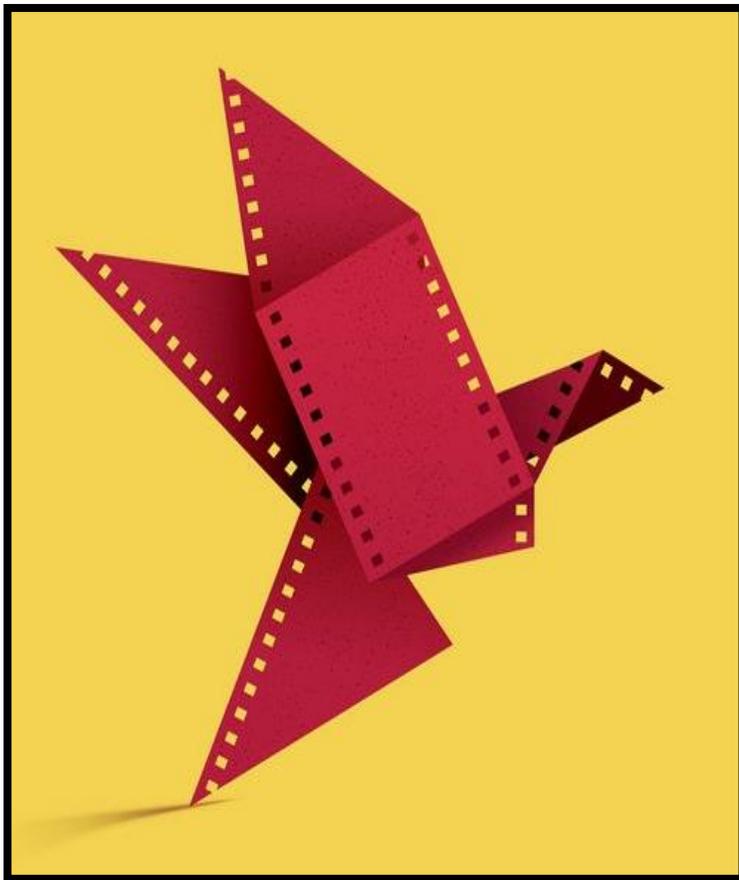


Wing Beat

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.

CAS Summer Film Fest begins June 6th.



June 6 Showing of The Big Year [PG] starring Owen Wilson, Jack Black, Steve Martin. Two bird enthusiasts try to defeat the cocky, cutthroat world record holder in a year-long bird-spotting competition. How many birds in this movie are on ***your*** life list?

July 4 No Showing due to the Holiday

August 1 Showing of Hoot [PG] starring Logan Lerman, Luke Wilson, Brie Larson. A young man (Lerman) moves from Montana to Florida with his family, where he's compelled to engage in a fight to protect a population of endangered owls. Hoot is a 2006 American family comedy film, based on Carl Hiaasen's novel of the same name.

Clearwater Audubon Society

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

June, July 2016

Vol. 71 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





Jamaica's Doctorbird -Anastasia Steinbrunner

One unexpectedly birdy event was our trip to the Pantomime in Kingston. This is a very specific kind of theater which features one show per year that focuses exclusively on Jamaican culture, issues and environment. This year's play was *Runnesha and the Birds* about a girl training for a race up the in mountains, hurting her foot and being treated by a befriending a Doctorbird.

The other birds featured in the story include a Peacock, Bald Pate (White-crowned pigeon), Green Parrot (Yellow-billed Parrot) and Bananaquit. The villains in the story were two Cowbirds that flew down from the Southern US (listening to Jamaicans try to do a Southern accent is hysterical) to steal things and cause trouble. As you can imagine, I enjoyed it immensely. We were also treated to meeting the Playwright, Dr. Barbra Gouldan. She has written 25 of the 75 Pantomimes since the 1960s. She is one of the most famous cultural icons in Jamaica and a national treasure. She said she wrote the play after observing the birds coming to her feeder in the Blue Mountains. She wanted her actors to portray the birds faithfully so she made them all come to her house and watch their characters for a few days. Her whole impetus for writing the paly and the message at the end was to encourage people, especially children, to be kind to birds and respect them. Children are not fond of animals here as much as they are in the US and she wanted to discourage them from throwing rocks or otherwise harming birds.

She also told us the story of how the Doctorbird got its name, a piece of information nearly lost to history. Apparently back in the early post-slavery days in Jamaica doctors would head into the mountains to see their patients. At that time, they wore coats that had two long tails in the back much like something an orchestra conductor would wear. The long black tails looked like what was on the Red-billed Streamertail so they got the nickname Doctorbird. The Doctorbird is also the national bird of Jamaica and is depicted almost everywhere. The new ecosystem has brought me a few new birds but the busy schedule and dense forest make much birding difficult. I did enjoy a few new life birds including the Yellow-faced Grassquit and Black Swifts near my home. At Devon House in Kingston there was a Doctorbird on one of the trees and father down in Linstead I saw small flocks of Saffron Finches.

