

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.

Rooker Roundup 2015

-John Hood

We had a very good nesting season at 3 Rooker. 40 volunteers went out – some just once others multiple times. The island was split in two over the winter with a 2-300 yard pass right through the middle. This made for 3 steward stations – one on the north island, one at the north fence, and one at the south fence. We had 101 people trips for 707 people hours. Were on the island 25 days. There were a few days we didn't go out due to the weather and some days we did but probably shouldn't have. We had 142 dog encounters, called law enforcement for those who were non-compliant and some tickets were written.

Due to the actions of the stewards and the blessed lack of any tropical weather events many chicks of many species were able to fledge. The number of chicks fledged were:

American oystercatcher – 6

Laughing gull – 3200

Royal tern – 1600

Sandwich tern – 70

Caspian tern – 15

White ibis – 1500

Reddish egret – 8

Great egret- 2

Great blue heron – 1

Tricolored heron -10

Cattle egret-3

Snowy plover – 7 & Wilson's plover - 13 both on Anclote

A great time was had by all on one of the rare few undeveloped barrier islands on the gulf coast. Contact me if you're interested in going out next year jhood2@tampabay.rr.com.



Clearwater Audubon Society

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

August- September 2015

Vol. 66 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





Group 1 Costa Rica Adventures

-John Hood

The flight to San Jose was routine. Our 1st night was spent at the Hotel Bougainvillea which was of 4 star quality and had beautiful gardens with many birds. The following day we departed for Selva Verde via La Paz waterfall gardens. The gardens teemed with birds. The hummingbird feeders were crowded with birds and one could view them from just a couple of feet away. There were also exhibits of monkeys and cats. The butterfly house was breath taking with dozens of species of beautiful butterflies. After lunch we hiked down along the waterfalls and the rains began – it was to continue intermittently (more on than off) until our departure for the highlands on day 6.

Day 3 started with birding the Selva Verde lodge grounds between showers followed in the afternoon by a boat trip on the Sarapiquí river for kingfishers and others (fortunately no rain).

On day 4 we explored part of Selva Verde reserve. Unfortunately 2 of the entrances were blocked by high water and the third by a fallen tree. We were able to hike along a portion of the trail but the best birding was (as it frequently is) in the parking lot. That afternoon and evening we went to Tirimbina rserve for more birding followed by dinner and an informative presentation on bats.

Day 5 started with an event that made the national TV news. A dam up river gave way and the river rose 8-10 feet in about ½ hour. Some of the group were trapped in their rooms as the walkways flooded (the path to reservations was crotch deep). Another part of the group was in the restaurant and watched as the river came up to the footings of the restaurant. 50-60 foot high trees 1-2 feet in diameter came down in front of our eyes and were swept downstream. After the river receded we again explored the periphery of Selva Verde reserve.

On day 6 we left Selva Verde and proceeded to Severgre lodge stopping at Tapir reserve (in the rain of course) to get more humming birds.

Day 7 found us exploring Sevegre grounds for yet more beautiful birds followed in the afternoon by a trip to the top of a nearby mountain for the volcano junco and the timberline wren.

Day 8 had a bit of early morning birding and then a trip to the airport and our departure.

All in all in spite of the rain and floods it was a great trip. The group had 180 species seen including the ultimate target bird the resplendent quetzal. Our leader was the son of the man who wrote the book The Birds of Costa Rica. He had been birding since the age of 6 and was excellent. The best part of getting home was decent toilet paper.



Group 2 Costa Rica Adventures

-Mardy Hornsby

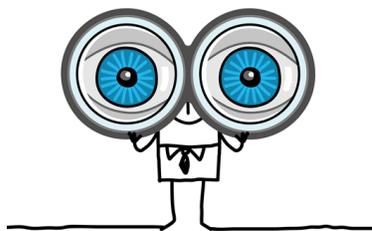


On Wednesday July 1, the second CAS group traveling to Costa Rica this summer assembled at Hotel Bougainvillea in the San Jose suburbs. We met Leo Garrigues, who would be our local guide for the duration of the trip, and promptly gathered for a leisurely afternoon stroll through the hotel's lush tropical gardens, enjoying the refreshing Central Valley breezes. Right away we were introduced to Costa Rica's national bird, the **Clay-colored Thrush** (photo left).

