

Cedar Keys Audubon

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Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

December 2017

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL. We are now into our fall/winter season. 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.

Audubon Florida Named Us Chapter of the Year



Libby Cagle and Doug Maple were surprised while attending the Audubon Florida Annual Assembly when they were asked to accept the 2017 Chapter of the Year Award for Cedar Keys Audubon. We have impressed the folks with how quickly the chapter hit the road running for all of our projects and collaborations but especially the Bird Rescue Program.



Bird Rescue Program

This great horned owl was rescued by Doug Maple at the State Museum in Cedar Key on 23 October. It had a puncture wound in its chest and the dilation of the pupils were not even.

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.

Bird Outing with Alachua Audubon

Rex Rowan led a group from Bridge Four to Shell Mound with stops at Lukens, City Park, cemetery, and around the State Museum. Over fifty species of birds were identified. Thanks for coming and bringing your knowledge and scopes. It was a good outing.





[Cemetery Point Park Project](#)

Last spring we took on the task of making Cemetery Point Park more bird friendly by placing a couple of bird feeding stations. Along with those, we now have a bird bath and have recently installed some bird friendly plants that were donated by Steve Edmunds. Here Crosby Hunt is giving them a drink. Once they get established, they should be able to survive with little human effort. We have more to come. With the reduced canopy after Hermine and Irma, this is essential to maintaining critical wildlife habitat. We can use some help keeping the feeders filled the plants watered. Donations of seed is always appreciated. If you walk around there anyway, how about pitching in. Let us know how you can help by replying to this [email](#).

[November Meet and Greet](#)

November 27 at 5 pm

Cedar Key Library, General membership meeting open to the public, as are all our meetings. MacKenzie Russell from University of Florida will be presenting information on marine mammals and marine mammal strandings in the Big Bend. She will cover topics such as marine mammal biology, what happens during a marine mammal stranding, and some stories of rescues and responses from this past year. We will also be looking forward to some new volunteers to help us continue our projects.

[Bird Count at Cedar Key State Museum](#)

We have been asked by Chris Camargo of the State Parks to start a routine, regular bird count on the museum property. This sounds like a fun project and Doug Maple has agreed to coordinate. There are a lot of folks who walk in that area, and we are hoping some of you will agree to help with this. The goal is to record which birds are around at what time of year. We want to do the count throughout the year, but that doesn't mean the same person has to do it each time. Even if you don't know all the birds, this is a good way to learn some new ones. Respond to this email if interested in this project in any capacity.

[Cedar Key American Oyster Catcher Study](#)

At the Nature Coast Shorebird Partnership 2017 Post-Season Meeting, UF PhD student Nick Vitale reported that reproductive efforts of American oyster catchers are high, but productivity is low. One reason is the over washing of the nests. He has video footage to show some of the occurrences. He is unsure why chicks have a good survival rate up to day 35 and a poor rate at day 65, but predation is suspected. The study will continue next season. Joe Marchionno of FWC is looking for volunteers to monitor two sites (near airport and Corrigan's Reef) that have been reconstructed for oyster catcher nesting. If you are up early and out in your boat, this could be a way to help save our oyster catchers.

[Night Time Nature Walk in Lower Suwannee NW Refuge](#)

We are working with the Friends of the Refuges and the Refuge manager to set up a special, for members of the Friends and CK Audubon, night nature walk and marshmallow roast. Keep an eye on our [calendar](#) for time and date to see the night time creepy crawlies with naturalists specializing in plants, bugs, birds, and bats.



[What's at Stake - The New Vision for the Florida Greenways and Trails System...2018-2022 Plan and Maps Update](#)

If you like to paddle, hike, bike, or ride horses on trails, we need to hear from you! The Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) is updating its five-year plan along with the statewide opportunity and priority trail maps. Many trails are eligible for certain types of funding if they are on one or both maps. Comments will be accepted until 15 December. [Read more.](#)

Brazilian Pepper Eradication

Come enjoy the great outdoors, friendship, camaraderie, and a great sense of accomplishment as we eliminate these invasive from our natural landscape! Your help is needed to eradicate this noxious exotic plant from our shorelines and preserve our pristine Nature Coast. Join the Garden Club and Friends of Refuges for another season of Pepper Busting around Cedar Key and the local Refuges. They meet every Tuesday at 9 am. Wear long pants, hats/caps, and long sleeve shirts. Boots, goggles, gloves, sprayers, loppers, clippers, & saws are provided. Contact Roger McDaniels at 321 698 1688 or rogermac4@yahoo.com to get on his list so you know where to meet each week. This has been a 20-year effort that is becoming more critical as the plants spread north with the rising winter temperatures.

