



August & September, 2008

Vol. 42 No. 1

Going Green - Tiny Changes!

by Clearwater Audubon Society President, Mike MacDonald

Vampire appliances/electronics are anything plugged in that draws energy when it's supposedly turned off! These vampires consume 5% of U.S. energy, \$4-billion annually; that: TV/VCR/cablebox DVD/microwave/computer/cellphonecharger/radio/washer dryer/wirelessphone/etc.

Annual Kilowatt Hours Consumed

Radio	13
Cordless Phone	29
LCD	23
Computer	311
Laptop	145
Laser Printer	113
Plasma TV	1452
VCR	92
DVD	79
Game Console	35

Rechargeable Tooth brush 12

TOTAL 2304KwH x \$.11/KwH
= \$253.42 & 1.39 metric tons of carbon a year.

Reality bites, eh! So, let's get busy.

- Install smart power strips and attached appliances are really OFF when you push that button! Plus, the power strip helps protect against Florida's infamous power surges.
- Compact Fluorescent Lamps [CFLs] once cost \$20 each, now about \$2 each. CFLs consume 1/4th the energy of an incandescent bulb, AND they last 10 – 15 years.

A Tiny Change! Assume there are 45 incandescent 100W bulbs in your home, and burn them on for 2 hours each day, or 9 KwH per day. CFLs would use 2.25 KwH per day, about \$.25 a day, & \$90 a year. They'd pay your investment in the first year, & keep 66# of carbon out of the atmosphere. Do the math for 900+ Clearwater Audubon Society members: nearly 30 tons of carbon removed from Earth's atmosphere annually, plus \$81,000 saved annually after CFL pay off in year one. **A Tiny Change Yields Huge Dividends!**

These links will help calculate carbon footprint & energy consumption:

- <http://www.carbonfootprint.com/energyconsumption.html> [British pound – \$1.98177, Kg = 2.2#]
- http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html
- <http://www.greenerchoices.org/globalwarmingathome.cfm?page=Toolkit#Appliancecalculators>
- <http://cleantechnica.com/2008/05/03/smart-power-strips-the-garlic-of-vampire-electronics/>
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Inside this issue

Wingbeat Sponsors	2
Audubon Public Programs.....	3
Audubon Field Trips	4
Life's a Beach for Pinellas County Waterbirds	7
North Pinellas Bald Eagle Data	7
Hummingbird Habitats.....	8
Pinellas Birds.....	8
Celebrate Urban Birds.....	8
Volunteer Positions	9
OspreyWatch.....	10
Kite County!.....	10

WING BEAT

August & September 2008
Vol. 42 No. 1

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Clearwater Audubon Society
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WING BEAT Editor - Acting Barb Walker

WING BEAT submissions deadline for the next issue is September 12, 2008.

Please submit articles via email to: submissions@clearwateraudubon.org or mail to the address above, Attn: Wingbeat Editor.

WING BEAT advertising deadline for the next issue is September 12, 2008. Business size ads are \$25 per issue. Please address other rate inquiries to Treasurer, Jane Williams at 727.447.7394.

Please submit ads via email to: adsubmission@clearwateraudubon.org or mail to the address above, Attn: Wingbeat Ads.

Officers of Clearwater Audubon Society

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2nd VP, Sid Crawford	785-3860
Treasurer, Jane Williams	447-7394
Recording Secretary & Membership Chair, Barbara MacDonald	776-2336
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U Stor N Lock
18946 US Highway 19 N
Clearwater, Fl. 33764
727 531-4040

U Stor N Lock donates storage space to Clearwater Audubon

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

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Clearwater Audubon Public Programs 2008/2009

All Programs are free and open to the public - *Please join us!*

Presented at Moccasin Lake Nature Park

2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, FL 33759

727-462-6024

Mix-N-Mingle at 7PM, Public Program at 7:30PM

unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY - OCTOBER 6, 2008

Moths

by Don Stillwaugh

Senior Environmental Specialist

Pinellas County Dept of Environmental Management

This presentation focuses on raising awareness about this colorful and diverse group of insects. Don covers the natural history of moths, a brief overview of the major families and common species, & methods for studying moths. Visitors are invited to join Don outside as he demonstrates black lighting, a technique used by scientists to attract moths.

SPECIAL TIME – 6PM

MONDAY – NOVEMBER 3, 2008

Pot-luck & Audubon Camp Presentations

Each year for the past 23 years, Clearwater Audubon has sent teacher & students to the famed Audubon Educator Camp at Hog Island Maine. Join us for a pot-luck dinner while our scholarship recipients present their camp experiences.

MONDAY - DECEMBER 1, 2008

Susan Cerulean

Florida writer, naturalist & activist

Susan's nature memoir, *Tracking Desire: A Journey After Swallow-tailed Kites*, was named Editors' Choice by Audubon magazine, & landed Cerulean the Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club's annual nature writing award in December 2005. Susan has written & advocated on behalf of Florida & its wildlife from her home in Tallahassee since 1981. She designed the state's Nongame & Watchable Wildlife programs, & was named Environmental Educator of the Year by the Governor's Council for a Sustainable Florida in 1997.

SPECIAL PLACE: UU Church of Clearwater

2470 Nursery Rd, Clearwater

between US19 & Belcher Rd, north side of Nursery Rd

MONDAY - JANUARY 5, 2009

Ivory-billed Woodpecker Project

by Ron Rohrbaugh

Project Director, Cornell University

Joint meeting with St. Pete Audubon - This is the fourth season Ron has directed the Lab's ivory-bill search in Arkansas. Ron works with the entire team to hammer out overall strategy for the search, coordinating with many partners in this far-reaching project. Ron has been with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology since 1996. He has an M.S. in Wildlife Science & Ecology & a B.S. in Wildlife Science, both from The Pennsylvania State University. Ron will fill us in on one of the great ornithological stories of our time...the search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. This will be truly an evening we will long remember.

