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*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.*

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## Have you heard about Amendment 1?

As environmentally conscious voters, we need your help to spread the word about Amendment 1, the harmful, utility-backed, anti-solar amendment that will appear on the ballot in November.

Florida Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente said it better than anyone: Amendment 1 is a “**wolf in sheep’s clothing**” backed by big utility companies like Duke Energy and Florida Power and Light to maintain their monopoly on electricity and unfairly raise fees for customers who want to go solar.

If it passes, Amendment 1 would limit our solar growth and increase our dependence on fossil fuels, mammals and more.

Would you like to read more? [Click here.](#)



**UTILITY-BACKED  
AMENDMENT 1  
BLOCKS  
THE SUN**

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**VOTE NO ON 1**.ORG

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**Clearwater Audubon Society**

<http://clearwateraudubonsociety.org/>

October, November 2016

Vol. 73 No. 1

Supporting our community since 1959

Our Motto: Conservation through Education

For more information call us at 727-442-9140





## Birding the Great NW Washington State

-3 Adventurers

### THERESE EBY:

I had not ventured beyond the western shoreline during my 20 years of living near Seattle, so the Westport Seabird's pelagic trip was a highlight of the trip for me. I loved riding on the bow of the 48' boat as we headed 32 miles west to Grays Canyon at the edge of the continental shelf.

The sun rose and moon set through overcast skies which evaporated on the afternoon return trip, glad I dressed in layers. Calm seas (< 3') and a negligible breeze created superb spotting conditions, especially for marine mammals. Our non-avian treats included Humpback whales, transient Orcas, Pacific White-sided Dolphins, Northern Right Whale Dolphins, Dall's Porpoises, Harbour Porpoises, Steller Sea Lions, Harbor Seal, Northern Fur Seal, Blue Shark and Ocean Sunfish. I'm still smiling at the memories. The spotters Bill Tweit, Scott Mills, Cara Borre, paused every 30 minutes to record their findings, adding to the longest running database of birds counted at sea in the world; Westport Seabirds has been counting birds out there since 1971.

We saw 28 bird species (nine were lifers for me). There were thousands of Sooty Shearwaters. The captain checked around several trawlers both inshore and in the deep, finding a large group of Black-footed Albatross floating near one long liner. Our excellent guide, Bob Boekelheide, spotted the rare Scripps's Murrelet for us. We enjoyed the quick flight of the Red-necked Phalaropes, smiled at the cuteness of the auklets and contrasted the languid flight of a Pink-footed Shearwater from the flap and glide of the Fork-tailed Storm-petrels. The Wandering Tattlers on the breakwater on our return to the harbor was a great end to the day.

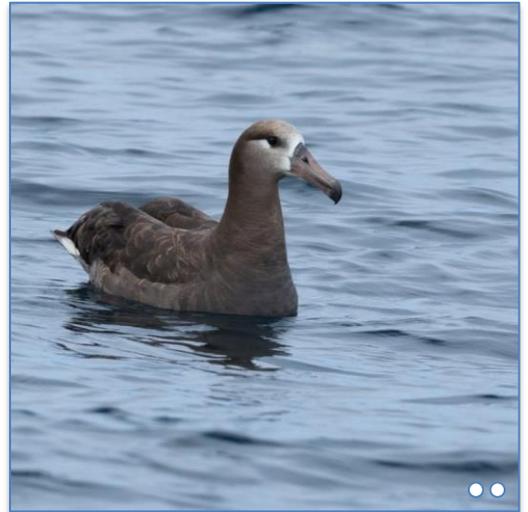
### MADELEINE BOHRER:

I think of our Western Washington trip as the best ten day long dream I have ever had. Ruby Beach is part of the Olympic National Park and of all the places we visited, it still remains as one of my top favorites. Hiking down a dirt slope to the beach, you must pass through a lovely evergreen forest with low growth shrubs. There was a Golden-crowned kinglet bathing in the morning dew and the yellow flash of a Wilson's warbler. Before you know it, the path ends and you have to climb through a graveyard of driftwood - the bleached skeletons of huge trees are scattered in a pile that has the Pacific on one side and an alluring tide pool on the other. We went to the beach side where giant monolithic rocks have stood their ground for centuries and flat sandstone rocks of all sizes tile the brown-gray sand. Smaller offshore rocks throw the sea spray and look like whales swimming while Deception Light House guards from afar. A river otter and her pup wriggled out of the sea not far from a Pacific Loon bobbing in the ocean swell. Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants stay on the rocks while California Gulls, Common Murres, Surf Scoters, and Pigeon Guillemots shoot this way and that over the waves. Standing there, I closed my eyes and listened to the shhhh of the waves and the echoes of a Hermit Thrush in the woods. The beach stretched for miles north and south, full of promise and misty beauty. I did not want to leave - this place had all I will ever need.

