

MAY - JUNE 2019

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Conservation Through Education

The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society Vol. 88 No. 1

Wing Beat



**CLEARWATER
AUDUBON**

Conservation through Education

Make a Difference

JOIN OUR TEAM

Conservation

Our goal is to monitor colonies, increase awareness, and support research. Volunteer opportunities exist for Audubon members, local citizens, educators, college students, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts. Volunteer positions include: field monitors, photographers, citizen watchers, presenters, speakers, organizers and advocates.

Contact Barbara Walker or call 727-798-2385

Education

As part of our extensive community outreach programming, CAS hosts a series of educational events at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. With a few exceptions, these meetings are free and open to the public. They are designed to educate and to better acquaint our members and area residents with the species that we steward. Would you like to help? Email us at cas@clearwateraudubonsociety.org and let's get to know how we can best match your talents.

Community Science

Are you interested in shorebird and wading bird identification, bird counts, data recording, monitoring of nesting activities and fledging of young birds? There are many opportunities for you. Beach-nesting bird stewards, Roof-nest watch, Eagle watch, and the Wild Raptor Sanctuary are all places that could use your helping hand. Visit the Conservation tab or Community Science link on our website to learn more.

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org>

STEWARD TRAINING >>> Holley Short, FL Audubon

NEW Training Sessions Available!

We will be starting up stewardship at Outback Key the first weekend in May. If anyone is interested in helping here or getting more information, they can contact the 3 Rooker Bird Stewardship and Monitoring Coordinator, Jessica Lewis, at jessica.lewis@audubon.org.

We will also be having a training for mainland stewardship sites, which include two sites in Clearwater Beach. This training will be held May 11th from 9-11 AM, at the Indian Shores City Hall on the 4th floor. This will be a presentation that goes over the nesting species and the stewardship program. It is open to the public, especially old and new bird stewards. Anyone that wants more information or has any questions can contact me at hshort@audubon.org.

Holley Short, Project Manager

Bird Monitoring & Stewardship

Audubon Florida fl.audubon.org

Downloadable Resources

-  [Beach Bird ID Guide - Shorebirds](#)
-  [Beach Bird ID Guide - Terns & Gulls](#)
-  [What to Do if You Hook a Pelican brochure](#)
-  [Share the Beach with Beach-nesting Birds](#)
-  [Shorebird-friendly Photography](#)
-  [Be a Beach Hero](#)
-  [Dogs on the Beach](#)



Are you a member of the Clearwater Audubon Society?

You can become a member of Clearwater Audubon by visiting www.Audubon.org where you will find a full description of national membership benefits and read about the many important programs supported by Audubon.

Your membership in National Audubon automatically includes membership in your local chapter.

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Clearwater Audubon Society

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

Supporting our community since 1959 Our Motto: Conservation through Education
For more information call us at 727-442-9140



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.

Past Issue of Wing Beat

[click issue to view](#)

MAR-APRIL 2019
in this issue >>>

- World Wildlife Day
- Seward Training
- Trip to Eastern Washington
- FWC Reports on Songbird Protection
- Working Together for Change
- The New Moccasin Lake Nature Park
- Building Community



Conservation Through Education The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society Vol. 87 No. 1

Wing Beat

Spend World Wildlife Day with us.

Clearwater Audubon Society's Wild Raptor Sanctuary, inside of Moccasin Lake Nature Park, will be celebrating the Miracle of Migration on World Wildlife Day (March 3). Please join us! From 1PM- 3PM we will be sharing special time with our avian ambassadors, a 1.5 year old Peregrine Falcon, and an adult Swallow-tailed Kite.

There will also be a corresponding presentation discussing migratory flyways, climate impacts, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Audubon's 5 Conservation Strategies and Audubon's Plants for Birds. Holley Short will be discussing Shorebird Migration at 1PM, and the Girl Scouts will be there to talk about the dangers of rodenticide on non-target species and to our water supply.

Moccasin Lake Nature Park is open from 10AM-5PM for enjoyment of the other sanctuary residents, native plant gardens, butterfly garden, turtle pond, bird blind, and trails.



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)

[Pinellas County Birding Checklist](#)

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING
First Monday of the Month unless otherwise noted.



President's Message

The Clearwater Audubon Society values your membership and support. We are looking forward to our final program, and to an exciting line up for next year. We are still looking for a program coordinator, as well as volunteers to fill other key positions. Please contact us if you are interested. Filling these positions is essential to continuing our programming and activities.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook page and My Clearwater Magazine for special events. An electronic calendar is also viewable inside the Interpretive Center at Moccasin Lake Nature Park.

This summer our beach stewards will be guarding the shorebirds and hoping for no significant weather events. Please contact us if you can help and expect to see some new faces out there this year!

Enjoy migration!