MONDAY - FEBRUARY 2, 2009

Alligators, Sharks & Panthers

by Charles Sobczak

Charles Sobczak is an award-winning author that lives & writes on Sanibel Island, Florida, where he has been for nearly 20 years. Charles Sobczak is a lifetime member of the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, a long-standing member of the Sanibel Fishing Club & a member of the Sanibel & Captiva Board of Realtors. When he is not writing, Charles makes his living selling island real estate & is currently a top-selling Realtor with Coldwell Banker Previews International. Charles enjoys taking long vacations with his wife * two children, fishing & reading. Some of his favorite authors include John Steinbeck, Kenneth Patchen, Kahlil Gibran & Joseph Heller.

MONDAY - MARCH 2, 2009

Natural History of Birds in Ecuador

by Rudy Gelis

Rudy began his career in ornithology when he was awarded a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship in 1997. After studying nesting Andean Condors in Argentina & penguins on the Falkland Islands, Rudy settled in Ecuador. Over the past decade, as an active member of the Yanayacu Natural History Research Group in Ecuador, Rudy has collaborated in numerous publications in refereed ornithology journals. Rudy has assisted in other ornithological works, including breeding bird surveys in the Northeast U.S. and clay-lick use by parrots and macaws in the rainforest of southern Peru. Applying his strong background in botany & great interest in the entire natural world, he leads birding & natural history tours throughout much of Ecuador & Peru. In addition, he instructs university-level natural history courses in Ecuador & frequently offer eco-tourism courses & assist in professional workshops for guides & park guards in Latin America. Rudy has also co-authored *Plumas: Birds in Ecuador*, a fine art photography book.

MONDAY - APRIL 6, 2009

Natural History of

Panama, Guatemala, & Nicaragua

by Elston Raimundo Chavarria

Elston is a graduate in Forestry at the School of Natural Resources at Humboldt State University in California. He has worked for the U.S Forest Service for 5 years, mainly in reforestation & restoration of our ecology. From the Olympic National Forest in Washington to the El Dorado National Forest in nearby Lake Tahoe, Nevada, He has experienced the diverse natural treasures of our National Forests. Along the way he has worked restoring our Pacific salmon habitat in the Pacific Northwest, as well as experiencing the natural wonders of Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Brazil. Rudy's presentation is on the conservation efforts in these countries and how the ecosystems in Florida relate to the ecosystems in central America.

MONDAY - MAY 4, 2009

Yesteryear I Lived in Paradise –

The story of Caladesi Island

by Terry Fortner

Terry is the granddaughter of Myrtle Scharrer Betz. Terry will present stories about her grandmother's experience growing up on Caladesi Island. You will walk away from this presentation with an appreciation of Myrtle's qualities of strength, humor, & individuality, as well as an insight into a way of life which is now gone forever.

Clearwater Audubon Field Trips

September 2008 through August 2009

PLEASE READ THIS FIRST

All phone numbers are area code 727 unless otherwise noted.

TRAVEL EXPENSES

Riders are expected to share travel expenses. Due to energy costs, & carbon reduction efforts, car pooling & van use is strongly recommended!

Contact field trip leader for details.

Van rental requires 10 non-refundable deposits three days before field trip.

HILITE number after Field Trip description is approximate one way mileage

FM Assembly Place TO Field Trip destination

FREE SHORT DAY FIELD TRIPS

2-4 hours of fun for bird, wildlife, & outdoor lovers!

Field guides; suitable clothes & shoes; sun screen; water;

Insect repellent, etc are really good ideas!

Some sites have no or primitive facilities, noted by {brackets}; rest stops enroute.

FREE LONG DAY FIELD TRIPS

Mornings, up to 8 hours - come prepared!

All other details as in FREE SHORT DAY

PLEASE! Contact Field Trip Leader before Field Trip schedule

MULTI - DAY TRIPS

Costs include lodging, food & transport.

Contact field trip leader for all details.

Requires non-refundable deposit & reservation seven days prior

TIMES & MEETING PLACES

Times listed in Field Trip descriptions are *departure time from meeting place!*

Assemble at meeting place 15 minutes prior to departure time.

Meeting places are listed with each field trip description.

General information about field trip sites:

Visit the web address listed after the field trip description.

Great Florida birding trail: <http://floridabirdingtrail.com/>

QUESTIONS?

LATEST INFORMATION?

Contact the Field Trip Leader, or check CAS web site.

SEPTEMBER 2008

Saturday, September 6, 2008, 8AM – Moccasin Lake Nature Park – Mike Macdonald, 409-0459: meet in the Park: songbirds & raptors in oak & xeric hammock, water birds in lake. ¼ mile trail.

<http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp>

Saturday, September 20, 2008, 10AM – Armchair Birding at Bonner Park – Lynn Sumerson, 596-8822, Mike MacDonald, 409-0459 - meet in parking lot at Bonner Park - bring your folding chair & binoculars if you have them: shore & water birds for beginning birders, out of the sun, over the water, with introduction to birding.

<http://www.largo.com/egov/apps/locations/facilities.egov?path=detail&id=35>

Saturday, September 27, 2008, 8AM – {Dunedin Causeway} & Honeymoon Island – Paul Trunk, 447-4785 - meet behind McDonald's at ALT US19 & Curlew Road: wading, shore, & water birds along Causeway; raptors & songbirds along 1 mile Honeymoon Island sand trails.

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/honeymoonisland/default.cfm>

OCTOBER 2008

Saturday, October 4, 2008, 8AM – Moccasin Lake Nature Park - Madeleine Bohrer, 518-6241 - meet in the Park: songbirds & raptors in oak & xeric hammock, water birds in lake. ¼ mile trail.

