

# Cedar Keys Audubon

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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

## The Avocet Newsletter January/February 2019

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The Chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL. 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. Goals for 2019 are to continue with our success in the Bird Rescue Program and start a new initiative to educate the public on the danger of disrupting nesting and roosting birds. Stay tuned.

### Welcome to Interim President

Thank you to Deborah Anderson and Crosby Hunt for being co-presidents for the last couple of years and adding your perspective and energy. Welcome to Jay Bushnell for stepping in as President to help keep us on track.

### New Feeders in Cemetery Point Park

Not sure which storm took our feeders, but we now have two new ones just in time for our winter flocks. Feeders are located on both north and south side of the park and there are benches so you can sit and enjoy.

### Cedar Key Bird Rescue Program update from Dr. Savanna Barry

Year end statistics for this program are available at: <https://mailchi.mp/190304f9af97/2018-cedar-key-bird-rescue>

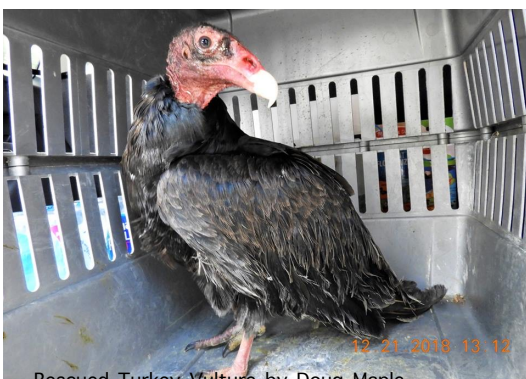
The number of hooked pelicans reported has decreased over the past year. We are hoping that means our efforts to educate the public are working. This is a good time to stress the need for anglers to be careful with their lines and to not cut them if you hook a bird.

Reminders:

- Gas cards are available to volunteers who help transport birds to rehab. These were provided through a grant that Deborah and Crosby won for the club. Please take advantage of these as a thank you for helping out the birds!
- Don't forget to SEND ME REPORTS if you have any bird rescue activity (even if you were not able to catch the bird). You can call or text (804) 305-6014 or email me at
- Bird rescue equipment is available at the Nature Coast Biological Station in the yard shed between Island Place and NCBS. Please feel free to borrow this equipment any time and let me know if there are any issues.



Libby Cagle hanging the new feeder



Rescued Turkey Vulture by Doug Maple

## November CKA Membership Meet and Greet

Pat and Doris Leary, lifetime birders and researchers for the American Oyster Catcher Working Group, discussed how they collect and document information on oystercatchers as they migrate from northern states like Massachusetts and Connecticut southward towards Florida. The Learys' presentation also pointed out a major danger for the AMOC population: loss of habitat. Read more about this presentation <https://mailchi.mp/190304f9af97/2018-cedar-key-bird-rescue>.

## CKA Membership Meet and Greet

January 28, 2019 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library



Dr Jeffrey Gleason, USFWS GOMMAPPs Coordinator -“GoMAPPs: Establishing the importance of the Gulf of Mexico to North American seabirds and beyond”. The seabird aspect of the project is the “most... extensive avian research effort ever conducted in the northern Gulf of Mexico” and the most comprehensive winter seabird survey amassing an anticipated >270 days-at-sea. The spatial coverage includes the great arc of Gulf off-shore from Brownsville, Texas to Key West, Florida, including the waters off Cedar Key. Using ships, planes and satellites it will be tracking everything from tiny zooplankton to

sperm whales. [www.boem.gov/GOMMAPPs/](http://www.boem.gov/GOMMAPPs/)  
(We will have an alternate program if US Government is still shut down.)

## Ecotours

Check out this opportunity for guided kayak ecotours by Dr. Paul King of UF/IFAS.

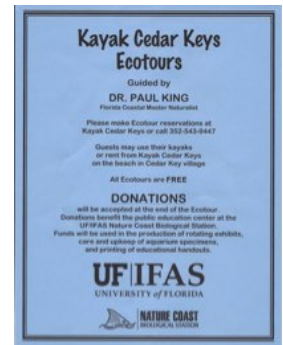
**The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail** is a network of 510 premier wildlife viewing sites across the state. When you want to know where to go in Florida to see native birds, butterflies, and more, [head for the Trail](#). It's Your Road to Adventure!

## Bird Walks

Donna Thalacker led our first walk of the season and Dr. Sam Gibbs led another. We still need some folks to lead and hope that some of the seasonal or short term visitors are willing to help. Locals know the places, but many of us don't have the expertise to pick out and identify what we see and hear. [email us if interested](#).

## Alachua Audubon Field Trips

[Here is the schedule](#)



## ***Citizen Science Opportunities:***

Check here for ongoing citizen science opportunities listed in previous newsletters: <https://www.cedarkeysaudubon.org/citizen-science.html>.