This plain-looking brown bird seems an odd choice as avian representation of a country with so many flashy options, but it is a bird that can be seen in all parts of the country. The National Bird was faithfully present on our daily checklist. Other favorites from this first stop were the **Blue-crowned Motmot**, **Steely-vented Hummingbird**, **White-eared Ground Sparrow**, **Lineated Woodpecker** and **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl**.

Next morning, we met our patient and cautious bus driver, Chicho, and headed for the hills, first stop: La Paz Waterfall Gardens. Upon entering the gardens, some lucky members of the group were treated to views of **Scarlet-thighed Dacnis**, like royal blue blinking Christmas lights as they fed on fruit in the tops of the trees. We toured the aviary and butterfly enclosure, then hiked through the woods to the falls, which were powerful and beautiful.

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



NATURE'S

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

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

FOOD PATCH

Market & Café

1225 Cleveland St • Clearwater, FL • 727-443-6703
www.naturesfoodpatch.com

Great foods are our passion. Good health is our mission.

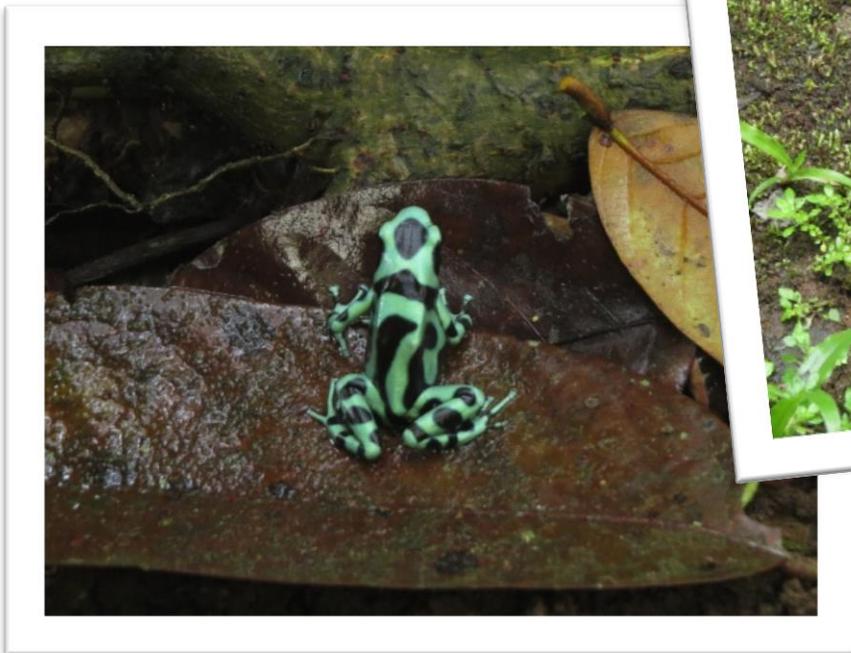
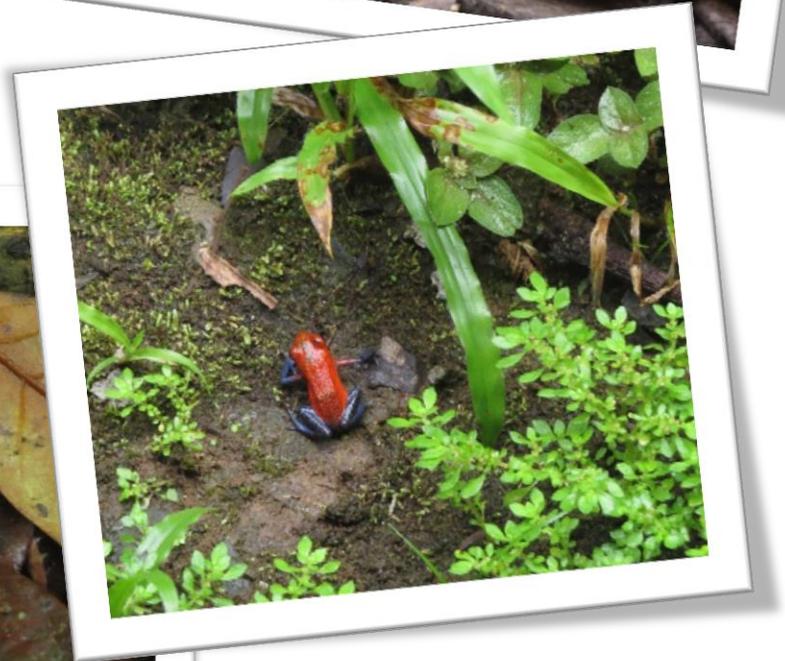


