

Cedar Keys Audubon

CHAPTER CODE: E-53

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Facebook - Cedar Keys Audubon



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

March 2017

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County FL. General membership meetings are scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month at 1700 in the Cedar Key Library on Second Street. Board meetings are held the third Monday, 1500, at the Library. You are welcome to attend and offer assistance to our committees and projects.

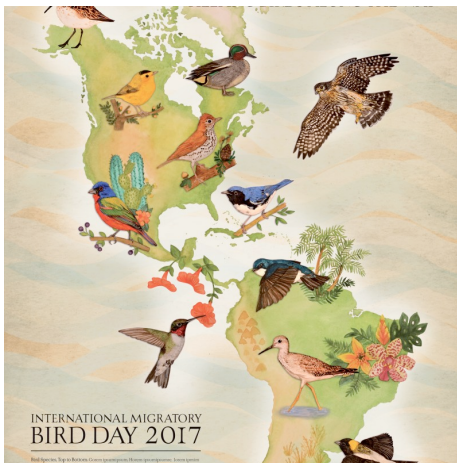
Friend us on Facebook for updates. Pass this newsletter along to folks you think might be interested in learning, helping, and contributing. An application is attached to this email for those interested in joining.

[Happy Birthday to Us.](#) - We have been official for a year. Celebrate with us at our monthly meeting on 27 March at 5:00 in the Cedar Key Library. We will have cake.



[International Migratory Bird Day](#)

We are collaborating with the Friends of the Lower Suwannee and



Cedar Keys National Wildlife

Refuges for an International Migratory Bird Day event to be held in conjunction with the Arts Festival in downtown Cedar Key on 8 and 9 April. Kids from the Cedar Key School will have art work depicting birds found in the Cedar Keys NW Refuge on display in our booths. This is a great opportunity to introduce local birds to our young folk in hopes that they will take notice of the abundance around them and work to protect them and their habitat. Entrants names will be used in a raffle to award prizes. The enthusiasm from the school has been great and we expect some wonderful pieces. More info on this program can be found at: <http://www.migratorybirdday.org/about.html>

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

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) would like your help in spotting nesting shore- and seabirds! While FWC and partners survey most areas of known nesting habitat, it is nearly impossible for us to survey all the of the Nature Coast's shoreline. This is where you come in. If you spot any shorebirds exhibiting nesting behavior please report it to the FWC. If it is a site we're not aware of, we'll add it to our monitoring sites for the season. We use this information to make informed management decisions about our imperiled beach nesting birds.

Observing the birds' behavior can help you distinguish summer flocks from breeding pairs/colonies. Below are some nesting behaviors to be on the lookout for:

- ☒ 1-2 birds sticking to a particular area
- ☒ Faking an injury (e.g. broken wing display)
- ☒ Alarm calls
- ☒ Engaging in mobbing behavior in the presence of a threat

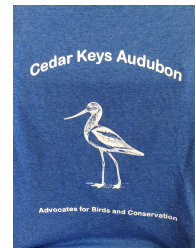


Remember while you are observing breeding birds to respect their space. If possible, give them a 300ft buffer, and if birds appear agitated, you're too close. Always try to look out for nesting birds before beaching your boat on an island or sandbar.

We are particularly interested in reports of nesting least terns, American oystercatchers, Wilson's plovers, and eastern willets. Email the date, time, location (GPS if possible), and a brief description of what you observed to Megan.Wallrichs@MyFWC.com

Additionally, a joint project between FWC and USFWS is currently underway at the old dock at Atsenie Otie Key. A nesting platform with a call broadcast system was built to encourage least tern nesting. If you are near the dock and see any interesting activity (least terns checking it out, human disturbance, or predators perching near), we'd like to know! If you are interested in becoming a member of the Nature Coast's shorebird partnership please email megan.wallrichs@myfwc.com

[T-shirt](#) - Support us by purchasing our new T-shirt at our booth at the Cedar Key Arts Festival on 8 & 9 April. We will have a few other items to sell as well.



[Bird Rescue Program](#) - Dr. Barry's update
Bird Rescue activity since Christmas below:

34 calls since Christmas, all were brown pelicans except 1 osprey. Out of these 34 calls, 29 rescues were attempted. Out of these 29, 7 birds were taken to rehab and 5 were successfully released without needing to go to rehab. Of the rehab birds, 2 were returned to CK and released, 1 died on the way to rehab, and 4 cases are still pending in rehab. There were many rescues attempted where the bird was still capable of flying or swimming so could not be captured (16 such cases). Out of the 34 calls, 29 were pelicans with a fishing related injury - 28 tangled in fishing line and 1 with throat obstruction (likely a fish carcass that was too large to swallow). This shows that in the winter we have a higher than average number of fishing related calls - the calls from August to November were for much more diverse injuries and a wider range of species. We have had a great rise in the diversity of volunteers participating in the program, which is really wonderful. Total volunteer hours since Christmas = 93 hours, rough value of \$2056 in time alone (not counting miles traveled or boat gas). We need photos of these rescues and releases.

