

Cedar Keys Audubon

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Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

July - August 2017

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL. Although things slowed down for the summer, we were still busy behind the scenes getting things done and making a difference. Friend us on Facebook for updates. 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.

Bird Watching in Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge May 2017



CKA's first boat birding trip took place on a rainy, rough evening in May. On our way to watch birds return to Snake Key to roost for the night, Mike O'Dell of Tidewater Tours cruised by Atsena Otie and Sea Horse Keys where we were treated to a small flock that included red knots, marble godwits, sanderling, and dunlin sandpipers. In all we saw 20 species on this trip ranging from roseate spoonbills to a reddish egret. The weather at first was a bit iffy but worked out well



in the end. The rainbow was the icing on Anne Lindgren's birthday cake. As usual Doug Maple did an excellent job identifying all birds that

came by us and gave a brief lecture on nesting shore birds that tied in to Ann Paul's presentation from April.

Need guides for bird walks

There are many trails in our Chapter perimeter (all of Levy County) and within short driving distances. We want to set up some bird walks in the refuges, state parks, preserves, forests, etc for the fall/winter/spring season, but we need guides. If you have a favorite trail that you would like to share and are knowledgeable about the birds, let us know by replying to this email.

Bird Rescue Program

As of 22 May 2017 49 total injured bird reports since Christmas, 35 were entanglements or throat obstructions. There were 25 attempted rescues where the bird could not be caught or located. Of the 24 rescues where the bird was caught or located, 11 rescues resulted in a successful release, 7 of them resulted in humane euthanasia or death in transit to rehab, 4 birds were kept under observation and recovered on their own, and 2 cases still pending outcome report. Total hours in 2017 = 128.5.

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.

[Snake Key flight line count - check the website for the protocol used for these counts](#)

We thought you might enjoy having some of the results from an unofficial bird count at the rookery on Snake Key. We anchored about one hour before sunset and counted birds as they returned to the island to roost overnight. Here are some of the numbers:

White Ibis - 708

Great Egret - 89

Snowy Egret - 283

Tri-Color - 227

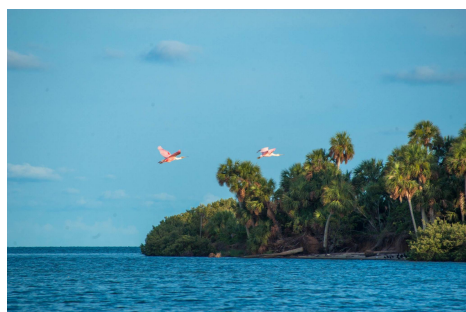
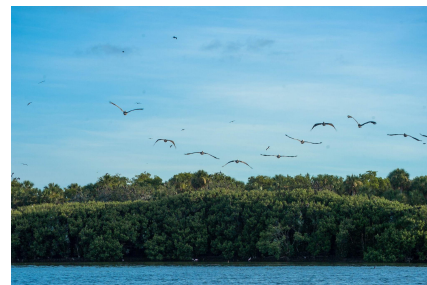
Little Blue - 76

Great Blue - 4

Roseate Spoon Bills - 45

Cattle Egret - 37

The experience was enjoyable and encouraging. We witnessed a tremendous amount of activity involving all of the birds, including brown pelicans and frigate birds.



The number of birds counted was up significantly from several similar counts we made during May and June, 2015. Note that this was shortly after the rookery abandoned Seahorse Key. White Ibis represented the largest increase from 188 on June 14, 2015 to 708 on June 22, 2016.

Note that this counting method is not the most efficient method of counting the total number of birds at the rookery. For instance, we made no effort to count a large number of birds that were already on the island when we arrived. It is a relatively quick and easy method of establishing the relative

health of the rookery, especially over time. Watching a beautiful sunset and experiencing thousands of birds is just a bonus.

From Capt. Doug Maple



[Shorebird alliance - Attention Kayakers, Paddlers, & Boaters! Update](#)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) would like your help in spotting nesting shore- and seabirds! Be on the lookout for a new poster that will have info on how you can help FWC track and monitor nesting birds. FWC is working on creating the printed sheet that will be posted around town. Since pretty much everyone has a phone with them these days, boaters and paddlers will be asked to photograph it to have it readily available if they come up on a nesting bird. This info will also be available on websites in PDF format. Maureen Magee is coordinating this for us and will expand it to lodging establishments. Another way your chapter is advocating for birds and

conservation.

[Bird Feeders](#) - Our feeders have been installed at Cemetery Point Park. Now we need funds and volunteers to to keep them full. Please email us if you can help with either.

[Nature World Wildlife Rescue Center Work Day](#)

Our return to help complete this project as been delayed by permitting issues and Florida's summer weather. We will pick this up again soon. Anyone interested in volunteering for this work day should contact Crosby Hunt at 615-944-3714 or crosby.hunt@mtsu.edu.