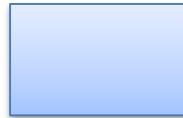
*Itinerary:* The Olympic Peninsula, Dinner Cruise to Protection Island, Hurricane Ridge (5,600'), Cape Flattery, Ruby Beach, Westport Pelagic Cruise, Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, Puyallup, Sunrise (6,400') and Mt. Rainier regions. July 15th - 25th, 2016



○ Birding Group by Dale Geobel



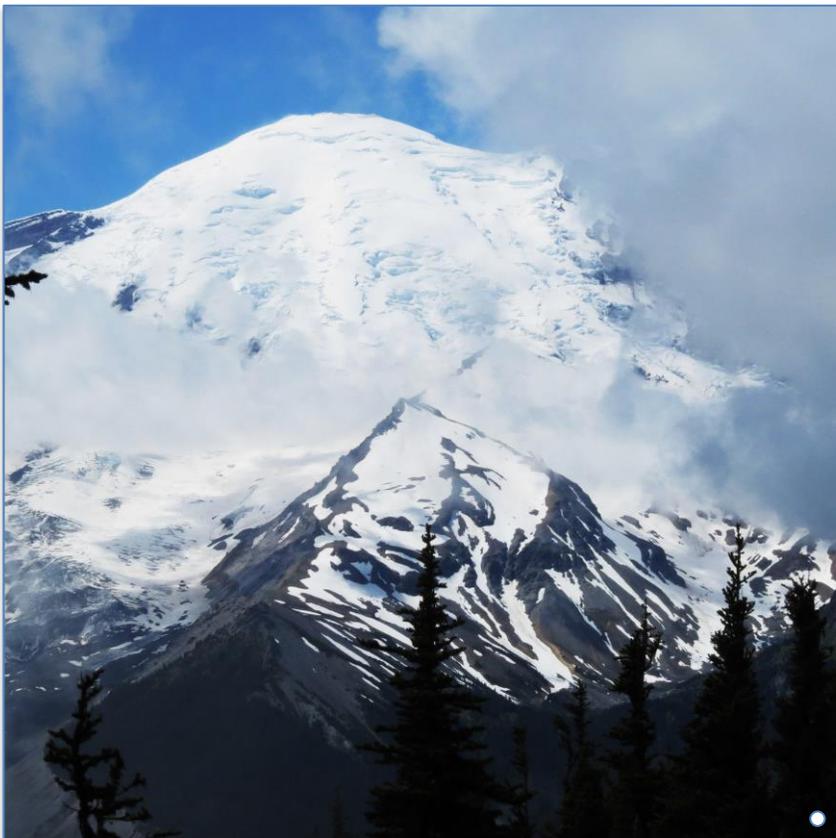
○○ Black-footed Albatross by John Mangold



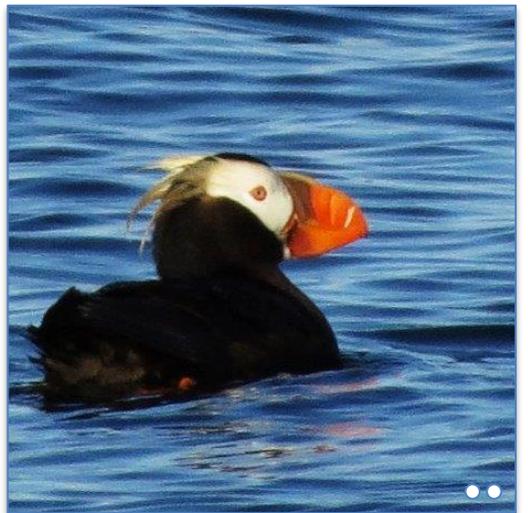
○○ Northern fulmar (dark morph) by John Mangold



○○ Pod of transient Orcas by John Mangold



○ Mt. Ranier by Dale Geobel



○○ Tufted Puffin by Dale Geobel



○○ Cedar Waxwing fledglings by Dale Geobel



○○ Heermann's Gull



# Birding the Great NW Washington State

-3 Adventurers

## CLARE JOHNS:

This was the best trip ever as we saw and did so much in such a short time. There were highlights from the very first day. Being a novice birder I was excited to see all the birds, even the American Robins. My favorite, pointed out by Dale Goebel, were five little Cedar Waxwing fledglings in a tree. They were huddled together waiting for Mom to come and feed them. A sight I'll remember for a long time....precious indeed.