I continue to see many migrants and local birds that we have in the US. My last week in Hellshire I saw a flock of about 20 Great-Crested Flycatchers with a few Red-eyed Vireos mixed in. I have seen many Yellow Warblers at lower elevations and many of our usual seabirds with the exception of Ospreys. My favorite frequent visitors in Guys Hill are Kestrels. They seem to be everywhere! There is an active Kestrel nest very near me. I felt right at home when I arrived here the first day and they were calling out constantly. Speaking of calls I have noticed that the Boat-tailed Grackles and what I assume to be American Crows have Jamaican accents! Some of their calls sound just like they do in the US, but others are totally different. The crows in particular make this strange garbled call that sounds scrambled and bubbly. I will attach a video I took of them calling. I hope it gets through so you can enjoy this very strange sound.

Our training staff has decided to let us know our site placement a little earlier than expected so on May 10th I should find out my destination! I hope everyone is well and bird stewarding is off to a great start. Likkle mour! ("Little more" meaning I hope to hear from/see you again soon.)

My best, Anastasia



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 3

Past Issue of Wing Beat



*click issue to view
April-May 2016*

**"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.



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On the Skimmers & Plovers Program

-John Hood

Black skimmers are a familiar sight on our local beaches flying just above the water with their lower jaw dragging through the water. When they touch a small fish the jaw snaps shut with one of the fastest reflexes in the animal kingdom (try driving down a country road at 5 mph with your arm out the window and catch a love bug between your thumb and index finger). They are the Clearwater Audubon moto. They nest in colonies on the beaches from a couple of dozen to several hundred and their nest is just a small one inch deep scrape in the sand. They forage mainly at dawn and dusk but are active all night long. They inhabit the coastline from Massachusetts southward. In the winter the northern birds migrate to Florida. There are questions to which we have not known the answer. Where do our local fledglings go? Do they return to their natal grounds in the summer?

A new project was undertaken last summer to investigate the fate of the black skimmer chicks who fledged on our local beaches. Total of 47 chicks were banded at 2 locations – St Pete beach and Indian Shores (SSS). Chicks were banded 2 days at St Pete beach and one day at Indian Shores. The chicks were 2.5-3 weeks old when banded. The banding started at 4:30AM and finished at sunrise.

Of the 47 banded 28 were resighted at least once. 19 were never seen again. There were a total (as of Jan) of 590 resightings. A08 was only seen once and A22 was seen 26 times. The average was 13. The birds dispersed north, south, and east. One went north to Dixie County via 3 Rooker Bar, one went to Cocoa breach, 2 to Lake Okeechobee, 6 stayed locally and 17 went to Marco Island. One was found expired locally. Thankfully we had a number of Eckerd College students participate as they were fleet of foot although some of them were huffing and puffing after chasing the birds who could run very fast.

The bands are green cylinders with white lettering A00 to A100. If you see any please let us know. The project will continue this summer and hopefully some of the birds will return to their natal grounds.

Our own Marianne Korosy was able to participate in a piping plover survey on Long Island in the Bahamas. In 1986 the population was estimated to be less than 2,000. In 2006 it had climbed to 8,000 probably due to better management and survey techniques. They are a federally endangered species. They breed in the north central US, around the great lakes, and along the northern Atlantic seaboard and winter in the south Atlantic seaboard, the Gulf coast, and Caribbean.

On Long island the birds were found roosting on spits and bars that had dried wrack on them and foraging on expansive mud flats. To survey these birds required many hours of sloughing along mud flats and begging boat rides to prospective sites. In 2015 the survey found 91 birds and in 2016 44 birds. This may well have been due to a devastating hurricane that came through between the surveys. Two banded birds were found one from North Carolina and the other from Newfoundland. In Florida the high count came from the Caladesi, Honeymoon, 3 Rooker Bar, and Anclote complex of about 150 birds.

