Contact [jhood2@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jhood2@tampabay.rr.com), 461-4762.



Photos by Sid Crawford

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**Clearwater Audubon Society**

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

June, July 2014

Vol. 59 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





## Dunedin Hammock Bird Banding Project Brings Surprises

-John McGinity

The Spring 2014 migratory bird project was a success overall in a number of ways. First, we banded a record 120 new birds (and recaptured 20) of 27 different species compared with Spring 2013 during which we banded 73 birds of 20 species. This brings the total number of birds banded in the Hammock over 5 seasons to 332 birds. This spring also brought a few migrant bird recaptures. These included a House Wren, a Gray Catbird, Black and White Warbler and an Ovenbird. Seeing these birds return gives us a glimpse into how important Hammock Park is to their survival.



The weather over the course of the six days of banding was up and down. We started strong on March 23<sup>rd</sup> with 48 birds then three down days due to windy and calm weather then picking back up on April 20<sup>th</sup> with 47 birds. The season wound down with a 14 bird day. Some of the exciting new species banded this spring included a Swainson's Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Mourning Dove and a male Painted Bunting.



I would like to extend a special thanks to the dedicated volunteers who make this project possible. Their willingness to show up rain or shine before dawn and tolerate the soggy trails, slow days and biting insects is an inspiration to us all.

They are: Dave and Ellen Noel; Anastasia Steinbrenner; Cynthia Kluss; Eva Bailey; Andrew Fuddy; Tiffanie Cross and Jeff Miller. All photos here are by Cynthia Kluss.

To see a detailed recap of the spring 2014 banding season visit the project blog at:  
<http://hammockbirdbanding.wordpress.com/>



## Program Updates

- Cynthia Kluss

**The April program** was provided by Maura Scanlon MA, a faculty member of the Biology and Environmental Sustainability department at St. Petersburg College (SPC) Seminole campus. The Seminole campus is the future home of the St. Petersburg College Green Demonstration Home. Professor Scanlon explained the Seminole campus facility will focus on solar and geothermal energy, green building technologies, water conservation, and possibly sustainable gardening. The completion date is early 2015.

Among other important facts provided in the program, the “Sunshine State”, our Florida, ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in solar photovoltaic (PV) system installations, according to <https://openpv.nrel.gov/rankings>. The state of New Jersey is third! How can that be? The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) site provides more information on state rankings and on the progress being made in sustainable energy from the sun.



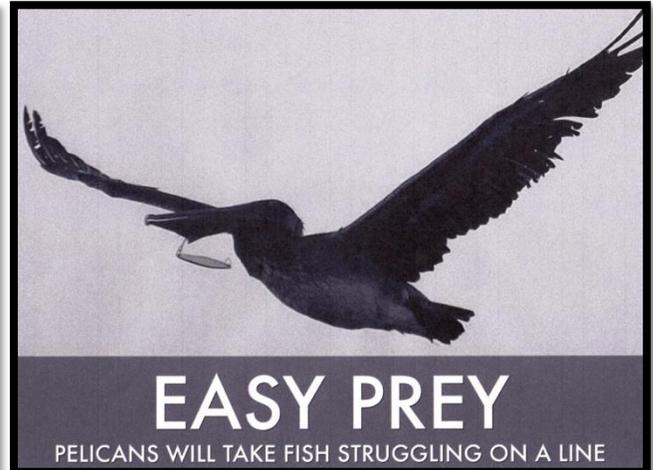
Sun Sense Grants from Duke Energy to SPC for 2013 totaled \$515,000 leading to 100 kW total energy savings. For a real time view of the PV system at the SPC Clearwater campus check out link:

[www.solrenview.com/SolrenView/mainFr.php?siteId=2395](http://www.solrenview.com/SolrenView/mainFr.php?siteId=2395)

For a real time view of the PV system at the SPC Seminole campus check out link:

[www.solrenview.com/SolrenView/mainFr.php?siteId=2396](http://www.solrenview.com/SolrenView/mainFr.php?siteId=2396)

