

JUNE - JULY 2018

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Audubon FLORIDA

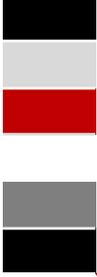
Sharing Our Shores
6 Things You Can Do To Help Nesting Beach Birds

1. Keep your distance from birds, eggs & chicks.
2. Don't feed the birds or wildlife.
3. Keep dogs on a leash and away from birds.
4. Properly dispose of fishing line and tackle.
5. Take all your trash with you. It attracts predators.
6. Avoid noisy activities near nesting areas.

Least Tern chicks
Kyle Wilson

Conservation Through Education

The Newsletter of the Clearwater Audubon Society Vol. 83 No. 1



Wing Beat



NESTING BIRDS' NEEDS

Three Rooker Bar hosts threatened species.

The Gulf Islands State Parks is a Global Important Bird Area (not just state or national) based on rigorous scientific criteria about bird populations, not just some bird lover's whim or fancy. A significant number of the entire world's population of the tiny, federally endangered Piping Plover uses these islands – especially Three Rooker Bar. More than 5,000 pairs of nesting seabirds and shorebirds nest on the island, including several state-threatened species. In 2011 Clearwater Audubon Society started a bird steward program during the nesting and chick-fledging season on Three Rooker Bar.

This involves having volunteers set up stations adjacent to the nesting areas with equipment including binoculars, spotting scopes, bird identification guides, and literature. The volunteers talk with people on the beach about respecting the space needed by nesting birds and then show them the birds and their tiny, flightless chicks. We also make sure there is no intrusion into the colonies by people or dogs. We are present on Saturdays and Sundays from 9AM till 3PM. Last year the program was assumed by Audubon Florida who purchased a boat capable of carrying 16 bird stewards to the island. The Park will provide boat transportation about 2 weekend days a month. Audubon Florida will do the other 6 days a month.

The program will cover weekends and holidays from May 1st to July 30th. The number of volunteers to be transported would be from 4 to 16 depending upon boat capacity. The Park requires that the boat remain in close proximity to the island so that the volunteers could be quickly evacuated in case of inclement weather (our summer afternoon thunderstorms) or medical emergency. We will provide chairs and umbrellas. You will provide your lunch, sunscreen, fluids, and reading material. It is a foot wet landing. Clearwater Audubon is asking for your help. Please consider becoming a volunteer for bird stewarding. It's a memorable experience to be in the middle of 5000 nesting birds. Thanks for your consideration.

For more information contact our new Audubon anchor steward Jason Sigismondi jsigismondi@audubon.org or John Hood jhood2@tampabay.rr.com. Please put 3 Rooker in the subject line.

Media >>> Barbara S. Glanz

On the Road with Our Raptors: Raising Funds, Increasing Awareness

If you tuned in on May 1 to Give Day Tampa Bay, the Community Foundation's annual fundraiser for non-profit organizations on WEDU/PBS, you may have seen Board President Barb Walker and longtime program volunteer Stephanie Anderson requesting support for our Birds of Prey program, which is located at Moccasin Lake Nature Park in Clearwater. They were assisted by two of Clearwater Audubon's raptors – Jozie, a Barn Owl; and Sunshine, a Swallow-tailed Kite – for whom this was just another day, encountering the public and teaching memorable lessons just by their presence.

All four were an on-air success, resulting in donations totaling \$1170. While traveling to Tampa for the fundraiser, Barb commented, "Any day we can earn \$100 to help support our

raptor program is time well spent." Considering it can cost up to \$1000 to feed our birds of prey each month, Jozie and Sunshine are to be commended for "earning their keep" through this and other programs which help fulfill CAS's mission: Conservation through Education.

Accompanying Barb, Stephanie, and our raptors, I served behind-the-scenes functions of door-opener, bag-holder, beverage-seeker, and cleaner-upper. More importantly, I had the opportunity to witness first-hand the interest and excitement generated by our raptors, and to better understand the critical role they play in our educational component, as Barb and Stephanie answered questions all day, each supporting and being tethered to a bird.

Our birds and volunteers recorded over 10,000 contacts with the public over the past year. While it is difficult to track the effect of each contact, it is easy to observe the impact on those who encounter the birds, hear their stories, and learn ways to better protect our environment for raptors, and for all wildlife.