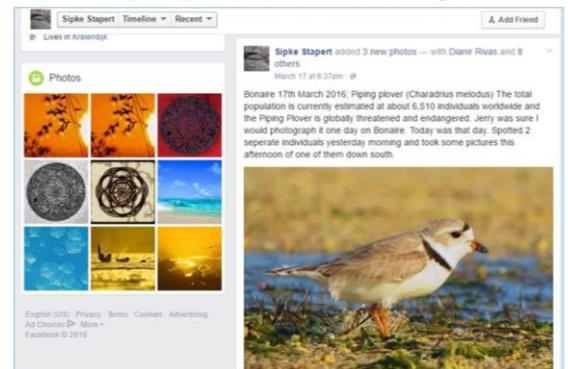


Banded chicks were estimated to be 2.5 - 3 weeks old



- A11 and A16 observed 10+ times 9/18-10/31 in Collier County
- Both recorded at Jaycee Park, Okeechobee County 12/18/2015

2 PIPL sighted in Bonaire on 17 March 2016 (off Venezuela coast east of Trinidad)





Dragonflies of West Central Florida

-Paul Trunk

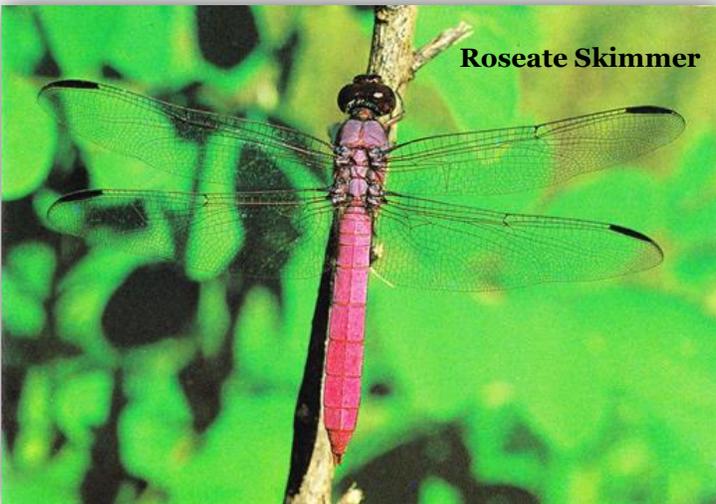
Blue Dasher



The order Odonata contains the dragonflies and damselflies and is one of the most popular insect groups. Odonates are popular with both the amateur and professional because they are large, colorful, easily observable, and have exceptionally charismatic behaviors. In recent years dragonflies in particular have been popular with birders as many dragonflies rival birds in wingspan, color, gregariousness, and predictability.

There are about 86 different species of dragonflies in Florida. About half of those are found throughout the state.

Roseate Skimmer



There are six families of dragonflies found in Florida, each of which is easily identifiable. These insects are commonly found around ponds and open bodies of fresh water and large blacktop parking lots (perhaps parking lots resemble open bodies of water to odonates where they search for prey and mates). There are a number of species that disperse away from water for a time before returning with a mate to breed and deposit eggs.

Black Saddlebags



Damselflies comprise the more morphologically diverse suborder of odonates. In North America and particularly in Florida they have similar characteristics, which are: eyes separated by more than the width of a single eye, abdomen much longer than wings, very slim body structure and a simple fluttering flight. Damselflies can often be quite spectacular in color such as the ebony jewelwing damselfly, found throughout the eastern United States and Florida wherever there are slow flowing, shaded wooded streams.



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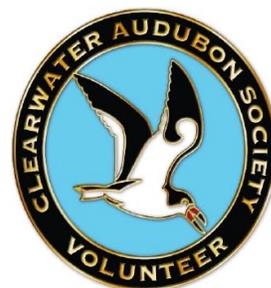


Earn Your CAS Volunteer Pin by Being a Bird Steward!

Volunteers monitor beach locations where sea and shorebirds are nesting. The beaches are surveyed early in the season and nesting sites are posted when the first egg is spotted. We usually have a black skimmer colony on Sand Key. Our primary emphasis is on Three Rooker Island which is just north of Honeymoon Island. Volunteers are transported by boat to the island where they set up in chairs and umbrellas (provided) adjacent to the colonies. They educate the folks who come by and keep people and dogs from entering the colonies. It's wonderful to spend the day on one of the only unspoiled pristine barrier islands on Florida's west coast. Nesting birds include snowy plovers, laughing gulls (4-5,000), least terns, royal terns, white ibis, Caspian terns, reddish egrets among others.

Click the PIN to learn more.

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/birdsteward.html>





Saying Goodbye to our Dear Friend Ken Rowe

Ken Rowe was born in Watertown, New York, in 1928 and spent his childhood in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He was married to Aletha Mae Pearson Rowe (1929-2000) for 52 years and had 2 children, Daniel (Ohio) and Duane (Arizona). Most of the first 25 years of their marriage was spent living in Brimfield, Ohio, where Ken worked as a machinist and supervisor and Aletha worked as a school teacher. Ken and Aletha moved to Florida in 1971 and loved every minute of it. Together they enjoyed extensive traveling, ballroom dancing and sailing.

After retirement, Ken's passion became birding in Florida and in numerous locations throughout the world including Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands. Much of the direction of his volunteerism was with Brooker Creek Preserve and Clearwater Audubon.