**The May program** presented by Anastasia Steinbrunner was entitled Pelicans: Big, Bold, and Beautiful. The species introduced included the American White Pelican. This large species is found worldwide. Anastasia provided the best ways to help the pelicans and other aquatic species: 1. Pick up and dispose of discarded fishing gear and tackle, 2. Do not approach nesting sites from March to August, 3. Support habitat preservation and restoration, 4. Report injured or entangled birds to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium Stranding Team at 727-441-1790 extension 234. For another look at Anastasia’s program check out this link: [www.haikudeck.com/p/FoUpuLrJ3S](http://www.haikudeck.com/p/FoUpuLrJ3S)



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Thank you to the Hospitality Committee for their artful and tasteful contributions to the CAS meetings. Thank you to the speakers for sharing their knowledge, talent, and time with our membership. For program info or ideas call 727-539-1321. Please note, the new programs email address is now [programs@clearwateraudubonsociety.org](mailto:programs@clearwateraudubonsociety.org).

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## Ban the Bag Campaign

Clearwater Audubon Society was April's recipient of the "Ban the Bag" Campaign at Nature's Food Patch. NFP customers received 7,461 bags for a total donation of \$373.05 to Clearwater Audubon!

*Thanks, Nature's Food Patch!*

"Nature's Food Patch began its Ban the Bag Campaign (now called "Bring Your Own Bag") on Earth Day of 2008. Since that time, we no longer use plastic shopping bags in our store. To encourage our customers to bring their own re-usable bags for their groceries, we offer a 5¢ donation per bag to a different charitable organization each month. Please help us raise these donations by bringing your own bags!"

<http://www.naturesfoodpatch.com/>



## CAS Awards of Distinction Joan Brigham: Senior Advisor Award

Finding words to express the achievements of Joan Brigham has been a challenge. Joan has devoted her life to conservation. Joan was the director of a nature center in Grand Rapids, MI. She adopted Moccasin Lake Nature Park, where she was the creator of its “Friends” volunteer support group. Joan has supported Clearwater Audubon Society’s conservation endeavors for over thirty years; she was instrumental in creating our Eagle Watch program. That’s just a very short list.

Advancing years have been no barrier to Joan’s insatiable quest to discover, appreciate, understand, and communicate the beauty to be found in the natural world, as well as the natural world’s importance to all of Earth’s inhabitants, especially to humanity.



John Hood awarding Joan Brigham

Joan leading members to see the Cooper's Hawk



Photo by Cynthia Kluss

Clearwater Audubon Society is more than indebted to Joan for her tireless, steadfast support through the years, not to mention the stature Clearwater Audubon Society attained as the result of her support.

### Office Hours By Appointment



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## CAS Awards of Distinction

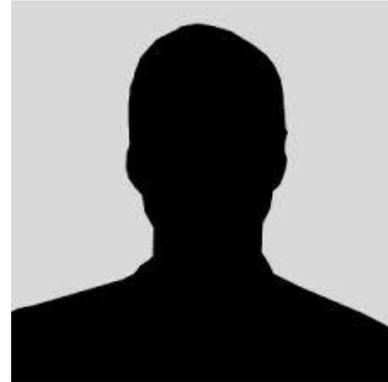
### Dr. John Rippon: Senior Advisor Award



Dr. John Rippon has been active in environmental causes all over planet Earth, for more than fifty years. Dr. John is a Past President of Clearwater Audubon Society; he was instrumental in many biological surveys and habitat renewals in Florida, particularly Pinellas County, usually the leader. He also created Moccasin Lake Nature Park's herbarium.

Dr. John's repute is the result of forty plus years as a leader in the mycological discipline. As a tenured professor at the University of Chicago, Dr John pioneered basic medical mycological research worldwide, and has lectured on six continents; he authored three medical mycological dictionaries, seven textbooks, and more than one-hundred articles, publications, reviews, abstracts, and lab manuals. Perhaps his greatest contribution to mycology was helping create the Medical Mycological Association of the Americas, based in Colombia, South America, where he did much of his research. That Association honored 'Dr. John' with their Rhoda Benham Award at their annual convention in Philadelphia in 2009, their equivalent of the Nobel Prize in the Medical Mycology.

