

# Cedar Keys Audubon

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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

## The Avocet Newsletter

April 2018

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL. Cedar Keys Audubon worked with Cedar Key Garden Club to pick some bird and pollinator friendly specimens for the Garden Club's annual plant sale. Doug Maple spoke at the Williston Women's Club about the ecology of our area.

Pass this newsletter along to folks you think might be interested in learning, helping, and contributing. An application is attached to this email for those interested in joining and/or making a tax deductible contribution.

### New Officers and Board Members

Co-Presidents	Crosby Hunt and Deborah Anderson
Vice President	Doug Maple
Treasurer	Linda Kimball
Secretary/Newsletter/Website	Libby Cagle
Communications/Publicity	Mandy Offerle
Education	Linda Kimball/Maureen Magee/Nancy Hanson
Bird Rescue/IFAS NCBS liaison	Savanna Barry
Membership	Peggy Herrick
Programs	Boyd Kimball

February Meet and Greet was our annual meeting where we installed our board and officers. Welcome to the new folks who have stepped up to work on making CKA even better. Any ideas you have and help you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Before the business portion, Florida Audubon's Jacqui Sulek presented "At Home in the Florida Scrub". This was an amusing and informative video of the importance of prescribed burns to restoring and maintaining scrub habitats for the endemic Florida Scrub Jay. Here is the link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Km3RpDYIyIa>

Nancy Hanson shows off the cake she baked to celebrate CKA's second anniversary as Deborah Anderson and Crosby Hunt model the new "Rescuer" T-shirts.





### CKA Membership Meet and Greet

March 26 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

General Membership Meeting open to the public, as are all our meetings.  
Vic Doig, Wildlife Biologist & Fire Management Officer, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Lower Suwannee NWR

Wading Bird Rookeries of the Cedar Keys NWR

The islands of the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge have been important nesting grounds for many species of wading and shorebirds for a long time.

The Refuge was established in 1929 due to its critical importance in providing nesting grounds. In this presentation, Doig will discuss the current state of nesting activities on Snake Key, give an update on Seahorse Key activity, and also give an overview of the artificial nesting platform for shorebirds and seabirds at Atsena Otie Key.

### Cedar Key Bird Rescue Program

From Doug Maple: *On March 1st I received a call of an injured dove at the residence of Betty Rose Cook at the corner of Hwy 24 and 5th St. The bird had been hit by a car. I took it to my residence for closer examination and a larger cage. The bird was a fledgling Eurasian collared dove. He became more active as the day went on and ate and drank very well. On Saturday March 3, I closely examined him for injuries and after finding none I released the bird on Sunset Point Dr. He easily flew away.*



Six more people were trained in rescue procedures in the Town of Suwannee and there were two pelican rescues and releases. Here is Johnny Arellano with a rescued brown pelican.

If anyone has rescue reports or photos to submit - please send them! *Even when the rescue was "unsuccessful" (e.g., if you went looking for a bird but could not find it or could not catch it), we need to keep track.* A text, email, or phone call (804-305-6014) to Dr. Barry with the info about the rescue would suffice if the paper form is too inconvenient. She needs the species, type of injury, volunteers that helped, approximate amount of time spent (including transport to rehab, if any), and outcome of rescue (if known). Even if you cannot remember all details, please send anything you can remember about rescue activities. Photos are also essential to the record keeping.

*Numbers to call for rescue are at the end of this newsletter and are on each page of the website.*

### Cedar Key's Old Florida Celebration of the Arts Street Festival

Participating in International Migratory Bird Day, we have once again partnered with local school students to create a stunning display of wildlife paintings and drawings, representing local birds. With the guidance and inspiration of the dynamic new teacher, Paula Willis, CKA has received over twice as many entries as last year, reaching over 150 pieces of art to hang in the Audubon booth during the Old Florida Celebration of the Arts on March 24 and 25.

Please come by our booth to see these creative renderings by students from both the Cedar Key School and the Yankeetown School. We should all be very proud of these young artists.

In addition to the students' wildlife artwork, festival attendees may also enjoy an exhibit of live wild birds in the booth, with knowledgeable avian handlers standing by to answer questions. While there, pick up some cards to distribute to dining establishments asking them to only provide plastic straws when requested as we work to reduce the amount of plastic that goes into our oceans. We will also have metal straws available at the booth.

### Nature World Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Work Day

In appreciation for all the help building the new flight cage, Mary Opall had a plaque made commemorating Cedar Keys Audubon. Good job and thank you to Crosby Hunt, Tom Deveran, Tom Simpson, and Joe Hand. Now our rescued birds will have a better place to recover.



### Banded America Oystercatcher (AMOY) Sighting

Incidental to another seasonal AMOY roost survey on the upper gulf, Doris and Pat Leary re-sighted DG[B12] at the airport offshore rake on Saturday February 17. For four consecutive days, they contended with heavy sea fog at Cedar Key and that Saturday's conditions were the most challenging. The morning fog did not recede until after noon and only for a brief period before rushing back to shore much denser and with brisk winds! In the brief period of clear sky, they were only able to visit three sites, and re-sighted this bird in that tight window.