## Andrews Wildlife Management Area

Hannah Buschert of Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail Coordinator is asking for help in documenting birds in wildlife management areas especially Andrews in Levy County. So far only 30 species have been logged into eBirds and she feels that there are many more. It sounds like this could be a new place for some of us to add to our bird lists. <https://public.myfwc.com/maps/birdtrip/default.aspx> Also, if you are a resident or visiting birder who would like company by leading a walk, please let us know and we will figure out a time that does not conflict with hunting seasons.

### **What's at Stake - Government Shutdown**

We are all feeling the affect of the impasse in Washington, DC regarding the lack of funding for several agencies. The personal financial impact is hitting hard, not only for the Government workers involved, but also for entire communities and businesses who depend on the income of those workers and contractors. Many scientific and other research projects have been put on hold and many will have to be started from scratch as the data collected is trashed. Our public lands are being destroyed while there are no employees to keep things in order. Damage is being done that can never be restored. Our scheduled speaker will not be able to make his presentation if the situation continues.



Write or call your US Representatives and Senators and tell them to do their jobs.

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

#### **22nd Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival**

January 23-28 - Eastern Florida State College, Titusville, FL  
Explore world-renowned natural areas of Florida's Space Coast, home of the largest collection of endangered wildlife and plants in the continental United States. <https://scbwf.org/>

#### **Annual Meeting Friends of Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve**

January 27 - 11 am - Ellie Schiller Education Center, Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve, 1001 Old Rock Road, Yankeetown

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

January 28 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library  
Dr Jeffrey Gleason, GOMMAPPS Seabirds - Dr. Gleason is with USFWS at Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. He is the Gulf of Mexico Migratory Bird Coordinator for GOMMAPPS (check it out on line), an ambitious multi-agency, multi-year assessment of marine life in the Gulf of Mexico. Data is being collected by aircraft, satellite, and sea vessels with a view toward future energy development policy- including waters off Cedar Key.

#### **Marine Mammal Stranding Workshop**

Feb 1 - 12:30 - 2:30 pm - FWC Kirkpatrick Lab Cedar Key  
This is a training for anyone interested in volunteering for the University of Florida Marine Animal Rescue team, or anyone interested in simply learning about how we rescue marine mammals. Training will cover UFMAR personnel, marine mammal health information, Southeast Stranding Network organization, human health and safety, and procedures for assessing and assisting stranded marine mammals on the Gulf Coast of Florida. There will also be a practical portion where we will cover how to support a marine mammal and load and carry it in a stretcher for transport.  
Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/marine-mammal-rescue-training-tickets-54536525215>

#### **Bird Rescue Workshop**

Feb 1 - 3:00 - 5:00 pm - FWC Kirkpatrick Lab Cedar Key  
Attendees will learn about the Cedar Key Bird Rescue program, hear from a licensed wildlife rehabilitator about best bird handling practices, learn how to access rescue gear, and learn how to rescue an injured bird. This program primarily focuses on rescuing birds that have been tangled in fishing line, and the majority of birds rescued in this program are pelicans.  
Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-cedar-key-bird-rescue-workshop-tickets-54015126698>



### [Three Sisters Springs Bird Walk](#)

February 9 - 7 am - Three Sisters Spring, Crystal River  
Clearwater Audubon Society  
[www.clearwateraudubonsociety.org](http://www.clearwateraudubonsociety.org).

### [What's So Special About the Nature Coast?](#)

February 9 - 10:30 - Cedar Key Library  
Sam Gibbs - Nature Coast Conservancy

### [Birding by Kayak on the Silver River](#)

February 15 - 9 am - Silver Springs State Park (Main Entrance)  
Kayak Launch  
Marion Audubon Society and Sandhill chapter FTA  
[www.marioncountyaudubon.com](http://www.marioncountyaudubon.com)

### [Backyard Bird Count](#)

February 15 - 18, 2019

For at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, February 15-18, 2019, simply tally the numbers and kinds of birds you see. You can count from any location, anywhere in the world, for as long as you wish! <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>

### [Purple Martins - No Room at the Inn](#)

February 16 - 10:30 am - Cedar Key Library  
Katheryn Seiving, PhD, UF College of Wildlife, Ecology, and Conservation

### [Florida Nature Coast Conservancy Annual Gathering](#)

February 17 - 4:00-6:00 pm - Island Hotel Courtyard - 2nd St, Cedar Key  
Celebrating 25 years and planning for the next 25

### [What have we learned from two decades of research and hundreds of thousands of miles of tracing some of our favorite birds?](#)

February 21 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library  
Ken Meyer, PhD, Executive Director, Avian Research and Conservation Institute

### [CKA Membership Meet and Greet](#)

February 25 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library  
Dr. Peter Frederick, Oyster reef restoration update.

### [CKA Annual Membership Meeting](#)

March 25 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library  
Megan Wallrichs, Florida Shorebird Alliance

### [Old Fashion Celebration of the Arts](#)

March 30 - 31 - All day - Downtown Cedar Key, FL  
Visit our booth by the park

### [Alachua County Audubon Bird Walk](#)

April 14 - 7:30 am - Cedar Key - Meet at Bridge 4

### [CKA Membership Meet and Greet](#)

April 22 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library



Yellow Crowned Night Herons  
photo by Libby Cagle