### Ken Rowe : Senior Advisor Award



A long history of achievements, and generous support of its endeavors, motivated Clearwater Audubon Society to recognize Ken Rowe on March 2, 2009 with its Lifetime Conservation Award.

Ken did not rest on his laurels following that award. Instead, Ken continued to support the Society's conservation endeavors, adding ever more to a long lifetime list of success.

Ken created Clearwater Audubon Society's popular Bus Trips, which members still continue to recall fondly.

Ken was the editor of the Society's newsletter for ten plus years, as well as Chair of the Society's Investment Custodian Committee, tirelessly working to preserve Society financial resources.

That's just a short list!

Clearwater Audubon Society is more than indebted to Ken Rowe for his sage, resolute, and tireless support for over thirty years.



## 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 7**

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### Past Issue of Wing Beat



*click issue to view*  
*April May- 2014*

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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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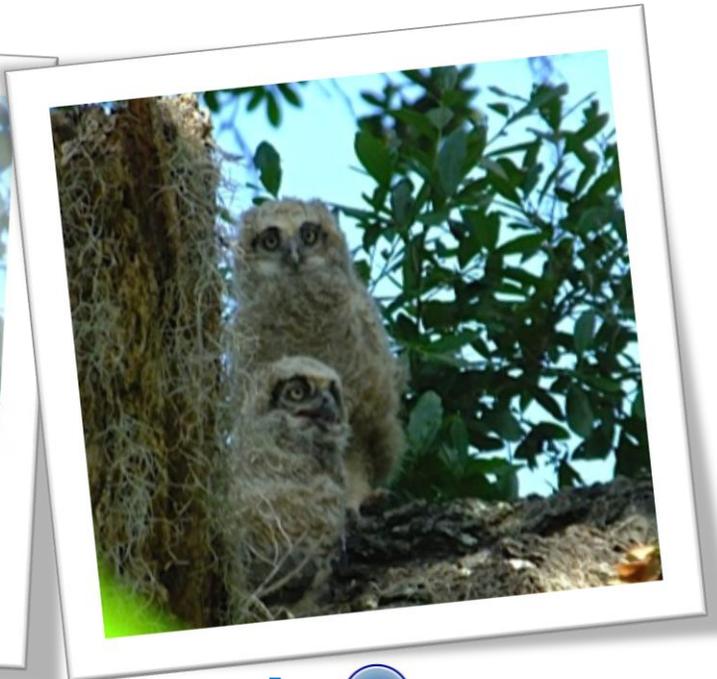
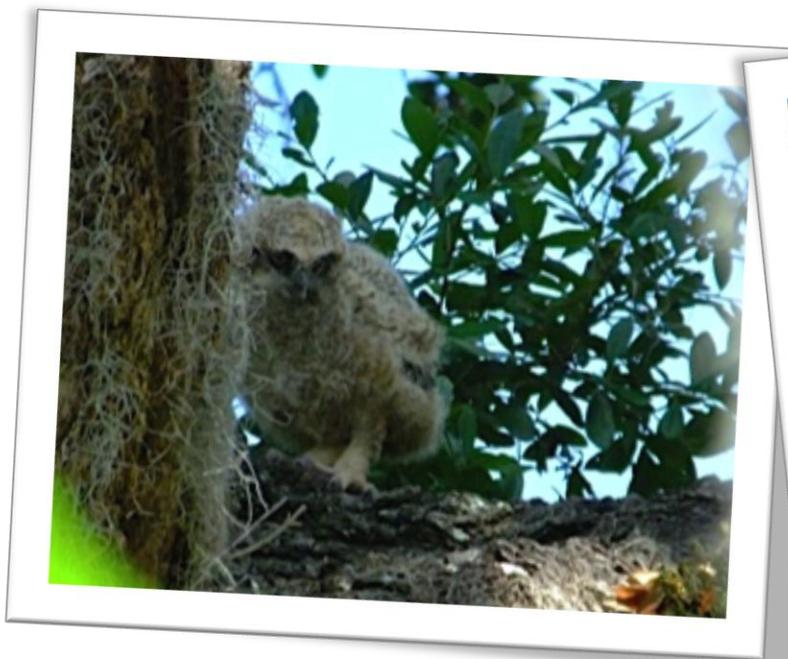
WINGBEAT/NEWSLETTER: MÉICHELLE LONG