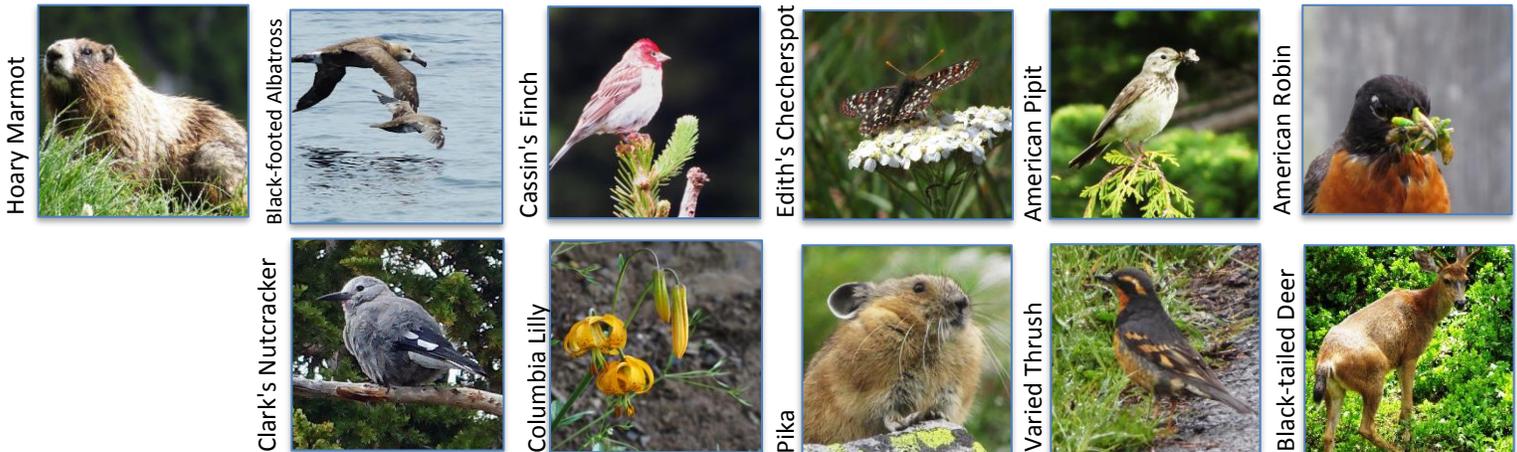
Our dinner cruise on the Glacier Spirit was exciting to me as I got to see Tufted Puffins up close and personal. Having missed them in Iceland as they had just left, being on a boat made this a great way to view them in a natural setting. They just floated by our boat...yeah!

For me, seeing Mt. Rainier up close and staying in the park at Longmire's National Park Inn was just perfect. We got to see so many places in the park and did lots of nature walks to view the birds. My oh my, such amazing wildflowers too...just heavenly. Reflection Lake (On a clear day at a specific time of day you could see the reflection of Mt. Rainier in the lake.) was the prettiest of the lakes we visited.

The surprise highlight and the best for me was Westport Seabird's pelagic boat trip out of Westport, WA, despite the early departure of 5:00am. On this 9-hour boat trip, not only did we see hundreds and hundreds of birds...including Black-footed Albatross, Pink-footed shearwater and many others, but lots of mammals. I personally spotted a shark, whales, and the prize of the day transient pod of Orcas swimming by to our delight. The captain's wife, Chris, told me that it was a rare sighting and it thrilled me to no end. The crew on the boat did everything to make the trip special for all of us.

Our farewell dinner at Seattle's world famous Space Needle restaurant did not disappoint. The weather was perfect, Mount Rainier was out for all to see, good food, and good friends were the perfect way to end our trip. Hopefully, you will have the opportunity to get to the great state of Washington to see the great birds and the amazing beauty that is Washington state.

[Download 2016-2017 Field Trip Schedule Here](#)





## Officers of Clearwater Audubon Society

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### Membership

[Membership Application](#)

Size : 141.717 Kb

Type : pdf

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### 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**

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### Past Issue of Wing Beat



*click issue to view  
Sept-Oct 2016*

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**"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*

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## Tribute to a Friend and Advocate

- Jan Allyn

**Jane Williams**, treasurer for Clearwater Audubon since 2002 and past president of the Pinellas Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, passed away on August 2nd after a brief illness. She was 74. Jane was passionate about birds, wildflowers, sailing, kayaking, fine art and antiques, and was a connoisseur of beauty in all its forms. Her love for Florida wildlife and nature came into full flower after she lost her husband Jack and abruptly retired from her career as a computer programmer at A. C. Nielsen. In retirement she became an enthusiastic birder, traveler, and supporter of environmental causes and organizations. An avid reader with wide interests, she had many “breakfast buddies” with whom she enjoyed sharing cups of coffee and conversation about books, politics, ideas, and the news of the day. She is survived by her son Jason who lives in Clearwater, and her daughter Joy who lives in Aiken, South Carolina. Jane’s curious and analytical mind, direct manner, and kind heart will be sorely missed.