Group 2 Costa Rica Adventures

-Mardy Hornsby

Next up, from the deck of a roadside café, we were wowed by colorful **Passerini's Tanagers** and **Silver-throated Tanagers** (photo below) visiting the banana feeders and entertained by **Violet Sabrewing** hummingbirds buzzing right by our heads. We also viewed a **White Hawk** through Leo's scope, looking regal and perched on a snag in the valley.

That evening we arrived at Selva Verde and were shocked by the flood damage at the river, which the first CAS group of travelers had witnessed 2 weeks prior. In a matter of hours we had transitioned from cool breezes at 3,500 feet to the warm, ultra-humid Caribbean Lowlands where Green-and-black poison dart frogs, Strawberry (blue-jean) poison dart frogs, Red-eyed Leaf (Tree) frogs, Emerald Basilisk (Jesus Christ Lizard) were commonplace. Howler monkeys announced the approaching rain and served as our daily 4am wake-up calls. This would take some getting used to!



Mardy's story continues on page 6...



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

PRESIDENT: JOHN HOOD

president@clearwateraudubonsociety.org

VICE PRESIDENT: SID CRAWFORD

blumax100@gmail.com

TREASURER: JANE WILLIAMS

jwilli56@tampabay.rr.com

MEDIA: BARBARA WALKER

barbibird@tampabay.rr.com

MEMBERSHIP: POSITION OPEN

membership@clearwateraudubonsociety.org

SECRETARY: ANASTASIA STEINBRUNNER

secretary@clearwateraudubon.com

CONSERVATION ADVOCACY: RONDA MUSCA

rmusca1@tampabay.rr.com

CONSERVATION PROJECTS: DANA KERSTEIN

conservation@clearwateraudubon.com

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: PAUL TRUNK & RON SMITH

fieldtrips@clearwateraudubon.com

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT & CLIMATE ACTION CHAIR:

MICHAEL MACDONALD

curmudgin@hotmail.com

FIELD TRIPS: PAUL TRUNK

fieldtrips@clearwateraudubon.com

EAGLE WATCH & OSPREY WATCH: BARBARA WALKER

barbibird@tampabay.rr.com

EDUCATION: LYNN SUMERSON

education@clearwateraudubonsociety.org

PROGRAMS: POSITION VACANT

programs@clearwateraudubonsociety.org

DIRECTOR AT LARGE: LINDSEY DAY

lindseyday93@gmail.com

LEGAL COUNSEL: R. BRUCE McMANUS

lawoffice@mcmanusestateplanning.com

WEBMASTER: PAUL TRUNK

webmaster@clearwateraudubon.com

WINGBEAT/NEWSLETTER: MÉICHELLE LONG

newsletter@clearwateraudubonsociety.org



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.