<http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp>

Wednesday, October 8, 2008, 8AM – Dunedin Hammock – Lynn Sumerson, 596-8822 - meet in Hammock parking lot: explore a variety of habitats for songbirds, shorebirds, raptors & Gopher Tortoise burrows; 1 mile of sand trails & some boardwalks.

http://www.dunedingov.com/home.aspx?page=departments/leisureServices/parks_hammock

PLEASE! Contact Field Trip Leader before Field Trip schedule.

Saturday, October 11, 2008, 8AM - Bonner Park [Largo] – Lynn Sumerson, 596-8822 – meet in the Bonner parking lot; water & shorebirds along intra-coastal waterway, songbirds in the Mangrove & uplands habitats; ¼ mile natural trails & boardwalk.

<http://www.largo.com/egov/apps/locations/facilities.egov?path=detail&id=35>

Saturday, October 18, 2008, 8AM – North Anclote River Nature Park - Merle Hubbard, 939-1549 – meet at Staples at US19 & Tarpon Road: migrant songbirds & raptors at this quiet little known gem. ¼ mile shell &

boardwalk trails. [For web information, type in park name, scroll thru web page]

Wednesday, October 22, 2008, 10AM – {Dunedin Causeway Kayak Float} – Jane Williams, 447-7394 - meet at Kayak Rental on the Causeway [rentals available]: explore the shore birds on North Caladesi Island from the water.

NOVEMBER 2008

Saturday, November 1, 2008, 8AM – Moccasin Lake Nature Park – Paul Trunk, 447-4785 - meet in the Park: water & song birds, raptors in oak & xeric hammock; ¾ mile trail.
<http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp>

Wednesday, November 5, 2008, 8AM, Fred Howard County Park – Merle Hubbard, 939-1549 – meet in first parking lot on right off main park road: songbirds, water & shorebirds in uplands, water & shoreline habitats; ¾ mile sand trails & beach. http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/06_Howard.htm

MULTI-DAY TRIP, Saturday, November 8, 2008 – Saturday, 11/15/08, Trinidad & Tobago eco-tour – Jane Williams, 447-7394 for details.

Saturday, November 22, 2008, 8AM, Allen's Creek Park + Allen's Creek Preserve – Mike MacDonald, 409-0459 – meet in west parking lot at Allen's Creek Park [Hercules Rd at east end of Lakeview Rd]: songbirds, raptors, water birds in variety of Clearwater's urban habitats; ¾ mile of trails.
<http://www.myclearwater.com/gov/depts/parksrec/ParksAndRecFacilities/FacilityDetails.asp?fid2=46>
<http://www.pinellascounty.org/Environment/pagesHTML/envLands/el1000.html#allen>

DECEMBER 2008

Saturday, December 6, 2008, 8AM – Moccasin Lake Nature Park – Madeleine Bohrer, 518-6241 - meet in the: water & song birds, raptors in lake, oak & xeric hammocks. ¾ mile trail.
<http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp>

PLEASE: Contact Field Trip Leader before Field Trip Schedule.

LONG DAY TRIP, Saturday, December 13, 2008, 8AM – Brooker Creek Preserve – Ken Rowe, 781-0745 – meet at Brooker Creek Preserve Education Center; songbirds, raptors, critters, wildflowers & more. Up to 3 miles of natural trails & boardwalk; easy to difficult; often wet mud bogs.
http://www.friendsofbrookercreekpreserve.org/about_the_preserve.htm

ALL DAY - Sunday, December 21, 2008, all day – Annual Christmas Bird Count – Merle Hubbard, 939-1549 – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

MULTI-DAY TRIP, Friday, 12/26/08 - Wednesday, 12/31/08 - Rio Grande Valley, TX – Paul Trunk, 447-4785, for complete details.

JANUARY 2009

Saturday, January 3, 2009, 8AM – Moccasin Lake Nature Park – Madeleine Bohrer, 518-6241 - meet in Park: water & song birds, raptors in lake, oak & xeric hammocks. ¾ mile trail.
<http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp>

LONG DAY TRIP, Wednesday, January 7, 2009, 8AM – Ft. DeSoto County Park – Lynn Sumerson, 596-8822 – meet at Ft DeSoto Ranger Station: songbirds, raptors, water & shore birds along causeways, shoreline drive & 1+ mile natural trails on Tampa Bay north shore. 27 + toll.
http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/05_Ft_DeSoto.htm

MULTI-DAY TRIP, Friday Evening, 1/17/09, 5PM - Sunday 1/18/09, 4PM STA5 & Corkscrew Swamp – Paul Trunk, 447-4785 for details; cost: TBA, reservations required, maximum 15; meet at Coachman Fundamental Middle School: indigenous & migratory species. 145 + toll.
<http://www.corkscrew.audubon.org/>

http://myfwc.com/duck/check_stations/stas/STA%20Waterfowl%20Areas.htm

JANUARY 2009

Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 8AM – {Clearwater Specialties} & Miniature Art Society Annual Exhibit – Mike MacDonald, 409-0459 – meet at Brighthouse Stadium north park lot: songbirds, raptors & water birds in the City of Clearwater. Lunch in Largo, docent tour world's premier Miniature Art show. <http://www.miniature-art.com/>

LONG DAY TRIP, Saturday, January 31, 2009, 7AM – {Bartow Borrow Pits} - Dana Kerstein, 441-1609 - meet at Tri-City Mall in front of Party City: raptors, songbirds & water birds galore in restored phosphate mines! 45.

FEBRUARY 2009

Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 8AM – {Gateway Wetlands} & Tampa Bay Auto Museum - Ken Rowe, 781-0745 or Mike MacDonald, 727-538-8688 - meet at Tri-City Mall in front of Party City: resident, migratory, water, wading & song birds near Feather Sound; early 20th century European marques, & replica of world's first automobile. <http://tbauto.org/>

PLEASE: Contact Field Trip Leader before Field Trip Schedule.