Photos by Dale Goebel



## 2016 Three Rooker Roundup

**-John Hood**

Despite early damage from Tropical Storm Colin we had a successful year. The boats ran well with no nautical mishaps and only a very few days had to be curtailed due to weather. 40 volunteers helped. We spent 31 days on the island. We gave 1085 volunteer hours (\$17,360 worth). We had 155 people trips and encountered 149 dogs (90% of owners were compliant with only a few obstreperous ones). Law enforcement showed up several times.

Due to winter storms and the shifting nature of barrier islands the central quarter has eroded and there is now a several hundred-yard gap in the middle of the island. Recreational boat traffic continues to be heavy especially on the north island where there are fewer birds.

Now for the numbers which is the reason the whole program exists. We fledged:

10,000 laughing gulls – quite noisy

1,000 royal terns – moderately noisy

250 sandwich terns

20 Caspian terns – very aggressive

250 black skimmers – took a long time. Had to re-nest because of TS Colin and gull predation.

American oystercatchers – 7 attempts, 5 chicks but none fledged.

White ibis, egrets and herons – all moved to a small adjacent mangrove island so counting was not possible but we think they did well.

Come and join us next year. It's a really neat experience.

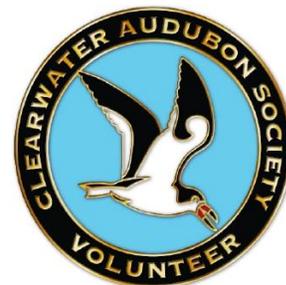
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## Earn Your CAS Volunteer Pin by Being a Bird Steward!

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>





## Florida Birding and Nature Festival



**October 13-16, 2016**

Highlighting Wildlife Corridors and Migrating Birds

Hillsborough Community College's LEED-Gold Certified

South Shore campus, 551 24th St. NE, Ruskin, FL (Tampa)

- Experience Central Florida's peak migration - over 180 species
- Field trips to the best wildlife sites in West Central Florida lead by our most experienced and engaging experts.
- Workshops on identification, nature photography techniques, conservation initiatives, and wildlife corridors.
- Birds, butterflies, dragonflies, reptiles, mammals and more.
- Nature products, art work, binoculars, bird boxes, unique products for wildlife lovers available for purchase.
- Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that protects birds native to North America.

<http://www.floridabirdingandnaturefestival.org/>

**HAPPY Owl-Oween**

Saturday, October 22, 2016  
Brooker Creek Preserve

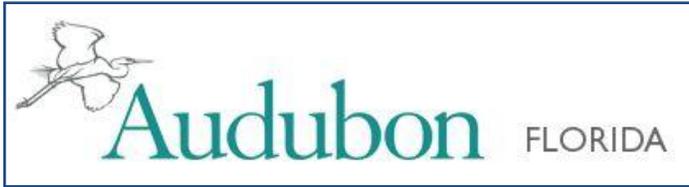
Live owls on display all day 9:00 - 3:00  
 Program "Owls, Owls, Owls" 10:00, 12:00, & 2:00  
 Owl Storytime for Children 9:00, 11:00, & 1:00  
 Owl Facepainting 10:00-2:00  
 Owl Pancake Breakfast (\$5/person) 8:00-10:00  
 Owl Pellet Dissection for teens 9:00 - 3:00 (\$5/person)  
 Owl Nest Box Building 9:00 - 3:00 (\$15/person)  
 Owl Prowl Night Hike 7:00 pm (\$5/person)

3940 Keystone Road, Tarpon Springs, 34688  
 Questions? Call 727-934-2680 | Email fobcp@tampabay.rr.com

Hosted by  
 Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve and the Clearwater Audubon Society



## Organizations We Support



[Audubon of Florida](#)



[St. Petersburg Audubon Society](#)



[Important Bird Areas in Florida](#)



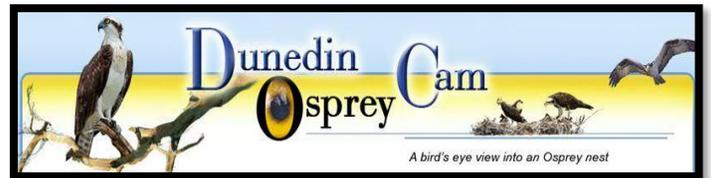
[Great Florida Birding Trail](#)



[Florida Ornithological Society](#)



[Friends Of Brooker Creek Preserve](#)



[Dunedin Osprey Cam](#)





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If you are interested in advertising with us, please contact [Meichelle Long](#).

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

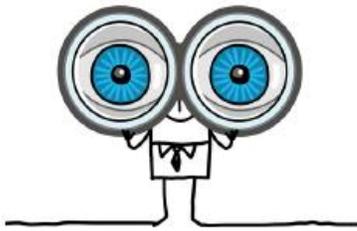
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Office Hours By Appointment



**Kamilla Sztanko, DMD, PA**  
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[Click Here](#) to download our 2015-16 Field Trip and Program brochure.



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