Conservation Spotlight: Kim Begay

You may have seen this lady out on the Dunedin Causeway to Honeymoon Island with a pelican under her arm and wondered what that was all about. Kim is a wild bird and wildlife rescuer in the western Palm Harbor, Dunedin, Ozona, Crystal Beach, Clearwater area. She also happens to be Clerwater Audubon’s Vice President of Conservation and Advocacy. She enjoys research, data collecting, tracking of important environmental projects by cities and counties locally that may affect birds, their habitats, and their safety.

She is recovering from a surgery, so Kim currently spends time training others how to snare injured birds. Her dedication to this extends beyond the Causeway to local home owner’s associations, cities, county commissions and rescue groups like Birds in Helping Hands and The Raptor Center of Tampa Bay.

"I have an extensive legal background of 27 years, so legal research and digging up laws, ordinances and other legal protections is something I excel at and I love doing! Working hard on behalf of our wild birds is something I’m very dedicated to and have been since I was a teenager", shares Kim.

In a recent couple of Causeway rescues, Pinellas County Sheriff's deputies reached out about an injured Great Blue Heron. Using a special net, she was able to guide a fellow rescuer, George Byrd to safely capture the heron. George is an active rescuer and is a former pilot for pilot for Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary (now Seaside Seabird Sanctuary). This kind of team work is important because it demonstrates that each person can make a difference in regards to conservation and advocacy. Once you become aware of how to spot an injured bird, you need to know who to call. In this case, someone alerted the PCSO and the bird was rescued.
Kim’s notes:
Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office Deputies Short and Redmon were so awesome! They waited for George Byrd (pictured in the center) and I to arrive and were protecting the Great Blue until we got there.

The special net that was used was donated by Patrick and Tina Ringer Herron who have followed Kim’s rescue activities for many years. It is absolutely the best net overall for rescuing.

This pelican rescue was needed because the bird has a plastic ring on its upper beak.

Kim’s notes: It was very quick! Aaron set up a snare loop, Brandon was holding snare, I was tossing fish, and he flew over from a fisherman, took about 4 steps into the loop, and Brandon got him! I told Aaron & Brandon all I want for Christmas is to catch the Pelican and get that ring off of him, and we loaded our rescue equipment up and went out. Thankfully he was there!

If you would like to learn more about bird rescue, consider a training or joining Kim on Clearwater Audubon’s Conservation Advocacy Committee. Contact Kim by email kimbegay@gmail.com or text 727-480-9010.

For wildlife emergencies/advice please call Shelley @ Birds in Helping Hands 727-365-4592 or Raptor Center of Tampa Bay 813-205-1851.
UPCOMING EVENTS >>> Field Trips & Special Events

Monthly Meetings are held at 7pm on the first Monday of the month October–May at Moccasin Lake Nature Park 2750 Park Trail Lane, Clearwater, FL 33759. Mix-and-mingle starts at 6:30.

Programs

January 6th
Belugas, Polar Bears and Birds of Churchill, Manitoba
The Bells share another one of their breathtaking adventures from the Canadian Arctic.

February 3rd
Astronomy Night with Paul Trunk
Paul will talk about the structure of our solar system, types of galaxies, stars and how the universe keeps it all together.

Events

Blast Fridays with the Birds of Prey | BOP FB Page | <--Follow.
Blast Friday is a free food and craft festival featuring a live concert from local and national touring artists on the Tampa Bay Times Cleveland Street Stage. Food trucks and vendors will be serving a wide variety of freshly prepared specialty food and beer, wine and non-alcoholic beverages that will be available for purchase. Concert goers are welcome to bring their lawn chairs to watch the concert. Beer sampling, live local music and other activities will be located in the 600 block of Cleveland Street. Friday, January 31st, the featured band will be the B-Street Band. Our Birds of Prey will be part of the event through May on the last Friday of the month. This event is run by Ruth Eckerd Hall.

Field Trips

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.11</td>
<td>Cuneyt Yilmaz 657-0803</td>
<td>Possum Branch Preserve Mulberry trees, great migrants. Meet at the gated entrance just south of Curlew Rd. on McMullen Booth Rd. at 8:00AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.18</td>
<td>Merle &amp; Jo Hubbard and Dale Goebel 510-1462</td>
<td>Chinsegut Wildlife Area Sandhill Cranes, bluebirds, red-headed woodpeckers, warblers, hawks, and much more. Meet at Walgreens at the corner of US19 and Curlew Rd. on the SW corner at 7AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>Lynn Sumerson 215-7477</td>
<td>Wall Spring Park &amp; Dunn Water Treatment Plant - Meet at park at 7:30AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Raptor Fest</td>
<td>Boyd Hill Nature Park, St. Petersburg 10am - 4pm Great Fun for the whole family. <a href="http://www.raptorfest.org">www.raptorfest.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Madeleine Bohrer 748-6885</td>
<td>Monthly Bird Walk at Moccasin Lake Nature Park Meet at 8:00AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>Dale Goebel 510-1462</td>
<td>Crystal River Preserve State Park Meet at Walgreens at the corner of US19 and Curlew Rd. on the SW corner at 7am. Bring lunch &amp; gas $$. Dana &amp; Dale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>Frank Brandt 219-7509</td>
<td>Honeymoon Island State Park Shorebirds, wintering migrants, eagle/owl nests. Meet behind the McDonald’s on the corner of Curlew and Alt 19 at 8:00am.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.22</td>
<td>Madeleine Bohrer 748-6885</td>
<td>Celery Fields - Meet at the Wal-Mart 2677 Roosevelt Blvd. at 7:30am. Carpooling bring gas $$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Featured Field Trip:
Join us for this Amazing overnight trip to Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park w/Gallus Quigley March 27th at 1pm – 28th | MORE INFO |