Saturday, February 7, 2009, 8AM – Moccasin Lake Nature Park – Lynn Sumerson, 596-8822 – meet in the Park: : water & song birds, raptors in lake, oak & xeric hammocks. ¾ mile trail.
<http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp>

MULTI-DAY TRIP, Saturday, February 7, 2009, 6AM - Sunday, 2/8/09, 4PM+ - Merritt Island NWR – Paul Trunk, 447-4785 – meet at Coachman Fundamental Middle School: rails, scrub-jays, water & shore birds, raptors and more; phone leader for more details. 150 + toll.
<http://www.nbbd.com/godo/minwr/>

Wednesday, February 18, 2009, 7:30AM, Cockroach Bay – Lynn Sumerson, 596-8822, Mike MacDonald, 409-0459 - meet at Tri-City Mall in front of Party City; water & shore birds, raptors, songbirds in ponds & one of Tampa Bay's most productive estuaries. 40 + toll.
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/sites/cockroach/>

Saturday, February 21, 2009, 9AM – {Courtney Campbell Causeway} & Al Lopez Park, Mike MacDonald, 409-0459 – meet in front of Target at Clearwater Mall: water & shore birds on Causeway to Rocky Point; songbirds at Al Lopez Park. 14. http://www.trails.com/tcatalog_trail.asp?trailid=HGD124-001

MARCH 2009

Saturday, March 7, 2009, 8AM – Moccasin Lake Nature Park – Lynn Sumerson, 596-8822 - meet in the Park: : water & song birds, raptors in lake, oak & xeric hammocks. ¾ mile trail. <http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp>

LONG DAY TRIP - Saturday, March 14, 2009, 6AM – Babcock-Webb Prairie – Paul Trunk, 447-4785 – meet at Coachman Fundamental Middle School: resident & migrant warblers, bluebird, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, wood stork, Bachman's sparrow, burrowing owl, brown-headed nuthatch, red-cockaded woodpecker & more in pine flatwoods. 65 + toll.
http://myfwc.com/recreation/babcock_webb/nc_dry_prairie.asp

Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 8AM – Sawgrass Lake County Park/Anderson Environmental Education Center –

Sid Crawford, 785-3960 – meet behind interpretive center: Blackburnian Warblers, water & shorebirds, songbirds in hardwood hammocks; 1½ miles boardwalks & sand trails. http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/16_Sawgrass.htm

MARCH 2009

LONG DAY TRIP, Saturday, March 21, 2009, 7:30AM – (Circle-B-Bar Ranch) – Lynn Sumerson, 596-8822, Mike MacDonald, 409-0459 - Meet at Tri-City Mall in front of Party City: eagles, raptors, songbirds, water birds [resident White Pelicans] & alligators at former cattle ranch Lake Hancock shores. 3½ mile sand trails. **56 + toll.** http://www.polk-county.net/county_offices/natural_resources/environmental_lands/Circle_B_Bar.aspx

LONG DAY TRIP, Saturday, March 28, 2009, 7:30AM – Morris Bridge & Lettuce Lake – Merle Hubbard, 939-1549 - meet at Tri-City Mall in front of Party City: migratory songbirds, raptors, water birds; boardwalks & sand trails, Morris Bridge, ¾ mile; Lettuce Lake, 1-2 miles. **35.** <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/recreation/areas/lh-morris.html> http://tampabay.citysearch.com/profile/2687338/tampa_fl/lettuce_lake_park.html

APRIL 2009

LONG DAY TRIP, Friday, April 3, 2009, 7AM – Cross Bar Ranch - Ken Rowe, 781-0745 – meet at Countryside Shopping Town in front of Sears by US19 frontage road, bring lunch & drinks: carpool to site where a safari bus will transport birders to observe resident & migratory songbirds, raptors & burrowing owls; learn about Florida water resources. **40 + toll.** http://www.fnps.org/pages/fnps/page_announcement.php?id=1747

AUDUBON ACADEMY: Friday to Sunday, dates TBA: learn how to make your Audubon Chapter more effective – Mike MacDonald, 409-0459. http://www.audubon.org/states/fl/fl/who_chapters_academy.html

Saturday, April 4, 2009, 8AM – Moccasin Lake Nature Park - Madeleine Bohrer, 518-6241 – meet in the Park: songbirds & raptors in oak & xeric hammock, water birds in lake. ¾ mile trail. <http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp>

PLEASE!
Contact Field Trip Leader before
Field Trip schedule.

LONG DAY TRIP, Saturday, April 8, 2009, 7:30AM – Emerson Point Park – Mike MacDonald, 409-0459 – meet at Tri-City Mall in front of Party City: raptors, songbirds, water & shore birds [Snowy Plovers?], hardwood hammock, coastal berm, mangroves; 5+ miles boardwalks, sand & grass trails. **46 + toll.** <http://www.baysoundings.com/fall02/adventure.html>

LONG DAY TRIP, Saturday, April 11, 2009, 7:30AM – Ft. DeSoto County Park – Paul Trunk, 447-4785 – meet at Tri-City Mall in front of Party City: migratory songbirds, raptors, water & shore birds; causeway & shoreline drive + 1-2 mile trail walk on Tampa Bay's north shore. **27 +toll.** http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/05_Ft_DeSoto.htm

LONG DAY TRIP, Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 7:30AM – Ft. DeSoto County Park – Jackie Williams, 585-3587 – meet at Tri City Mall in front of Party City: migratory songbirds, raptors, water & shore birds along causeway & shoreline, 1-2

mile sand trail on Tampa Bay's north shore. **27 + toll.** http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/05_Ft_DeSoto.htm

