



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.

2017 The Beginning

It started about 4 weeks ago with the skies over Three Rooker turning black with the return of the beach nesting birds. They immediately got busy gathering grass & twigs for nests or making scrapes in the sand. Lots of mating dances, flights, and food offerings taking place on the beaches. Unflighted Homo sapiens got busy too; repairing and constructing fencing and placing buoys. Currently we have several thousand pairs of laughing gulls, hundreds of pairs of White ibis and long-legged waders, hundreds of pairs of terns (Royal, Caspian, Sandwich, Forsters and for the first time is several years Least terns), and many Black skimmers. As of a few days ago (today is 5/20) all species had eggs in nests or scrapes. The Ibis have chicks.

We have Black skimmers on the beach at Sand Key and Clearwater Pointe. Both groups have eggs. The Clearwater Point colony started out at about 350 birds but about 250 of them left and joined a group of about 100 on Sand Key which is a better place for them.

We also for the first time in several years have a rooftop colony of Least terns at the space center on Hercules. Corrals are in place to catch them as they fall off.

Needless to say, we need help. Three Rooker needs more stewards – we take you out in a brand new 25ft Carolina skiff. Clearwater pointe needs stewards Sat & Sun especially in the afternoons when boats pull up and let off dogs. Space Center needs several times a day patrols so the chicks don't languish in the corrals before being returned to their parents on the roof.

Please contact me if you can help – jhood2@tampabay.rr.com.

Clearwater Audubon Society

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

June, July 2017

Vol. 77 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





Membership

[Membership Application](#)

Size : 141.717 Kb

Monthly Meetings

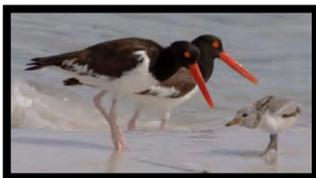
October – May
The first Monday of each month at [Moccasin Lake Nature Park](#):
Meet and Greet @ 6:30PM
Public Program @ 7:00PM
(Unless otherwise noted)

Past Issue of Wing Beat

[click issue to view](#)
Feb.- March 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](#)

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Welcome!

Photos by Meichelle Long



Annual Summer Film Fest & POPCORN!

June-August

June - The Legend of Pale Male - The story of a Red-tailed hawk that came to central park in New York City and lived a successful life siring many young.

July - Paulie - a family film of a Conure who talks, gets into trouble and travels from New Jersey to Los Angeles to find his childhood friend.

August - TBD – (Choices below)

The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill - romance, comedy, and a surprise ending

Winged Migration - academy award nominee - documentary

Dispatches from the Gulf - examines the gulf 6 years after the blowout

The Messenger - examines the status of birds in the face of climate change

September - no program - Labor Day

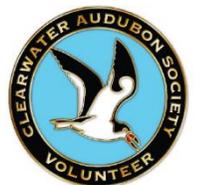


Earn Your CAS Volunteer Pin by Being a Bird Steward!

Volunteers monitor beach locations where sea and shorebirds are nesting. The beaches are surveyed early in the season and nesting sites are posted when the first egg is spotted. We usually have a black skimmer colony on Sand Key. Our primary emphasis is on Three Rooker Island which is just north of Honeymoon Island. Volunteers are transported by boat to the island where they set up in chairs and umbrellas (provided) adjacent to the colonies. They educate the folks who come by and keep people and dogs from entering the colonies. It's wonderful to spend the day on one of the only unspoiled pristine barrier islands on Florida's west coast. Nesting birds include snowy plovers, laughing gulls (4-5,000), least terns, royal terns, white ibis, Caspian terns, reddish egrets among others.

Click the PIN to learn more.

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/birdsteward.html>





Geocache Birding

Méichelle Long



When the school session ends for the year, I try to disengage myself from being a school administrator by re-engaging in as many outdoor activities as the weather will allow. Lately, the heat has kept me indoors except for early morning and late evenings. However, this is a great time for Geocaching in my area.

If you are not familiar with Geocaching, it's like a wild goose chase crossed with a treasure hunt (for very inexpensive treasure, if any at all). Someone places a cache (small container) with a log for visitors and sometimes a trinket for trade. Coordinates using latitude and longitude are then posted so that others can find and enjoy the cache. Many caches require stealth and a clever clue to discover, and others require that plus a kayak. It's a great activity for kids of all ages and teaches not only mapping skills, but also problem solving and critical thinking. We have many geocaches that students have placed and monitor around our school.

As you will notice in the map of caches to the left, Pinellas County is abundant with secret caches. A few of these caches are in the water or on the edge of a spoil island. Not to worry, some caches are "virtual" and it's just the thrill of deciphering the clue or visiting an amazing natural area.

Caching in our area encourages visitors, but also is a way to share conservation efforts, birding hotspots, and favorite features in our county.

If you would like to learn more about Geocaching, please visit the [Geocaching 101](#) page, or view this [video](#).





Share Your Science and Environmental Knowledge

By Becoming a Contract Instructor at a City of Clearwater Nature Preserve or Park

Currently Seeking Instructors to Provide Workshops/Clubs/Classes/Programs on:

- Nature Photography
- Art & Crafts
- Wildlife Education (general, plants, animal, wild edibles, birds, poison and exotic plants, reptiles and amphibians, bats, etc.)
- Science and Nature Clubs
- Gardening Basics
- Butterfly Gardening
- Bird Watching
- Astronomy
- Bicycle Eco Tours
- Kayak / Canoe Eco Tours
- Fishing 101
- Camping Essentials
- Hunters Education
- Archery
- Pioneer Skills



Classes may be conducted at Moccasin Lake Environmental Education Center, located at the Moccasin Lake Nature Preserve, 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, Florida 33759 (727) 793-2976. The park offers indoor and outdoor classroom settings, A/V equipment, tables and chairs.