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## Shutterbug Spotlight

- Lynn Sumerson



*Great Horned Owl chicks at Kapok Park  
Bubo virginianus*

sounds



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### FLORIDA FEATHERS, OIL PAINTINGS BY DEBORAH COFER

OPENING RECEPTION AT CLAY AND PAPER GALLERY OF ART JUNE 13, 2014

5:30 TO 8:30 PM (during Dunedin's 2nd Friday Wine/Art Walk)



Deborah's delightful personality and painting seems to be one and the same. Her birds are painted in her loose but not so loose painterly style that breaths so much life into each piece.

You are personally invited to the opening reception celebrating her work. She would love to meet you.

Refreshments, wine tasting and lite fair.

For more info visit: <http://claypaper.com/florida-feathers-new-oil-paintings-by-deborah-cofer/>

Clay and Paper Gallery of Art 362 Main St., Dunedin  
727-736-0934 [claypaper.com](http://claypaper.com)



## Annual Summer Film Fest

### Movie List:

**#1 The Life of Birds Episode Ten: The Limits of Endurance:** Focuses on birds that live in extreme environments, such as the Antarctic, and also those birds that co-exist with people. This episode also discusses conservation efforts, as well as presenting a brief overview of birds that have gone extinct in the last hundred years or so. Features penguins, sand grouse, crab plovers, Arctic gulls, vultures, city crows, purple martins, and some endangered bird species. BBC, Mike Salisbury, David Attenborough (presenter)

**#2 Episode Eight: The Demands of the Egg:** Birds go to extraordinary lengths to protect their nests and eggs, and to keep them warm. To meet these challenges, they have evolved the fine arts of weaving, pottery making, camouflage and deception. This episode features terns, dippers, frigate birds, warblers, weaver birds, red-breasted toucan, cuckoos, and imperial pigeons. One great scene is an egg-eye view of incubation, showing a bird's naked brood patch used to transfer heat to the eggs.

**#3 Episode One: To Fly or Not to Fly:** focuses on the origin of flight, using computer animated sequences that reveal and explain the two competing hypotheses regarding how birds evolved flight; the "ground up" and the "trees down" hypotheses. This episode also reviews avian evolution from the time of archaeopteryx. Includes great footage of birds hunting insects and bats, including bee eaters, kiwis, red-tailed hawks and prairie falcons.

**#4 Episode Nine: The Problems of Parenthood:** Takes a closer look at the demands made on parent birds to keep themselves and their rapidly growing offspring fed. The young bird footage is great. Features Australian Rosella parrots, coots, cuckoos, Andean torrent ducks, red geese, Arabian babblers, and open billed storks. An amazing scene shows swifts flying through a curtain of falling water to feed their chicks in a nest behind a waterfall.

*The Life of Birds* on DVD by David Attenborough (British Broadcasting Corporation; 1998). [Synopsis](#)



## Organizations We Support



[Audubon of Florida](#)



[St. Petersburg Audubon Society](#)



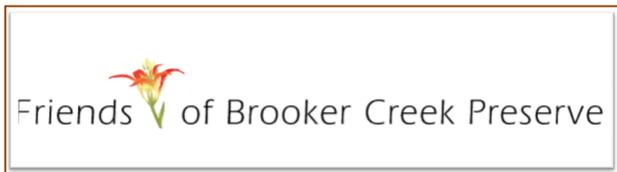
[Important Bird Areas in Florida](#)



[Great Florida Birding Trail](#)



[Florida Ornithological Society](#)



[Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve](#)



[Dunedin Osprey Cam](#)



*Jim showing the kids a Downy Woodpecker*

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