Rescue and Rehab facilities

Maureen Magee is in the process of updating and confirming information for rescue and rehab groups/facilities in the general region.

Some of the things she is researching are:

Correct phone number and email address and website if any

Name of contact person

Location

Are you rescuer and/or rehabber?

Do you go to location or need animal brought to you, or meet half way?

What animals are you willing and equipped to take in? List.

Do you have Florida as well as US current licenses? For which animals?

Do you have an educational program?

Other pertinent info?

If anyone reading the newsletter has other suggestions or information, please contact me.

maureenmagee121@aol.com

A new resource to help ID birds by sound

The developer of a website with a collection of over 600 bird sounds has asked us to spread the word, so here it is - <http://www.bird-sounds.net>

10,000 Birds — Birding, nature, conservation, and the wide, wide world



Here is a teaser from a blog that is just the place for people who love birds, pictures of birds, and people who write about birds, birding, conservation, and much more.

"My friend Savanna and I rose at dawn, gulped down coffee and then hit the best birding hotspots on Cedar Key, wracking up hundreds of summer species before lunchtime.

Just kidding."

See what Erika Zambello wrote about summertime birding in Cedar Key. She is a blogger/photographer who writes as a State Parks blogger and also writes for Nat Geo.

<http://www.10000birds.com/big-day-on-cedar-key-fl.htm>

<http://www.10000birds.com/watching-the-sky-at-cedar-key.htm>

Gulf drilling

Here is a way you can help keep our waters and shores clean for us and our wildlife. Please contact your elected officials and Mr. Zinke to let them know how important this is to you. We can make a difference.

<http://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/US-To-Lease-76M-Acres-For-Oil-Gas-In-Gulf-Of-Mexico.html>

<http://www.bradenton.com/news/politics-government/article140987943.html>

Mailing Address:

Ryan Zinke

Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, N.W.

Washington DC 20240

Phone (with employee directory): (202) 208-3100

Events relating to birds and conservation

Movie Night

July 28 7:00 p.m.
Cedar Key Library
Come join us.

March of the Penguins is a 2005 French feature-length nature documentary directed and co-written by Luc Jacquet, and co-produced by Bonne Pioche and the National Geographic Society. The documentary depicts the yearly journey of the emperor penguins of Antarctica.



County Road 347 Friends Adopt a Highway

August 7 (and the first Monday of each month) - 9 to 10 a.m.
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.

2017 Audubon Assembly

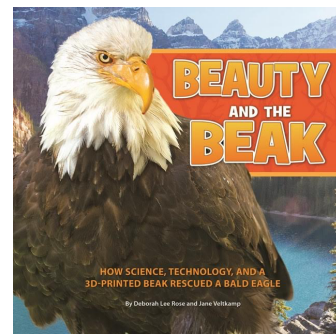
Date: October 20-21, 2017 (Assembly is from noon on Friday to noon on Saturday)
Location: World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort - Marriott
Registration for the Audubon Assembly will open August 1, 2017.
This year's theme is Water for Florida's Future and additional details will be posted to this page once available. <http://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly>
If you have any questions, please call 305-371-6399.

Author Event

October 26, 2017 by Janie Veltkamp at Cedar Key Elementary School

The Cedar Key middle elementary (3rd-5th graders) students will learn about a new nonfiction children's book entitled Beauty and the Beak published by Persnickety Press, a sister arm of Cornell Lab Publishing Group, due out in August of 2017.

This breathtaking, nonfiction picture book tells the full story of Beauty the bald eagle who was shot, rescued and received a pioneering 3D printed prosthetic beak. The story follows Beauty as a baby eagle using her beak to emerge from her eggshell, through her hunt when she uses her powerful beak to feed herself, to the day she is shot and left helpless. This truly heart-lifting story continues through her rescue, into months of engineering her prosthetic beak and intense hours of surgery, to the moment she takes her first drink with her new beak.



Beauty was featured on Nat Geo WILD's "Unlikely Animal Friends"; the National Wildlife Federation's *Ranger Rick*; as a Green STEM Resource on the NWF Eco Schools website; and on the National Academy of Engineering's EngineerGirl. The Junior Library Guild also selected Beauty and the Beak to their reading list in April 2017.

About the authors: Deborah Lee Rose is an internationally published and award-winning author of 15 children's books. Janie Veltkamp is the raptor biologist that led the team who developed Beauty the Bald Eagle's prosthetic beak. She is the founding director of Birds of Prey North West.

The educational guide to Beauty and the Beak is available to download free at www.birdsofpreynorthwest.org

Numbers to call for

Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

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