Sincerely,

Barbara Walker



PLEASE NOTE:

Bird Walks are held Oct- April
General Meetings are held Oct - May

We wish a wonderful summer for all our members and supporters!
Next season's walks and programs will be listed in an upcoming Wingbeat and on our [website](#).

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT >>> Bird Blind @ MLMP

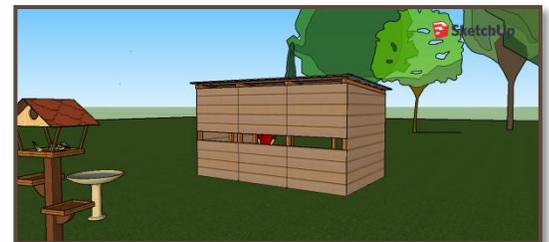
Dear Audubon Community,

I am a Boy Scout from Troop 313 working on my Eagle Scout project. Eagle Scout is the highest and last rank in Scouting. For my Eagle Scout project I have decided to help Clearwater's Moccasin Lake Nature Park. I will be building a bird blind so that visiting birdwatchers may observe Clearwater's birds without themselves being observed.

Moccasin Lake is doing a great job renovating their park. It is my hope that the project will give a pleasant addition to their park and the community. All donations for this worthwhile project are appreciated. Contact me at andrewml1000@gmail.com.

Thank you very much,

Andrew Lumsden
Life Scout, Troop 313



Spring Has Sprung!

>>> Dale Goebel

Have you or someone you know ever experienced a spring bird fallout? It sounds dramatic, even dangerous. I experienced my first fallout on Sunday, April 22nd, 2012 after a very strong storm front moved through that morning and into the early afternoon.

Bird fallout or migration fallout is the result of severe weather preventing migratory birds from reaching their destination. In our case, their destination would be the upper reaches of the Gulf of Mexico...Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and the Florida Panhandle. This can occur when birds are returning to their breeding grounds. Their exhaustion results in many birds resting in one area.

This is one of my favorite clips from the movie *The Big Year*. If you think it's an exaggeration, it's Not!! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NyUvqSTczg>

The alert on this day was sounded by our own Paul Trunk who had posted his Sunday afternoon finds at Honeymoon Island State Park on Birdbrains (Our FL birders listserv). I headed out to Honeymoon Island State Park about 4:30pm. How do I recall those details? Because of a passion for birding and finding new birds to put on my life list !



Cape May Warbler



Chestnut-sided Warbler



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

A life list is a cumulative record of the bird species an individual birder successfully identifies. Keeping a list is the easiest way to track which birds the birder has seen.

It was only the beginning of what became one of the most memorable weeks of birding for me and many others. Although the reports of birds at Honeymoon Island State Park were great, the reports from Ft. DeSoto Park were out of this world. I took off two vacation days that week, and the Tuesday was beyond belief. Birds everywhere...warblers, tanagers, thrush, vireos, raptors, shorebirds, the list goes on and on. I compared it to Disney World for birders. I was hooked!

We've still got a couple weeks of excellent spring birding ahead... get out there!



Wood Thrush



Orchard Oriole



Female Tanager

BONUS: Did you know that we can now follow bird migration with radar? We can! Real-time bird migration maps show intensities of actual bird migration as detected by the US weather surveillance radar network. All graphics are relative to the Eastern Time zone.

Follow along as the birds migrate:
<http://birdcast.info/>

Article with explanation on how the radar works:
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/how-doppler-radar-can-track-bird-migrations-180952834/>

Links to Excellent articles and video about spring migration and a couple just for fun... check them out.

Gulf Crossing: Story of Spring Jim Stevenson, Ornithologist, our Jan. 2019 speaker:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e20qNjdcSUK>

What's a Life List:
<https://www.thespruce.com/what-birds-count-on-a-life-list-386704>

Who/birds migrate:
<https://www.thespruce.com/types-of-bird-migration-386055>

Best places to experience spring migration:
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/best-places-america-see-spring-migration-180958494/>

Looking for a little adventure this summer?
Visit the Wild Raptor Sanctuary at Moccasin Lake Nature Park.
The schedule is available for viewing during all hours when the park is open.

"Who cooks for you? Who cooks for YOU-aaallllll?"

Photo by Jody Leak

3 Fast Facts about the Barred Owl



© J. LEAK

#notes

Be careful not to mistake this owl for a giant wasp nest- take a second look. They are stocky owls with rounded heads, no ear tufts, and medium length, rounded tails. See their [history here](#).

#nesting

Barred owls nest in tree cavities, or in abandoned red-shouldered hawk nests, and produce 2 to 3 white eggs, with an incubation time of 28 to 33 days. The incubation duties are the responsibility of the female bird.

#noises

The increasingly common owl has more than a dozen calls, including one that sounds like a monkey. Click [here](#) to listen to some of their calls, yourself.

Print and Color this Barred Owl

Click the Links for More Owl-Related Activities for Kids of All Ages



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