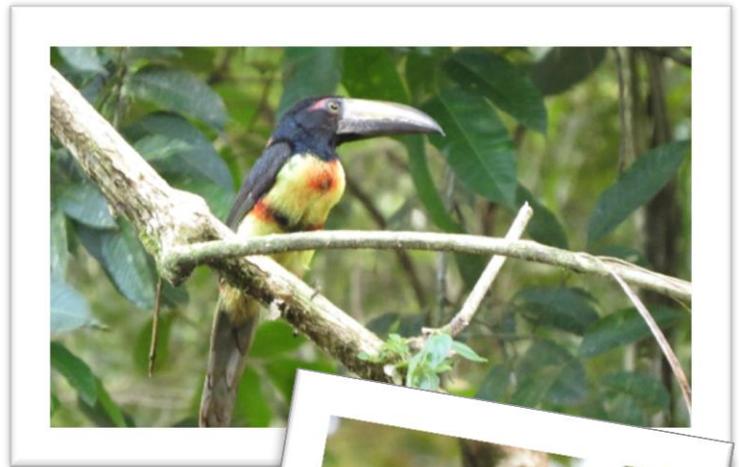
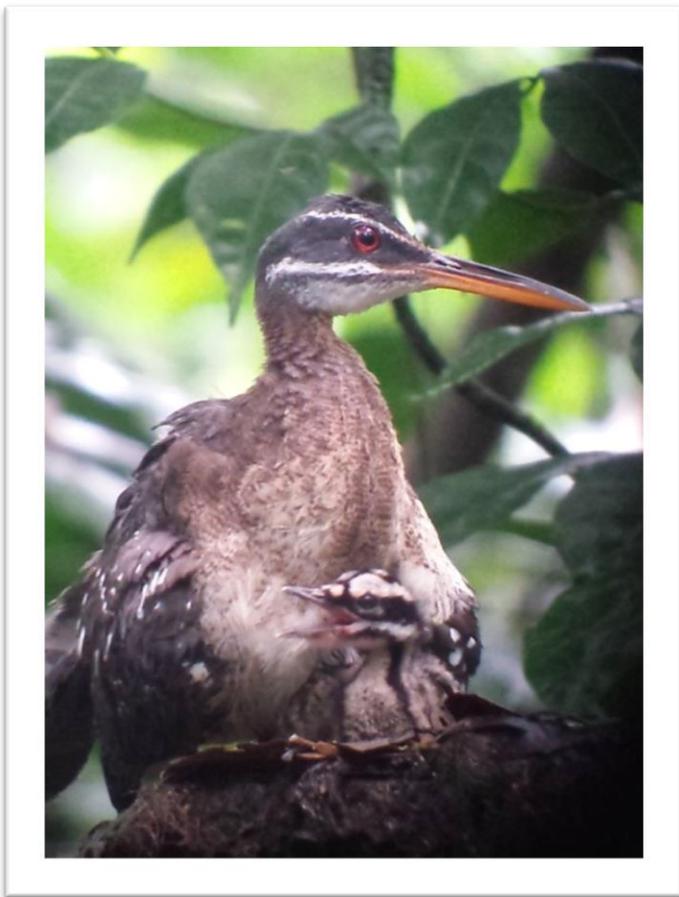
click picture to view



Group 2 Costa Rica Adventures

-Mardy Hornsby

We acclimated and, with the help of our guides, over the next several days enjoyed good looks at such exotic species as **Keel-billed Toucan**, **Black-Mandibled Toucan**, **Collared Aracari** (photo below), **Broad-billed Motmot**, **Rufous Motmot**, **Slaty-tailed Trogon** (photo below), and **Squirrel Cuckoo**. We visited a farmer with a flock of more than 20 rescued and free-flying **Scarlet Macaws** and **Great Green Macaws**. Some of us even fed them peanuts! We were also lucky enough to see both amazing species of Macaws completely in the wild. At La Selva Biological Station, one of the most important sites for tropical research in the world, we were treated to a very special sight: a **Sunbittern** (picture below left) on its nest – with a chick!