Waiting along with representatives from many non-profit groups to make a four-minute "pitch" during the televised eight-hour giving-challenge, we spent several hours at the WEDU production center. From the moment we arrived, Jozie and Sunshine were stars, surrounded by WEDU staff and other participants who were enthralled to see them up close, ask questions, and recount their own wildlife encounters. Stephanie and Barb interacted with the group, while each keeping the bird on her arm safe and calm. Jozie and Sunshine, unable to survive independently in the wild due to earlier injuries, are among CAS's best ambassadors. They are living evidence of the challenges birds face in their struggle to survive amidst encroaching development, irresponsible use of poisons, collisions with vehicles, and negative encounters with humans.



Stephanie Anderson a longtime volunteer with our birds of prey waits to go on the air with Barn Owl Jozie

Clearwater Audubon Society's birds of prey are cared for daily, no days off, by a team of dedicated volunteers at Moccasin Lake Nature Park. The cooperative contract between CAS and the City of Clearwater requires a commitment of time, training, talent, and financial resources. Volunteer Barb Walker can shuffle around many tasks on her CAS President's "To Do" pile, but feeding hungry raptors cannot be relegated to the "Tomorrow" list. Generous donors and dedicated, dependable volunteers are a constant necessity to ensure the success of the raptor program.



WUSF News Reporter Dalia Colon reporting on Facebook with Barb Walker and Swallow-tailed Kite Sunshine

Changes in routine, such as last year's Hurricane Irma, place demands on humans and cause stress for the birds. This summer's renovation of Moccasin Lake Nature Park will result in expanded programs and renovated habitat for human and bird alike; easy for us humans to understand, but impossible to explain to raptors affected by construction equipment and new sounds. After traveling to Tampa, Jozie and Sunshine were returned to their enclosures, another successful day of educating the public completed. Their daily meal was provided, not from the wild but procured

from a supplier whose bill must be paid monthly. Their participation in "Give Day Tampa Bay" was a financial success, and further fulfilled our mission of conservation through education.

While CAS and Moccasin Lake Nature Park prepare for fall programs, our volunteers visit daily, amidst construction and disruption, caring for the birds. If you are interested in learning to work with our birds of prey program as one of our dedicated and valued volunteers, or by assisting in any of our education programs, please contact Barb Walker at audubonbarb@gmail.com or by phone at (727) 798-2385.

Donations to support our birds of prey are always needed and appreciated.

You can send a check to CAS at PO Box 97, Clearwater FL 33757 with a notation that your donation is designated for our birds of prey. You can also donate via PayPal at our website clearwateraudubonsociety.org at the bottom of the page where the Birds of Prey Sanctuary is featured, to designate your donation for the raptors in our care.



The 4th Annual



Ken Rowe Birdathon

At Brooker Creek Preserve

Saturday June 2, 2018

5:30 am – 11:30 am Birding, 12:00 – 1:00 pm Lunch & Prizes

Birders of all levels are welcome and encouraged to attend! Teams of 2-4 people, \$10/person, includes lunch. Teams are encouraged to invite youth birders to join their team and may include them as extra members over the cap of four. Prizes will be awarded in a variety of categories including most species per team and many more... Birding will take place by teams at their own pace at a choice of several areas within the Brooker Creek Preserve boundary, most not open to the public. Maps indicating entry/parking sites, including "hot spot" locations, will be provided to participants. Data collected will be used to help monitor breeding bird populations. Team leaders must RSVP by April 30, 2018.

This event is sponsored by Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve.

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688

For questions or to sign up: Call 727-934-2680 • Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Friends  of Brooker Creek Preserve



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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](#)

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)



SCHOOL GRANT: Citizen Science in Action

eBird

As part of an ongoing effort to educate young people about the importance of being environmental stewards. Clearwater Audubon has sponsored seventh grade students at Terrace Community Middle School. Students have created a pollinator garden with bird feeders and cameras that capture species throughout the school year, enhanced an outdoor classroom that hosts bird walks for students and parents, and participated in reporting species sightings on eBird. The students learn about birds through classroom and outdoor activities that allow them to apply what they are learning in real time. This school also partners with Tampa Audubon, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, Tampa Bay Sierra Club, the local Temple Terrace Garden Club and the Florida Association for Water Quality Control (FAWQC).



When organizations like the Clearwater Audubon Society make contributions to school programs it sends a clear message that they value education in the Tampa Bay community.

 **68**
Species observed

 **24**
Complete checklists
24 Total

 **6**
Species w/ photos
8 Observations

 **1**
Species w/ audio
1 Observations



Organizations We Support



[Audubon of Florida](#)



[St. Petersburg Audubon Society](#)



[Important Bird Areas in Florida](#)



[Great Florida Birding Trail](#)



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[Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve](#)



[Dunedin Osprey Cam](#)



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