

Cedar Keys Audubon

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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

February 2018

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL. February gives us a back yard bird count opportunity and a shore bird count. For some of you, that may be the same place. Also, Coastal Georgia Audubon is coming to our area and we can join them in their activities. 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.

Cedar Key Bird Rescue Program



Be on the look out for our new "Rescuer" T-shirts that will only be available to those who have completed the rescue course and are actively participating in the program. Donations to defray the costs are welcome.

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.

Our Newest Project - No More Plastic Straws

We use 500 million plastic straws everyday in the United States. If we don't act now, by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in our oceans. An estimated 71% of seabirds and 30% of turtles have been found with plastics in their stomachs. When they ingest plastic, marine life has a 50% mortality rate. What would our oceans be without marine life? At the very least, say "NO PLASTIC STRAW, PLEASE!" Get in the habit of asking for no straw when you order a beverage. Be ready to tell your server why. We will be handing out cards at our meetings and other events that can be given to your servers in restaurants.

Nature World Wildlife Rehabilitation Center Work Day

January 21 meet at Cedar Key's City Park at 9 am to car pool for this workday at this critical rehabilitation center where we take many of our rescued birds. Your assistance will be appreciated as we work on building a new outdoor holding facility. Contact Crosby Hunt for more info: crosby.hunt@mtsu.edu

January Meet and Greet

January 22 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

General Membership Meeting open to the public, as are all our meetings.

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

Coastal Georgia Audubon

February 3-4, Saturday/Sunday - Payne's Prairie, near Gainesville, FL, and St Marks NWR, Florida.

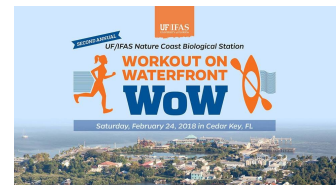
Weekend trip. Drive to Gainesville, FL Friday evening, and bird Payne's Prairie and possibly Sweetwater Wetlands on Saturday. Drive to St Marks NWR near the Gulf on Saturday evening, and bird St. Marks on Sunday. Signup later in January. This trip is free and open to the public, although individuals are responsible for any entrance fees or passes for state- or federally-managed areas. For all trips, bring your own water, snacks, and insect repellent. Binoculars can be borrowed with advanced notice. For questions and additional information, contact Bob Sattelmeyer at engrds@gsu.edu or 404-217-7082.

Work Out on Waterfront

February 24 - Cedar Key Waterfront

<https://www.facebook.com/events/124266584941049/>

Come visit our table between 11 am and 1 pm to get your "No More Straws" cards along with other information of what we are doing for your community.



CKA Membership Meet and Greet and Annual Business Meeting

February 26 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Annual Business Meeting followed by:

Prescribed Fire: Keeping It Brief

Chris Camargo, Park Services Specialist, Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park

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.



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.

Audubon Photography Contest

Entry Period January 8, 2018–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>

Citizen Science Opportunities:

Florida Winter Shorebird Survey

Florida's Annual Winter Shorebird Survey starts on Friday, February 2nd, and continues through Thursday, February 8th. This week-long survey serves as the official statewide snapshot of coastal wintering shorebirds and seabirds in Florida. For the 2018 survey, FWC and partners updated the protocol and streamlined the sign-up process to make it easier to participate! Please check the [FSA website](#) and [Facebook group](#) in mid-January for more details and to participate. We hope you enjoy this fun and challenging winter survey and Thank You for your continued efforts!



Monitors conducting a count at Huguenot Memorial Park. Photo: Chris Burney

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

Friday, February 16 through Monday, February 19

It's a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard or anywhere in the world.



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 - I Support Spending Conservation Dollars on Parks, not Paper Clips.

Funding to protect Florida's most critical land and water resources is a top priority. With the passage of Florida's Land and Water Legacy Amendment in 2014, Floridians signaled that conservation, habitat, and watershed protection programs are a top priority. Unfortunately, in recent years, funds made available from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund have been redirected to fund state government agency operations, leaving less for essential conservation programs.

Thankfully, Senator Rob Bradley proposed to exclude operations from using this pot of conservation funding. If this measure is approved, it would leave more funding available for the core priority conservation programs. Senator Bradley represents our district and can be reached at: 414 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100 or email him through his website: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S5>. Let him know you support this effort.

Events Relating to Birds and Conservation

Brazilian Pepper Eradication

Tuesday mornings 9 am

Contact Roger McDaniels at 321 698 1688 or rogermac4@yahoo.com to get on his list so you know where to meet each week.

Cedar Key Historical Society Presentation

January 18 at 10 am - Cedar Key Community Center 809 6th St, Cedar Key
Cynthia Barnett - "Rain"

Cedar Key Library Lecture Series

January 18 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
Lisa Davenport/John Terborgh - Tropical Bird Ecology

Cedar Key Library Lecture Series

January 20 at 10:30 am - Cedar Key Library
Andy Danylchuk Fisheries Best Practices

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 Meet and Greet

January 22 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
See above for details.

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.~~ Class is full.

Cedar Key Library Lecture Series

February 1 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
Sam Gibbs/Rick Anthony - Florida's Nature Coast Conservancy

Florida Winter Shorebird Survey

February 2 - 8

[http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org/?
utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=](http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)

Coastal Georgia Audubon

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Cedar Key Library Lecture Series

February 8 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
Mike Allen/Charlie Martin - Cedar Key Fisheries – Snook, etc.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

February 16 through Monday, February 19
birdcount.org

Cedar Key Library Lecture Series

February 22 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
Kate Helgren - Green Education

National Skip the Straw Day

February 23
In conjunction with the “No More Plastic Straws” Campaign

CKA Membership Meet and Greet

February 26 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library
Annual Business Meeting followed by:

Prescribed Fire: Keeping It Brief

This will also be the annual business meeting

Cedar Key Library Lecture Series

March 8 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Dan Kline - Mosquitoes

Friends of Refuges Annual Meeting and Open House

March 10 from 10 am until 2 pm at Lower Suwannee NW Refuge Headquarters

Speaker is Dr. Ken Sassaman who will discuss his latest work "Shell Mound: Portal to Another World" and introduce the new version of Shell Mound Trail.

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Vic Doig, Wildlife Biologist & Fire Mgmt Officer, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Lower Suwannee NWR

Wading Bird Rookeries of the Cedar Keys NWR

Nature 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

Co-Presidents	Deborah Anderson & Crosby Hunt	deborah.anderson@mtsu.edu crosby.hunt@mtsu.edu
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Treasurer	Nancy Hanson	0412nancy@live.ca
Secretary	Libby Cagle	libbysart@netscape.net