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Vic Doig, Wildlife Biologist & Fire Management Officer, US Fish & Wildlife Service,

Lower Suwannee NWR Wading Bird Rookeries of the Cedar Keys NWR

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### Audubon Photography Contest

Entry Period ends April 9, 2018

You're crazy about birds and photography. Now combine your twin passions by entering your best bird photos in the 2018 Audubon Photography Awards. You could win a cash prize or, if you're our Youth winner, a special trip that will help you become an even better bird photographer. Winning photos will be published in a future issue of *Audubon* and in *Nature's Best Photography* magazine. They will be displayed within the 2018 Nature's Best Photography Exhibition at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. More details are at: <http://www.audubon.org/photoawards-entry>



### Celebrate Earth Day

April 20 9 am to noon

Refuge Headquarters Off CR 347 - 16450 Northwest 31 Place, Chiefland 32626, about half way between Chiefland and Cedar Key.

The Friends of the Lower Suwannee NWR will sponsor various topics related to conserving our natural resources. Topics planned include: Water Quality, Marine Mammals, Recreational Fishing and Release Techniques. Add to your life list, as well, with the return of our Swallow Tail Kites! Contact [Bob Lewis](#) for more info.

### CKA Membership Meet and Greet

April 23 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Prescribed Fire: Keeping It Brief

Chris Camargo, Park Services Specialist, Waccasassa Bay

Have you ever wondered how a prescribed fire is conducted? Step into the shoes of a wild land fire fighter and receive the morning briefing, just like before a real prescribed burn. We go over things like weather, ignition plan, and mop-up. Afterwards we will take a look at the specialized tools that are used in conducting prescribed fires.



Preserve State Park

**The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail** is a network of 510 premier wildlife viewing sites across the state. When you want to know where to go in Florida to see native birds, butterflies, and more, head for the Trail. It's Your Road to Adventure!  
<https://public.myfwc.com/maps/birdtrip/default.aspx>



### **Wild Hog Canoe Race**

April 28



This fund raiser for Levy County ARC takes place on Florida's famous Waccasassa River and brings you through the heart of Florida's back country. Sightings of deer, wild boar, alligators, and all types of snakes are a frequent occurrence for race contestants. The race covers 15 miles of twists and turns and the current rain fall can have a dramatic effect on the river, adding to the challenge. It starts at the Waccasassa Bridge, 6 miles west of the stop light in Bronson on State Rd 24. It finishes at US Highway 19 at the Waccasassa Bridge, 6 miles south of Otter Creek. More [info](#)

### **South Carolina Magical Birding Trip**

May 18-2

We have been invited to join Orange Audubon Society's fun fund-raising trip to [Congaree National Park](#), 15 miles southeast of Columbia, South Carolina which contains the largest remaining area of [old growth bottomland hardwood forest in the United States](#). More info is available from [Deborah Green](#).

### **Citizen Science Opportunities:**

#### **Jay Watch**

The [Florida Scrub-Jay](#) is our state's only endemic bird species. The state's population of Florida Scrub-Jays is estimated to have declined by 90% since the early 1800s. Between 1993 and 2010 our state's Scrub-Jay population declined another 26%. Currently it is mostly found on public lands where they are generally better protected. The Cedar Key Scrub Reserve was set aside for their protection, but are any still here?

You can help — Attend one of our onsite training sessions in 2018, to be held in nine counties across the Florida peninsula. Contact Audubon's [Jacqui Sulek](#) for more information about our trainings. — Join a Jay Watch survey team: contact Audubon's [Marianne Korosy](#) — Donate to Jay Watch - support a program that directly trains volunteers, supports survey teams, analyzes, and compiles statewide survey data for use by site managers, wildlife agencies, and researchers.

#### **More**

There are other ongoing citizen science opportunities listed in previous newsletters that can be found at <https://www.cedarkeysaudubon.org/citizen-science.html>.

### **What's at Stake - Funding for Sea Grant**

Florida Sea Grant is a university-based program that supports research, education, and extension to conserve coastal resources and enhance economic opportunities for the people of Florida.

It is a partnership between the Florida Board of Education, the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#), and Florida's citizens and governments. The extension, education and outreach programs are done in partnership with [UF/IFAS Extension](#) and coastal counties of Florida. This program is vital to our area since its four main focus areas are: Healthy coastal environments; sustainable fisheries; resilient communities; and environmental literacy and workforce development. Funding for this program has been stricken from the current budget proposal. A letter from Dr. Martin Main asking for our help is attached or you can read it here <https://www.cedarkeysaudubon.org/collaborative-projects.html>



## **Events Relating to Birds and Conservation**

### **County Road 347 Friends Adopt a Highway**

The first Monday of each month - 9 to 10 am

Every little bit helps. Meet at "Adopt-A-Highway" sign near SW 77th Place for gloves, vest, and bags. We never know what we will find. Be sure to wear appropriate clothes — long pants, good walking shoes or boots, hat, repellent, sunscreen, etc.

### **Old Florida Celebration of the Arts Festival in Cedar Key**

March 24 & 25 Downtown Cedar Key

Visit our booth next to the park

### **CKA Membership Meet and Greet**

March 26 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

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### **Seahorse Key Marine Lab Open House**

March 28th

For more information go to <https://ncbs.ifas.ufl.edu/open-house/>

### **Plant Identification and Florida's Flora"**

March 30 10 am Withlacoochie Gulf Preserve

A Presentation by Marc S. Frank - UF Herbarium Extension Botanist

### **Earth Day**

April 20 9 am to noon

Lower Suwannee NWR HQ

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### **Wild Hog Canoe Race**

April 28 - Waccasassa River

### **Numbers to call for**

#### **Bird Rescue Help**

**615 337 3213**

**615 944 3714**

**352 949 1995**

**352 262 6665**

## **OFFICERS**

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