All photos courtesy of Mardy Hornsby



After four days of dodging rain in the rainforest, we were ready for a change of pace. Savegre Mountain Lodge was just what the doctor ordered. We sported our fleece (yes, *fleece in July!*) and were treated to *five Resplendent Quetzals* before lunch. Other great, not-so-common finds around Savegre were the **Spotted Wood-Quail**, **Buff-fronted Quail-Dove** and **Black Guan**. Later we took the bus up through a special type of cloud forest called the “elfin forest” to the Paramo ecosystem above the timberline at 9000 feet. Here we saw **Volcano Junco**, **Black-capped Flycatcher**, **Mountain Elaenia** and a scintillating glimpse of the **Timberline Wren**.



Before descending back to reality, we had one last special treat at Savegre: a very cooperative **Emerald Toucanet**. What a beautiful way to complete the week in Costa Rica. The final species count for the trip was 208 species seen, plus 11 species that were heard only. Pura vida!



Photo at Savegre Mountain Lodge L-R: Chicho (bus driver), Jill Hoffenberg, Marion Steinbrunner, Tom Riggs, Mary Kay Hartung, Janette Liddle, Craig Liddle, Mardy Hornsby, Cy Hornsby, Maureen Breakiron-Evans, Heather Thompson, Lucille Larkin, Paul MacDonald Front: Leo Garrigues (guide)

YouTube video playlist:

- La Paz Waterfall- Macaws
- Leaf-cutter Ants
- Sunbittern and chick
- Resplendent Quetzal

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMgky-YqObdBdGoKc2sNnb3-aaCwnoB5m>

Office Hours By Appointment



Kamilla Sztanko, DMD, PA
3830 Tampa Road, Suite 100
Palm Harbor, FL 34684
Telephone (727) 789-4044

Michael J. Adams, DDS
Pamela G. Adams, DDS, MS, PA

15 North Missouri Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33755
(727) 461-4832 fax (727) 461-4835



Shutterbug- Colors of Summer

-Lynn Sumerson



Above: White Ibis, Black Vulture, Reddish Egret at sundown
Below: Yellow-Crowned Night Heron, Black-Crowned Night Heron



McManus & McManus, P.A.
R. Bruce McManus Mary M. Taylor

Serving Pinellas Families for Estate
Planning, Probate, Trust Administration
and Real Estate Matters

79 Overbrook Blvd.
Largo, Fl. 33770

(727) 584-2128

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 please
mention Clearwater Audubon Society.*



Clearwater Audubon Society

P. O. Box 97 Clearwater, FL 33757

Phone: (727) 442-9140 Website: www.clearwateraudubonsociety.org email: clearwateraudubonsociety@gmail.com

Membership Application (please print)

Ms/Mrs/Mr _____ Home phone _____ Cell phone _____
First and last name

Address Apt# City/State/Zip

Seasonal Address Apt# City/State/Zip

E-mail: _____ (We will deliver the Wing Beat newsletter via email)

**Send application & check to Clearwater Audubon Society
Attn: Membership P. O. Box 97 Clearwater, FL 33757**

AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY

CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY is registered to receive 0.5% of all Amazon purchases. Please use SMILE.AMAZON.COM when purchasing from Amazon.

If you already have an account, there are two ways to switch your existing account to a SMILE ACCOUNT: 1) Call customer service at : 1-866-216-1072. An associate will make this change and register you with CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY. Or

2) Check in with your existing account using SMILE.AMAZON.COM

Please indicate CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY as your selected BENEFICIARY.

If you do not have an account, go onto SMILE.AMAZON.COM in order to set up your account.

HAPPY SHOPPING AND THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SUPPORT CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY.





Organizations We Support



Audubon of Florida



St. Petersburg Audubon Society



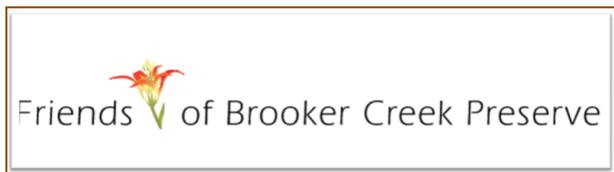
Important Bird Areas in Florida



Great Florida Birding Trail



Florida Ornithological Society



Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve



Dunedin Osprey Cam