Volunteers please submit incident reports any way you can if you participate in the program in any way - even if the rescue is not a "success".

If anyone has rescue reports or photos to submit - please send them! Even if 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 much of a burden. 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.

Events relating to birds and conservation

New Findings in the LSNWR - Dr. Ken Sassaman

Sat March 25 10:30 a.m.

Cedar Key Library

Volunteer Opportunity - March 25th & 26th Cedar Key Marsh Restoration

Here is an opportunity to get involved in the Joe Rains Living Shorelines Project in Cedar Key (for more info see links below) over the weekend of March 25th and 26th. Living shorelines use natural elements such as marsh grasses and oysters to reduce or reverse coastal erosion. We have reached a point in the project where we need help planting the initial round of marsh plants at several locations along the shoreline.

We will need help both days of the weekend and we are asking for volunteers to sign up for either a half day or a whole day. The work is not very strenuous (very similar to gardening) and requires no previous experience. Please share this opportunity with anyone else you feel may be interested. More info about the Joe Rains Living Shoreline Project:

<https://ncbs.ifas.ufl.edu/living-shoreline-marsh-plantings/>

<https://ncbs.ifas.ufl.edu/cedar-key-living-shoreline-update/>

<https://ncbs.ifas.ufl.edu/whats-happening-joe-raines-beach/>

To volunteer: <https://www.volunteersignup.org/KH4WP>



Plants for Birds - Jacqui Sulek of Audubon Florida

Membership meeting, open to all

March 27 5 p.m.

Cedar Key Library

Bring birds to your home today by growing native plants. With Audubon's Native Plant Database, you can find the best plants for the birds in your area. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment.

<http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>

Story of Cedar Key's Water - John McPherson

Thurs. March 30 5 p.m.

Cedar Key Library

Osprey Survey

April - June

We are conducting our 2nd Annual Cedar Key Osprey Survey of active osprey nests in the Cedar Key area, terminating at the #4 Bridge.



We have a combined total of nearly 50 active and inactive nests this year. We are calling for volunteers to assist in our survey to determine which of these nests are active and producing young April through June 2017.

If you are interested please contact: Janie Veltkamp, Raptor Biologist at janie@bopnw.org or call (208) 582-0797 for more information.

This information will help us establish baseline data to determine the health of our local osprey population.

County Road 347 Friends

April 3 (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

Butterfly Count in Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge

April 8 9:30 - ?

Meet Barbara Woodmansee at south entrance to the Nature Drive on CR 347



Old Florida Celebration of the Arts and International Migratory Bird Day Event

Cedar Key

8 - 9 April 2017

Downtown Cedar Key

Visit our booth to see the artwork submitted by Cedar Key students and check out our new T shirts. We have a lot of literature to pass along regarding birds including nesting, photography tips, hooked birds, and conserving for shorebirds.

Sanctuaries - Ann Paul Tampa Bay Regional Coordinator for Audubon Florida

Monday April 24 5 p.m.

Cedar Key Library

Ann Paul, Regional Coordinator for Audubon's Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries, will present a brief history and discuss the current programs and projects of the Florida Coastal Islands



Sanctuaries. The Sanctuaries include waterbird nesting and habitat islands in the west central Florida estuaries, including St. Joseph Sound, Clearwater Harbor, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, and north Charlotte Harbor and Estero Bay. Pelicans, herons, egrets, ibis, spoonbills, storks, oystercatchers, gulls, terns, and skimmers nest on these sites. Ann will discuss Sanctuary staff activities to protect the birds from disturbance by boaters and the management of the islands' habitats.

<http://fl.audubon.org/conservation/florida-coastal-islands-sanctuaries>

2017 Audubon Convention – Elevating Audubon: America’s Most Effective Conservation Network.

July 14 - 17

Park City, Utah

Registration for the Audubon Convention opened this week! Take a look at the convention website for the full program with session descriptions and field trip choices. Early-Bird registration runs from March 15 to April 15 and includes a number of benefits such as a \$50 discount on registration fees and the opportunity to sign up for a private group Q&A session with Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold and Audubon Board Chairwoman Maggie Walker. Generous Audubon supporters have also created a scholarship fund to support the attendance of Audubon chapter leaders. Scholarships will be awarded on merit and on a first-come, first-served basis, so be sure to apply early. If you have any queries, take a look at this <http://audubonconvention.org/program/> or email convention@audubon.org.

Nature's Best 2016 Photography at the Smithsonian

(featuring 2016 Audubon Photography Awards winners)

Washington, D.C.; through September 2017

Take a journey through the wild within the walls of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History by visiting the Nature’s Best Photography exhibition. Head to the second floor to see the 82 winning photos, chosen from 25,000 entries. The exhibit includes five winning photographs from the 2016 Audubon Photography Awards, along with video features highlighting the photographers and the stories behind each image. Once you’ve taken a look at last year’s winners, see if you’ve got the chops to be featured in the gallery next year.

More information: <http://naturalhistory.si.edu/exhibits/natures-best-2016>

Numbers to call for

Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

352 949 1995

352 262 6665

208 582 0797 (Jan-May)