Saturday, April 18, 2009, 7AM – Green Key & Werner-Boyce Salt Springs – Paul Trunk, 447-4785 – meet at Countryside Shopping Town in front of Sears near US19 frontage road; rails, wrens, songbirds, water & shorebirds + raptors are all possible in Mangrove wetlands, scrub and beach habitats. **19.** http://www.fivay.org/green_key.html <http://www.floridastateparks.org/werner-boyce/default.cfm>

Wednesday, April 22, 2009, 8AM – Honeymoon Island State Park - Merle Hubbard, 939-1549 – meet behind McDonalds at corner of ALT US19 & Curlew Road: wading, water & shore birds plus migratory songbirds & raptors. 2-3 mile walk on sand trails. <http://www.floridastateparks.org/honeymoonisland/default.cfm>

Saturday, April 25, 2009, 8AM – John Chesnut County Park – Ken Rowe, 781-0745 - meet at Peggy Park Trail parking lot: resident & migratory songbirds, raptors & more. Easy walk on packed trails & pavement. http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/04_Chesnut.htm

MAY 2009

Saturday, 5/2/09, 8AM – Moccasin Lake Nature Park – Mike MacDonald, 409-0459 - meet in the Park: songbirds & raptors in oak & xeric hammock, waterbirds in lake. ¾ mile trail; Brunch With The Birds during Clearwater's Fun-N-Sun celebration. <http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp>

Saturday, 5/9/09, 8AM – Philippe County Park & Safety Harbor Museum – Ken Rowe, 781-0745, meet at first parking lot: raptors, shorebirds & resident songbirds on Old Tampa Bay; learn about Pinellas history; lunch at Whistle Stop. http://www.pinellascounty.org/park/11_Philippe.htm

Saturday, 5/16/09, 9AM – Florida Aquarium & Alafia Banks float trip – Jane Williams, 447-7394, phone for details: water & shorebirds galore on this Tampa Bay exploration of the Audubon Sanctuaries; float, sit & discover. **18.** <http://web1.ls.sp1.yahoo.com/details?id=14445402> <http://www.americavictory.org/about-resources.asp>

JUNE 2009

Saturday, 6/6/09, 8AM – Moccasin Lake Nature Park - Madeleine Bohrer, 518-6241 - meet in the Park: songbirds & raptors in oak & xeric hammock, waterbirds in lake. ¾ mile trail. <http://www.clearwater-fl.com/gov/depts/parksrec/facilities/mlnp.asp>

Saturday, 6/13/09, 8AM – Clearwater Marine Aquarium – Mike MacDonald, 409-0459, meet at Clearwater Marine Aquarium: explore the marine environment of St. Joseph Sound with CMA biologists; lunch on mainland. <http://www.cmaqarium.org/>

JULY 2009

MULTI – DAY TRIP: Wednesday, 7/29/09, 6AM – Thursday, 8/6/09, 6PM+ - Southeastern Arizona Birding – Paul Trunk, 447-4785 for details; hummingbirds, songbirds, raptors galore in the Chiracahua & Huachuca mountains.

Life's a Beach for Pinellas County Waterbirds *by Dana Kerstein*

This summer we have had great success with our Project Colony Watch beach nesting bird program. Clearwater Audubon members supply many volunteer hours for Honeymoon Island State Park assisting biologist Ranger Dan Larramore. We help erect signage and arrange string barriers to nesting areas as well as remove boatloads of trash. We educate island visitors about how special our nesting birds and their chicks are to their islands. The birds are very sensitive to human encroachment, and may elect not to nest when they feel threatened. The highly camouflaged eggs and young also can be unintentionally stepped on.

The past ten years of this project has helped improve the chick's chances of survival. Project Colony Watch includes Caladesi, Honeymoon, Three Rooker, and Anclote barrier islands. Our nesting birds share these islands with many visitors and boaters. These species are particularly reliant on the state's coastal barrier islands for nesting and survival as the islands are the few places left undeveloped.

This year our islands birds hatched approximately 4 American Oystercatchers, 300 Least Terns, 7000 Laughing Gulls, 950 Black Skimmers, 8 Caspian Terns, 629 Royal Terns, 4 Sandwich Terns, 10 Wilson's Plovers, 5 Snowy Plovers, 450 White Ibis, 2 Reddish Egrets, and 13 Willet and a Partridge and a pear tree.

We were fortunate not to have any early storms that could have washed over the nesting eggs or chicks.

Our success is measured by the large number of birds that were born and grew up to fly away from these islands. The public appears to be more aware and accepting of our stewarding of these precious areas.

The leadership and support of Honeymoon Island State Park Superintendent, and Ranger Dan Larramore are very much responsible for this year's success. The hundreds of hours volunteers donated for the birds has paid off. I would like to thank my husband, Harvey for the boat time and fuel donated throughout the last 10 years transporting us from island to island.

We encourage you to join us on this most fulfilling and beautiful project. Call me at 727-441-1609 or email me at hkerstein@tampabay.rr.com

North Pinellas Bald Eagle Data *by Barbara Walker*

The number of North Pinellas Bald Eagle nests monitored per year varies from year to year as does the number of young produced in a particular nesting season. This year based on current data we see a decline in the number of young produced. With data still coming in, the count for north Pinellas county nests was 12 with 10 young. This

excludes Hillsborough and Pasco County nests. There were 27 young last year in 14 counted nests. The last time that nests outnumbered young was in 1997/1998, a decade ago. The data also suggests a slight decline in the number of nests counted with the lowest being 6 in 1996. As of this time we are still monitoring a nest called PI25 which is located at the southwestern base of the Bayside Bridge on top of a cell tower. The mature female Bald Eagle is still on-site.

This was one of three nests to produce 2 young this year. The highest number of nests was 17 in 2002/2003. Charts reveal a slight pattern with a negative impact on nests and young correlating approximately every 3 to 5 years. One pair of Bald Eagles didn't show up this year. The pair which nested at Walker Ford previously in a cell tower could not be located. Meanwhile the adult female at the Bayside Bridge maybe staking her last claim on Tampa Bay before development along shorelines takes its toll on that species as it has on Osprey.