Ken was extremely proud to be a Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Dunedin, Florida, where he also served at Masonic funerals. He was looking forward to celebrating his 50th anniversary as a Mason this fall.

In January of 2015, due to failing health and immobility, Ken moved into assisted living in Clearwater, Florida. In November, 2015, after a 45 year Florida experience, Ken moved to an assisted living in Mentor, Ohio, to be closer to family and to enjoy winter as it should be. The local Mentor family includes his son, Daniel, daughter-in-law, Lorraine, 2 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. Ken's youngest son, Duane, lives in Arizona with his wife, Debbie, and his daughter lives in Seattle.

I believe that Ken, like so many other seniors, was most disappointed in the failure of his body. He had lost the mobility to continue to enjoy his passion of birding and the independence that goes along with a healthy body. On April 12, 2016, Ken passed away from one last fall.

I know that he missed his many friends in Florida and, in particular, those who shared his passion.

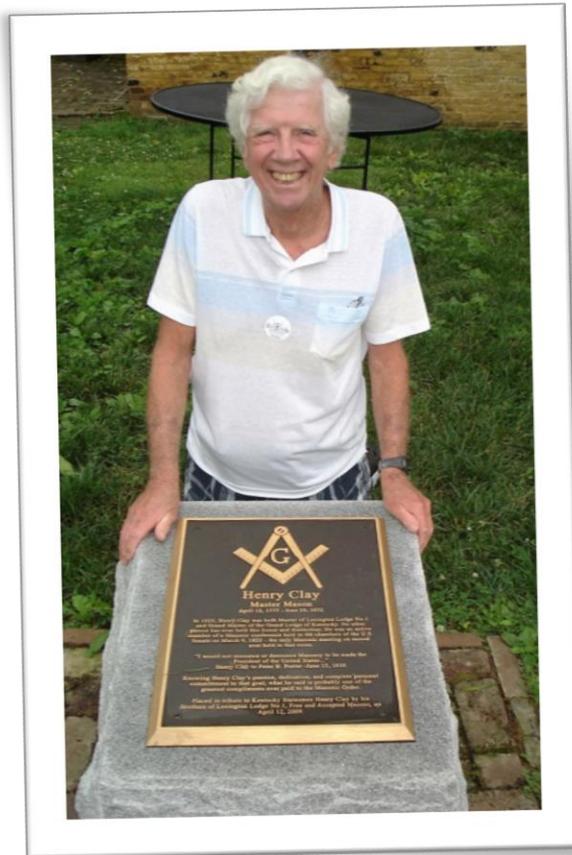
Dan Rowe
Mentor, Ohio





Ken Rowe was a very special person and friend, and his recent passing leaves a significant hole that will be difficult to fill. I knew Ken as a proud family man, a dedicated volunteer, and a passionate environmentalist. He had a quick wit and a kind and giving nature, and he used all of these qualities to teach and mentor those around him. Ken was one of the first people who volunteered for me at Brooker Creek Preserve and he took on nearly every task that was offered, but his main love was guiding nature hikes and teaching others about the Preserve's natural history. Of course, that included everything about birds. Over the years, Ken spearheaded every initiative at the Preserve that touched on the topic of birds and in 2015, the Friends of Brooker Creek were able to recognize his many contributions by inaugurating the now annual Ken Rowe Birdathon. I will miss him as will everyone who had the chance to know and work with him.

Craig Huegel, former Manager, Brooker Creek Preserve



Ken Rowe was one of the finest gentlemen I've ever known! Ken was kind, friendly, and a passionate steward of Mother Earth, volunteering for a host of causes, which benefited Clearwater Audubon, Moccasin Lake Nature Park, and particularly Brooker Creek Preserve. Ken was a student in one of my 'docent' trainings, part of which was one hour isolation in a remote area of Moccasin Lake Nature Park, with only a small note book and pencil to record observations and impressions; at the end of the hour it was difficult to convince Ken to abandon his small piece of paradise! During my New Jersey birding trip, Ken eagerly assisted in identifying 169 species in Cape May (NJ), Hawk Mountain (PA), Bombay Hook & Cape Henlopen (DE). At least once a week, Ken did not hesitate to relate his family's activities during his frequent phone calls from Ohio; he was particularly proud of his family grand and great grandchildren. I'll remember Ken fondly, & bid him happy birding on his new adventure!

Mike MacDonald, Past President,
Clearwater Audubon Society



v

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Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve



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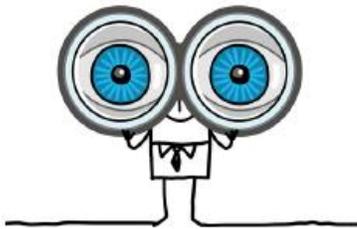
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