Festivals to Attend

January 16–20
The North Shore Birding Festival on Lake Apopka in Central Florida https://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/festival/

February 15
Orlando Wetlands Festival 9am-3pm at Fort Christmas Historical Park (see flyer in this issue)
YOUR CLEARWATER AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
John Hood
Lynn Sumerson
Dale Goebel
Méichelle Long
Cuneyt Yilmaz

OFFICERS:
Vice President/Conservation: Kim Begay
Treasurer: Madeleine Bohrer
Secretary: Stephanie Hall

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:
Conservation Projects: Dana Kerstein
Education: Lynn Sumerson
Field Trips: Dale Goebel
Media: Position Available
Membership: Cuneyt Yilmaz
Newsletter & Webmaster: Méichelle Long
Programs: Position Available
Wild Raptor Sanctuary: Stephanie Anderson

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE:
Mardy Hornsby
Lindsey Day
IP President: John Hood

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:
Christmas Bird Count: Paul Trunk & Ron Smith
Eagle Watch: Louise Roy

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.

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT MEETING
First Monday of the Month unless otherwise noted.
Celebrity Birds Visit Pinellas County

Basically, since about late August of 2016, Pinellas County has had a Brown Booby presence off and on. Mostly on! Why they are still hanging around this area, is a major question. The most reliable time and place to find them, is in late afternoon on their favorite roost tower in Safety Harbor Bay, the upper northwest corner of Old Tampa Bay. From the south beach in Philippe County Park, they can be seen on the easternmost platform tower in the bay with a spotting scope. If the sun is shining, they will be facing toward it and you. Look for the bright white bellies, surrounded by chocolate brown, with big yellow feet and bills. Presently three can usually be found.

Coincidence or not, the first report of the Brown Boobies was around the time that Hurricane Hermine was approaching or passing thru from The Gulf of Mexico, August 2016. Why these seabirds, "Sula leucogaster", not known to nest anywhere in Florida, and only reliably found in the Dry Tortugas, sixty miles off of Key West, call this their sometime home, who knows. The Mullet fishing must be outstanding. These celebrity birds are normally found throughout tropical oceans, with the only known present nesting sites in the United States, on the Hawaiian Islands, where they are found year round. Sexes are similar in appearance, so we don't know the gender of our boobies. A group of boobies are collectively known as a "Congress" of boobies. These beautiful odd looking birds gracing us with their presence in our portion of Old Tampa Bay, is a pretty special event.

Checking on them while they are here, gives us pleasure each day. How much longer will they stay?

Bob and Denise Lane, Clearwater
Lorraine Margeson (Tampa Bay Area Bird Stewards) posted:
This was nice to see while doing my north Pinellas beaches USACE non-breeding shorebird survey this morning. Obviously Indian Rocks Beach is serious about enforcing their new NO FIREWORKS on the beach ordinance (that will work July 4th as well), every access was posted with this citation sign! A little south of there in IS I was on that beach JUST as a 5K race started (low tide so the birds had their space down from the running). There were already A LOT of people were on the beach by the time I was done at 10 AM. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Read the article about the July 4th beach cleanup and subsequent rulings. | Article Link |

From Salty Soul:

"We are on a Mission to Help keep our Beaches Clean, one beach at a time. We have begun our mission in Dunedin, where we call home. Many of you spend time at the Dunedin Causeway, and we want to ensure that it stays clean. We have partnered with Keep Pinellas Beautiful and have officially Adopted the One Mile stretch of the Dunedin Causeway.

Each month we will be joining forces with different organizations as co-hosts.

SAT, JAN 11 & FEB 8 AT 9 AM
2020 Beach Cleanup Dunedin Causeway
**Become a Member**
Membership in National Audubon also includes membership in Audubon of Florida and Clearwater Audubon. In addition, you will receive the award-winning National Audubon magazine.

[JOIN NOW](#)

**Renew your Membership**
You can save trees, time and money by renewing your membership online. It’s fast and safe with a click of a button.

[RENEW](#)

If you don’t feel comfortable paying online, either for joining or renewing, please make out a check for $20.00 to: National Audubon, and send to: Clearwater Audubon Society, PO Box 97, Clearwater, FL 33757
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

Friends of the Hammock

CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM
Those Who Support the WingBeat
If you are interested in advertising with us, please contact Meichelle Long
newsletter@clearwateraudubonsociety.org

ADAMS DENTAL
Michael J. Adams, D.D.S.
Pamela G. Adams, D.D.S., M.S., PA
www.adamssdental.com
15 North Missouri Avenue
Clearwater, Florida 33755
fax (727) 461-4835
(727) 461-4832

YOUR AD
COULD BE HERE!
Email us today
about filling this space.

newsletter@clearwateraudubonsociety.org

BUGGED OUT BY PAIN OR STRESS?
GET MASSAGE!
TONY HERNANDEZ, BA, LMT, NMT
License #MA 81128
AUDUBON MEMBER
(727) 741-2363
RELAX, RENEW, RESTORE

YOUR AD
COULD BE HERE!
Email us today
about filling this space.

newsletter@clearwateraudubonsociety.org

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

REBECCA WELLBORN
REAL ESTATE ADVISOR
727.320.5135

CHRISTIE’S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE
REBECCA@REBECAWELLBORN.COM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2020
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.

ORLANDO WETLANDS FESTIVAL

Fort Christmas Historical Park
1300 North Fort Christmas Road
Christmas, FL 32709

Free event and parking. Fun and learning for the whole family!
No pets allowed.

For more information, please visit orlando.gov/wetlands or call 407.568.1706.