Consideration for classes in other city parks will be considered including the newly opened Lake Chautauqua Equestrian and Nature Preserve, Kapok Park, Cliff Stephens Park and Bayview Park.

All program requests will undergo an approval process.

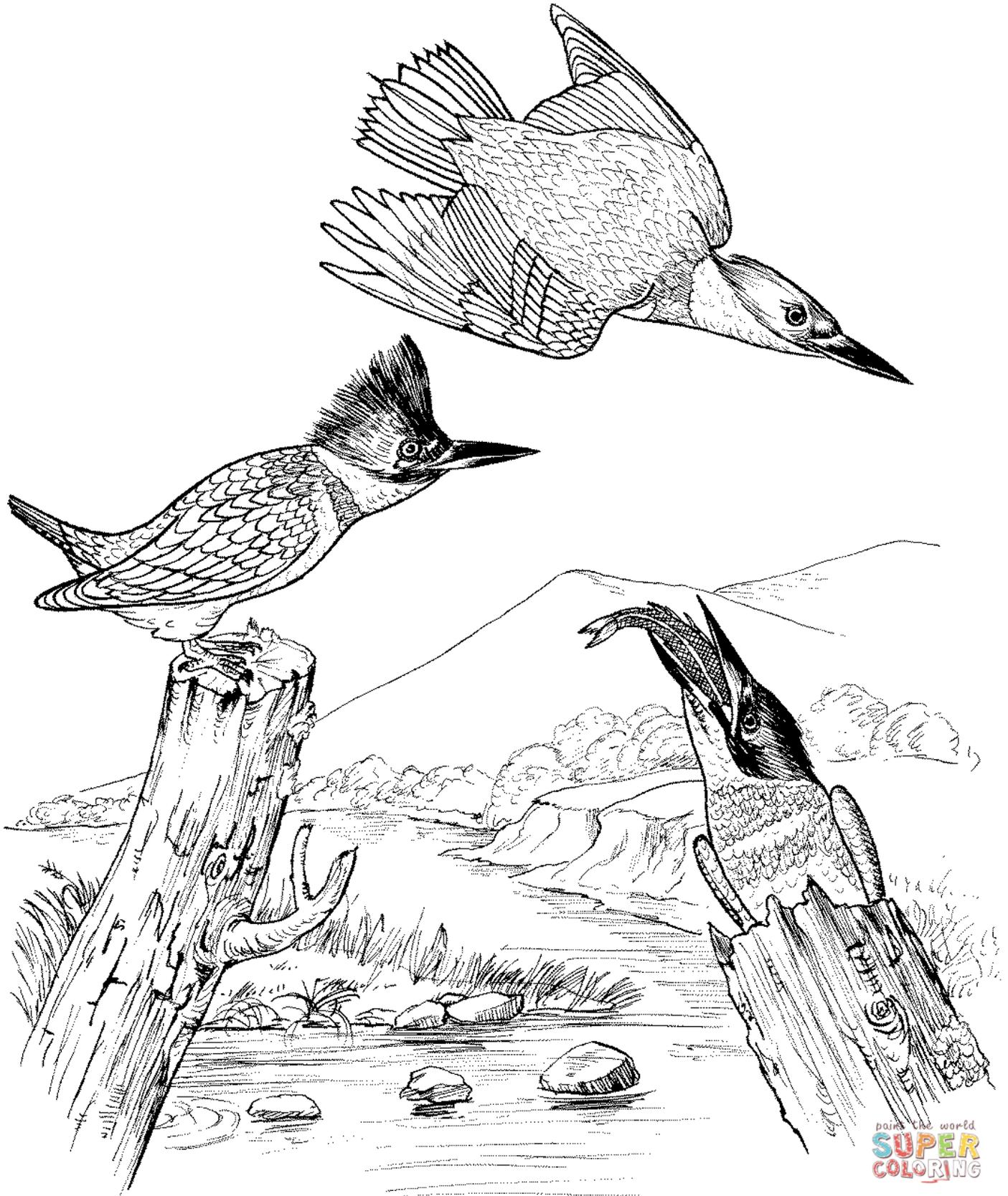
City staff will provide support in registration, fee collection and promotion of program.

Contact Lloyd Simmons for complete details at Lloyd.Simmons@MyClearwater.com or (727) 793-2976.





Belted Kingfisher: You can print this page to color, or color online [here](#).



paint the world
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COLORING



Organizations We Support



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[Important Bird Areas in Florida](#)



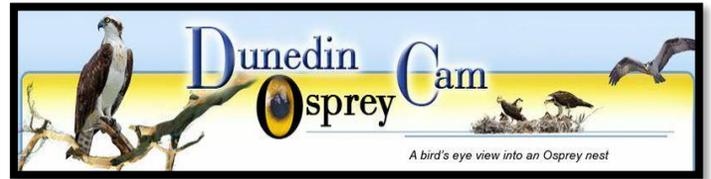
[Great Florida Birding Trail](#)



[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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