Year End Contributions

As 2017 comes to close, many of us will make end of year charitable contributions. Please keep CKA in mind. The attached Membership Application may also be used for making a tax deductible remittance. You may mail it to us, or, better yet, bring it to the meeting on Monday 27 November. The funds will be used to continue our programs and projects as well as new ventures.

Events Relating to Birds and Conservation

CKA Membership Meeting

27 November at 5 pm
Cedar Key Library

County Road 347 Friends Adopt-a-Highway

December 4 (and 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.

North Florida Birding and Botany Field Trips and North American Wolf Encounter

December 7-10

Tall Timbers Research Station (TTRS) Tallahassee and St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge.
Orange Audubon would love you to join us on a weekend trip to the Florida Panhandle's Red Hills area, called one of America's "last great places" by The Nature Conservancy, hosted by TTRS' vertebrate ecology program director (and our weekend birding guide) Jim Cox. The weekend includes 4 birding/botany field trips, other natural history pursuits and a private, hands-on tour at Seacrest Wolf Preserve near Chipley. Early Bird Registration for the entire weekend including guides, admission to Seacrest, 3 lunches and a cookout dinner at TTRS is just \$80 for Audubon members/\$95 non-members. You can also pay a partial fee for the Seacrest-only or the birding/botany-only portions. Participants are responsible for lodging, other meals, transportation and incidentals. A full description of the events can be found on [Meetup](#), in the Orange Audubon Society [November newsletter](#), or by contacting Teresa Williams for more information, including lodging options, and to reserve field trip spots: (407) 718-1977 or mwilliams@cfl.rr.com.

Work Day at Nature World Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

9 December at 9 am

A lot of the birds we rescue are delivered to Mary Opall in Homosassa and she needs some help with some maintenance issues that have been worsened in our recent storm season.
Contact Crosby Hunt at crosby.hunt@mtsu.edu

Florida State Museum

January 1

Florida State Parks First Day event - paddle from State Museum in Cedar Key
http://www.stateparks.com/waccasassa_bay_preserve.html



Williston Garden Club

January 10 at 10 am Williston Presbyterian Church

CKA will spread the word on what we have accomplished, our partnering efforts, the plans we have, and how we can help each other.

Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve

January 22 at 10 am Yankeetown WGP Education Center

CKA will spread the word on what we have accomplished, our partnering efforts, the plans we have, and how we can help each other.

CKA Membership Meeting

22 January at 5 pm Cedar Key Library

Don't miss our own Doug Maple as he takes us around Cedar Key season by season telling us what birds you can expect to throughout the year.

Basic Bird Identification

January 24 at 10 am - 12 pm Cedar Key Library

Anne Lindgren will show how to tell one bird from another with a two hour demonstration and then a walk around town to try out what you have learned. Space is limited. Email her to reserve your spot - anne.Lindgren@gmail.com.

Prescribed Fire: Keeping it Brief

26 February at 5 pm Cedar Key Library

Chris Carmago

Have you ever wondered how a prescribed fire is conducted? Step into the shoes of a wildland 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.

Bird Walk in Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park

Date TBD to align with spring migration

Waccasassa Bay Preserve still offers sweeping vistas of natural landscapes uninterrupted by buildings, power lines, and bridges. The Preserve is home to numerous rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species and commercially important marine species. Through special arrangement with the staff at Waccasassa Bay Preserve, they will take 10 **members of CKA** on a trip to a great birding spot that is not normally accessible to the public. This will be about a half day, so bring a snack or picnic lunch, water, and be sure to wear appropriate attire for walking in swampy areas and be prepared for bugs, lots of bugs. http://www.stateparks.com/waccasassa_bay_preserve.html



Numbers to call for

Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

615 944 3714

352 949 1995

352 262 6665

YOUR OFFICERS

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