

Cedar Keys Audubon

CHAPTER CODE: E-53 501(c)3

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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

January 2018

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL. January is packed full of 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

In 2017, CKBR volunteers fielded 89 phone calls and embarked on rescue missions attempting to save 20 different species of bird. The types of injuries varied, but pelicans tangled in fishing line were the most common (48 of 89 calls in 2017). The high number of entangled pelican rescue calls in 2017 confirms that Cedar Key remains a hotspot for seabird entanglement. In addition, it reinforces the need for the rescue team and highlights the need for additional public education. Thanks to the efforts of CKBR volunteers, the lives of at least 37 birds have been saved. The summary tables on web page show the outcomes of all of the rescues (109 total) since CKBR's inception. Read Dr. Barry's entire article here: <http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/ncbs/2017/12/15/cedar-key-bird-rescue-2017-review/>

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.

November Meet and Greet

Despite a myriad of technical equipment difficulties, MacKenzie Russell, a Stranding Coordinator working with the University of Florida Marine Animal Rescue response conducted under the Stranding Agreement issued by National Marine Fisheries Service / National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, provided a detailed and informative presentation of marine animals and strandings in the Big Bend.

The Marine Animal Rescue effort is a collaboration among UF College of Veterinary Medicine Aquatic Animal Health Program, Cedar Key Dolphin Project, and UFIFAS Nature Coast Biological Station. It is funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Nature World Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

December 9 was a workday at this critical rehabilitation center where we take many of our rescued birds. Our appreciation goes to the five people from Cedar Key who joined six volunteers from the local high school to make significant progress in building a new outdoor

holding facility. Two more visits are planned to finish the project. We'll let you know when they are scheduled.

Bird Outing with Orange Audubon Society

Braving the first cold spell of the season, two CK Audubon members joined Orange Audubon Society's trip to Tall Timbers Research Station near Tallahassee and to St. Marks NWR. During the outing a Bachman sparrow and a Henslow sparrow were netted and tagged. We hope to join other Audubon groups for similar excursions.

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, telling us what birds you can expect to see throughout the year.

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.

Bird Identification for Beginners

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.

Our Introduction Presentation

In October we debuted our introduction presentation at our membership meeting. There are two other opportunities to see it in January. On the 10th we will be at the Presbyterian Church in Williston with the Williston Garden Club. The Friends of the Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve have invited us to their meeting on 22 January. CKA will spread the word on what we have accomplished, our partnering efforts, the plans we have, and how we can help each other.

Citizen Science Opportunities:



Spot Banded Pelicans

Rochelle Streker a Clemson University graduate student research assistant is seeking likeminded Gulf Coast residents and visitors to help make a real-world impact on the birds and the coastal environment they call home. More details here: <http://newsstand.clemson.edu/mediarelations/clemson-researchers-seek-publics-help-in-spotting-gulf-pelicans/>

Northern Bobwhite Quail Sightings

How to Participate:

- FWC is interested in ANY sightings of quail including personal observations or birds calling but not seen.
- Do not record pen-raised quail that have been released for hunting.
- More recent sightings (within the past year) are preferred, but older sightings are appreciated. If a



sighting is not recent, please remember to put the correct year and month if possible.
For more info or to report: <https://public.myfwc.com/HSC/Quail/GetLatLong.aspx>

What's at Stake - Stop Oil & Gas Industries from Getting a Free Pass to Kill Birds.



The House Committee on Natural Resources passed a harmful energy bill (HR 4239) with an amendment that would gut our nation's strongest bird conservation law, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Bird-Killer Amendment would give oil and gas companies and other industries a free pass to kill birds with impunity. If the bill becomes law, industries would no longer be held accountable for bird deaths, such as birds killed in oil spills. In other words, if this bill had been the law in 2010, BP would not have been held liable for killing more than one million birds during the Gulf oil spill. Urge your U.S. Representative to vote NO on the Bird-Killer Amendment and the bad energy bill.

Year-End Contributions

As 2017 comes to a 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 at the address above. The funds will be used to continue our existing programs and projects as well as new ventures.

Events Relating to Birds and Conservation

Brazilian Pepper Eradication

Every Tuesday morning 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.

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 9:30 am Williston Presbyterian Church, [247 NE 1st Street, Williston](#)
CKA will spread the word on what we have accomplished, our partnering efforts, the plans we have, and how we can help each other. Come at 9:30 for refreshments and social time. The presentation will start at 10:00.

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

22 January 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. Email her to reserve your spot - anne.Lindgren@gmail.com.

CKA Membership Meet and Greet

February 26 at 5 pm Cedar Key Library

Annual Business Meeting followed by:

Prescribed Fire: Keeping It Brief

Chris Carmago

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.

This will also be the annual business meeting

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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