Nests on man-made structures combined with busy roads can be difficult to monitor both from the ground and from the air. "I can see a white head from 1000 feet up" said John White who flew over the Grey Oaks nest earlier this year when expressing the difficulty of checking nests by air in an urban environment. A field examination determined that one adult Bald Eagle died underneath the nest at Grey Oaks this year and no young survived.

If Bald Eagles adapt at an increasing rate we may see more competition for platforms and towers where Osprey currently reside. The Oldsmar landscape is one area to monitor carefully. Perhaps we will see Eagles among the Osprey. We may see increasing numbers of raptors like Eagles and Osprey in backyard habitats. At this level of urbanization we probably have more car habitat than wildlife habitat.

The Draft Bald Eagle Management Plan from August 3rd, 2007 states, "The quality of foraging habitats is characterized by the diversity, abundance, and vulnerability of eagle prey and the structure of the aquatic habitat (e.g., presence of shallow water), and the extent of human disturbance (Buehler 2000). Bald eagle nesting habitats are protected by law, but little or no emphasis has yet been placed on the preservation of roosting or foraging habitats (Mojica 2006)." The plan was adopted in 2008. Additionally, "Florida's historic bald eagle population must have been well in excess of 1000 nesting pairs. And numbers around Tampa Bay and Merritt Island were thought to be among the densest breeding concentrations of a large raptor known anywhere on earth (Peterson and Robertson 1978)" says the plan regarding historical distribution. Currently our team monitors 3 nests near Tampa Bay, Oldsmar, Safety Harbor and the Bayside Bridge.

"What struck me in reading management plans is that they are management plans for developers not plans to protect Bald Eagles" said Joan Brigham in a phone interview on July 13th. Raptor issues are as important now as they were before delisting because the numbers over the past couple of years are still too close not to be,

particularly in Pinellas County. Conservation Easements and Site Specific Raptor Management Plans should be part of our community planning. The more citizen data we are able to collect the better we will be able to communicate with our county officials and developers to keep a gentle, natural footprint in our communities. Currently, other states and other counties are doing a better job of managing wildlife than we are. The Bald Eagles in Pinellas County are at somewhat of a tipping point. Several territories are in jeopardy and the future appears very fragile. Pinellas County has an opportunity to create a county Bald Eagle Management Plan

A special thank you to all the citizen volunteers for OspreyWatch. Any errata data will be corrected upon Joan Brigham's return.

Hummingbird Habitats By Barbara Walker

My house borders a small horse farm in the East Lake area of Palm Harbor. When I moved in I immediately noticed the diversity of bird life and begin to identify and list them so I would know who else lives here. I will never forget the first time I saw a hummingbird scouting the swampy pasture border at sunset. She was a female and paused very near me so I could get a good look at her. I felt like a child seeing a fairy and wanted to rub my eyes to see if it was real.

Since I knew the hummingbirds were already in my area I decided to put up a feeder. For a couple of years I watched in vain while batch after batch of hummingbird food spoiled untouched. Hummingbird food is made of 4 parts water, 1 part sugar. I usually microwave or boil 2 cups of sugar and then add ½ cup of sugar. Hummingbird food stays good for a couple of weeks in the refrigerator. Feeders must be cleaned frequently and thoroughly.

Finally I started to investigate plants to populate a hummingbird garden. The first flower I had success with was the yellow shrimp plant. Once I saw the hummingbird at the plant I put out a feeder and the population of hummingbirds in my yard has been increasing ever since. The storms in 2004 worried me because I was afraid the feeders would blow down. They never did and the hummingbirds kept on feeding at them until after the storms passed. Right after that they left and I didn't seem them again until 2005.

The male Ruby-throated hummingbird typically arrives in March or early April. In the past he has departed around the 4th of July but this year he remained and one female and one juvenile have joined him in my yard. In the last couple of years I have continued to add yellow and red shrimp plants and this year I added lots of firebush. I added the supplement feeders with the arrival of the additional hummingbirds and the rains.

The rainfall weighed down the blooms and an abundance of bumblebees is also depleting the plants' nectar. At the same time the bleeding heart and a version of coral

honeysuckle were regenerating from a strong and early start this spring. Last year the hummingbirds stayed until late September which is a time when the flowers seem particularly vibrant. Trumpet vine or hummingbird vine is also a menu option in my yard. I have seen this growing in the wild at John Chesnut Park where hummingbirds have also been recently spotted.

The Ruby-throated hummingbirds I see in my yard perch frequently in the oaks and hollies choosing the same branches from tree to tree. They like the low loopy ones and I don't mind if my tree doesn't look magazine perfect. I happily avoid over trimming on their behalf. The male even buzzes by me and fusses at me when I get too close to his favorite perch or am present in his garden I think he's just camera shy.

To view photographs of Ruby-throated hummingbirds in my yard please visit www.pinellasbirds.com.

Pinellas Birds By Barbara Walker

Ron Smith, owner of the popular www.PinellasBirds.com website, said in a recent email "There's a story behind every bird." I agree! Send submissions of photographs and stories to rsmith52@tampabay.rr.com. The site covers both North and South County. "My focus, of course, is the birdlife of Pinellas, but I am also interested in other wildlife - such as the occasional butterfly or even Al Wallace's recent coyote sighting (and picture) in Largo" stated Ron regarding the site. Ron's commitment to conservation through education is truly admirable. Thank you, Ron.

An Anytime, Anywhere Celebration of Nature in the City Simple citizen-science project reaches urbanites of all ages

Ithaca, N.Y. Nature has the power to soothe and enthuse. More people are finding that out as they join the free, year-round "Celebrate Urban Birds!" citizen-science project from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. From schools, hospitals, and senior centers, to wellness programs, scout packs, and military bases, participants are reaping the benefits of a closer connection to the natural world and a new appreciation for city birds.

A girl in 4-H changed her mind about city birds after taking part in the project: "At first I didn't like urban birds," she said. "I thought of them as pests. Then I realized that they are just like me and other kids. We are ignored or people just see us as pests or don't see us at all...yet if you look a little deeper you can see that on the inside we are pretty unique and cool!"

People of all ages and backgrounds participate in Celebrate Urban Birds through gardening, cultural activities and citizen-science. For the citizen-science part

of the project, participants watch city birds for 10 minutes, check off 15 target species of birds, and send the information through the mail or the Internet to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Once enough data are gathered, scientists hope to learn more about how birds survive in cities and how they use urban green spaces such as parks, rooftop gardens, and even potted plants on balconies for food, resting sites, and shelter. Individuals can participate on their own or through public events organized by local groups. Celebrate Urban Birds has partnered with more than 2,000 organizations to hold special "birdy" events featuring the arts, science, gardening, or other ways to draw people into bird study and observation. While supplies last, everyone who signs up will receive a Celebrate Urban Birds kit in English and Spanish with two colorful urban birds posters, educational materials about birds and urban greening, a data form, and a packet of sunflower seeds to plant in pots and gardens. More than 60,000 free kits have been distributed already.

After receiving his kit, one elementary school youngster with Down syndrome declared, "I will take these posters home and put them up on my wall forever because I'm going to be a scientist when I grow up!" Teachers find that the 10-minute bird observation can be done within a class period, and it reinforces math, reading, scientific, artistic, and team-building skills. One teacher noted, "Our group of middle school boys was impressed with being able to help with a project sponsored by a university." Some groups go beyond a single event by greening their neighborhood creating habitat for birds on balconies, rooftops, front stoops, or community spaces. Others are tapping into the arts, creating dances, drawings, murals, sculptures, puppet shows, and short films based on city birds. The Celebrate Urban Birds web site has lots of resources and suggestions about how to craft an event or project for [libraries](#), [nature centers](#), [schools and youth groups](#), [community gardens](#), home-school [groups](#), or individuals.

Winners have been chosen for the project's first "Beautiful Birds in Urban Places" video and photo contest. Marian Mendez of Hialeah, Florida, captured first prize with her images of birds found in her back yard. She said, "I like to single out one bird and watch it for a while, trying to see the personality and mind behind it. And I'm out in the fresh air, getting sunshine and a new perspective on life." You can see Marian's photos and other great entries on the web site. Stay tuned for the next photo contest! Learn more about Celebrate Urban Birds and sign up at www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org!

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Lab's web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers and citizen input are vital to achieving the goals set forth by the Clearwater Audubon Society. Please contact us right away if you are able to give some of your time on behalf of education and conservation. We are currently seeking individuals to fill several positions including, Historian and Assistant Editor for this newsletter. Researching, writing, taking photographs and advocating are all essential functions needed to keep our organization effective.

Wingbeat Staff!

If you are interested in participating in the production of Wing Beat or have content to submit please email Barb Walker at editor@clearwateraudubon.org. High School students and older scouts are eligible to participate in the production of the Wingbeat. Microsoft Word and email capabilities are essential. We need proof readers and editing assistance.

Educators Wanted!

Educators interested in participating in a pilot group for Project OspreyCam please call Barbara Walker at 727-442-9140. The City of Dunedin is planning an OspreyCam at St. Andrews Links. This nest is part of the Alternate 19 Gulf Coast Osprey Colony. Nest Monitors and bloggers are needed! We would like to have teacher input in developing the educational plan for this project. This project is also open to high school environmental or journalism students as well as to Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Historian Wanted!

Do you like to read? Possess good organization skills? Computer literate? CAS needs you to establish its historical archives. CAS Members will help gather the information, but you will need to *organize, catalogue, create a data base index, secure the files and create access methodology*. REWARD: the satisfied smile on user faces, your contribution to CAS Purpose, and the occasional thank you for a job well done! Contact: Mike MacDonald at 727-409-0459, curmudgin2@yahoo.com.

Recording Secretary Wanted!

Coordinator for 2009 Rummage Sale Wanted!

Please Call 727-442-9140

OspreyWatch

By Barbara Walker

Several Osprey nesting areas have been identified and will be observed in future nesting seasons thanks to the many individuals who responded to a volunteer request in the St. Petersburg Times. The data collected will provide a very interesting picture of what Osprey life is like in Pinellas County. New nests and pairs include one at Wal-Mart in Largo and 2 in Publix Shopping Center Plazas. As the Ospreys begin to disperse, the season closes with 2 reported deaths and 3 pair of Osprey displaced.

The Palm Harbor Muvico Osprey had young in the nest early in the season but they were not seen at anytime after the first field check. The male and female were spotted together recently. Between the last two field checks the few pines which remained for them across US19 were removed. There is nothing left. Development has displaced them to a low sign on a busy road. Historical aerial photographs of the area indicate that most of the clearing occurred within the last year. The last few pines which were cleared were very tall and at least trended the Ospreys flight path towards the nest at a good altitude. Without relocation the pair is in jeopardy.

Migration is beginning everywhere. To learn more about that Dr. Bierregaard of the University of North Carolina has been satellite tracking Osprey migration for at least 8 years.

To access detailed migration maps visit:
<http://www.bioweb.uncc.edu/bierregaard/migration1.htm>.

Here is a summary of activity since Y2K.

- [2000](#) - Two birds tagged on Martha's Vineyard.
- [2001](#) - Four birds tagged, three on the Vineyard and one in Charlotte.
- [2002](#) - No new birds tagged.
- [2003](#) - No new birds, down to one surviving bird: KC.
- [2004](#) - Five birds tagged, including our first juveniles.
- [2005](#) - Two new transmitters deployed on fledglings-one in RI and one in MA.
- [2006](#) - Five new birds tagged, including our first birds in DE.
- [2007](#) - Five new birds tagged (DE and MA), including three with GPS transmitters

In an email on the 15th of July Dr. Bierregaard wrote, "The summer tagging season began yesterday when Bill Price and I captured a young male Osprey on his nest at the Great Falls reservoir, on the Catawba River in South Carolina. The bird's name is Duke--the nest overlooks the first hydroelectric dam constructed by Duke Power and Duke supported the purchase of the transmitter. Next stop is Delaware on July 28th, where I will tag a bird--probably one of Claws' brothers or sisters, and then on to Martha's Vineyard and the Cape, where I will deploy 4 more transmitters. It should be a very exciting fall!"

Kite County!

By Barbara Walker

Have you ever seen a Swallow-tailed Kite? This season the first Swallow-tailed Kite sighting was in Tarpon Woods on March 3rd and in Grey Oaks on the 4th. The Swallow-tailed Kites were surveyed extensively this season. Don and Lorraine Margeson of St. Pete Audubon arranged an early morning survey from various check points in the East Lake area around the Brooker Creek Preserve. Several informal studies followed with the help of Mathew Poling, Joe Zarolinski, Michael Drayer and Sid Crawford. We were able to track the movement of the kites from the southern borders of the preserve to John Chesnut Park. At one point Jane Williams spotted one in Dunedin and I spotted one near Lake St. George.

Early in the season I saw two kites twisting through the wind, soaring, diving and vocalizing at the horse farm behind my house. One of them came within feet of my 6 year old daughter, Leah, who was on top of a horse at the time. They landed on a pine tree briefly but immediately took off again. They flew over the horse farm for at least an hour that day. They returned to the same spot for several days and I continued to spot them traveling over my neighborhood towards Ridgemoor Boulevard.

On April 30th I was returning from Osprey monitoring when I spotted two kites over Ridgemoor Boulevard less than a minute from my home. I stopped and observed as the kites mated and deposited mossy materials near the top of a tall cypress. The trees are on private property and have a large retention pond below. They border the Brooker Creek Preserve. We continued to observe and monitor the nesting and mating behavior throughout the spring and early summer. One photograph exposed a whitish pink color on the beak of the female which indicates that this was a young pair of kites, perhaps not quite ready for offspring. Their mating and nesting behavior was late and they did not produce any young.

Six year old Leah Walker attended the Vulture Exhibit at Brooker Creek Preserve Education Center. The guide took them outside to count Vultures. None were observed so the guide told them to mark their cards with a zero. Leah suddenly spun around and shouted "Swallow-tailed Kite!" My husband, Steve, also spotted the kite and confirmed her correct identification. My three year old, Lani Walker, can also identify a kite correctly, as well as Cardinals, Hummingbirds, Bald Eagles and a few others. She mixes up the names sometimes and asks to see "Sandhill Cardinals and Swallow-tailed Cranes."

The highest Swallow-tailed Kite count this season was 20 on July 1st. They were rising with the thermals in a counter clockwise pattern around Pine Ridge where we have consistently spotted 10 – 12 in the evenings. We have only spotted one or two at a time since that evening and as of July 18th the Swallow-tailed Kite evening count was zero. We will anxiously await their return to see if they choose the same places for gathering and nesting.

Clearwater Audubon Society Membership Application

Name _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Which membership category? Chapter @ \$15/year ____ National @ 20/year ____

Please enclose check to Clearwater Audubon Society for Chapter membership, or National Audubon Society for National membership

Clearwater Audubon Society
P.O. Box 97
Clearwater, FL 33757
Attention: Barbara MacDonald, Membership Chair

National Audubon Society
225 Varick Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10014
Attention: Membership – Chapter ID E36

How can you help Clearwater Audubon Society achieve its Purpose? [check all that apply]

advocacy ____ conservation ____ education ____ field trips ____ finance ____ hospitality ____
media/PR ____ membership ____ newsletter ____ investment security ____ other ____ [list below]

When can you help Clearwater Audubon Society achieve its purpose? [check all that apply]

am ____	am ____	am ____	am ____
SUN pm ____	MON pm ____	TUE pm ____	WED pm ____
nite ____	nite ____	nite ____	nite ____
am ____	am ____	am ____	am ____
THU pm ____	FRI pm ____	SAT pm ____	HOD pm ____
nite ____	nite ____	nite ____	nite ____

If not a Florida resident, which months of the year are you available?

From _____ To _____

Any other information about you that will help Clearwater Audubon Society achieve its purpose:

Clearwater Audubon Society
PO Box 97
Clearwater, FL 33757

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WHAT IS THE CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY?

Our purpose is embodied in our motto:

Conservation through education & our activities include:

- protection of nesting, wintering and migrating birds through Project Colony Watch, rescue of chicks fallen from rooftop nests, Project Eagle Watch, and participation in the county-wide beach nesting bird survey;
- education, including Audubon Adventures for elementary school students, environmental education scholarships for teachers and students, free birding classes for the public, and a speakers bureau;
- sponsorship of projects at local nature parks;
- field trips to prime birding locations in Florida, throughout the United States and internationally;
- monthly meetings held October through May featuring speakers on a wide array of environment-related topics;
- participation in bird surveys, which provide data for vital ornithological research;
- participation in local nature festivals;
- publication of our bimonthly newsletter, Wingbeat, and our website, at ClearwaterAudubon.org;
- advocacy at the local, state and national levels.

YOU CAN HELP!

Whatever your interests or skills, we can use your help protecting birds and the environment. If you like working outdoors, writing, speaking, organizing, baking, or just meeting new people, we have opportunities for you. Call us at 727-442-9140 and we'll tell you how you can help.