

Cedar Keys Audubon

CHAPTER CODE: E-53 501(c)3

PO Box 96 Cedar Key, FL 32625

cedarkeysaudubon@gmail.com cedarkeysaudubon.org

Facebook - Cedar Keys Audubon

Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

May 2018

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. Many of our active members disperse for the summer so our activities will slow down while we plan for next season. You can keep track of what we are doing by following us on Facebook or checking our website. And, of course if you have any interesting tidbits you would like to share, please send them to us.

Conservation Effort

Some members of Cedar Keys Audubon, Cedar Key Garden Club, Pepper Busters, and Friends of the Refuges worked to clean up SW153 Ct (the road by Lukens Tract). The Levy County DOT hauled away thirteen tires, nine bags of mostly beverage containers, two mattresses, a swing set, a toilet, and various other items. Not sure why people think our roadways are where garbage should be disposed but am glad there are folks willing to work hard to make a difference.



March Membership Meet and Greet

As is typical of a Vic Doig presentation, we were entertained and informed when the Wildlife Biologist & Fire Management Officer, of the US Fish & Wildlife Service, at the Cedar Keys and Lower Suwannee NWR updated us on our critical local nesting grounds. There are many species of wading and shorebirds that rely on our coastline for roosting, foraging, and nesting. He discussed the current state of nesting activities on Snake Key, gave an update on Seahorse Key activity, and an overview of the artificial nesting platform for shorebirds and seabirds at Atsena Otie Key.

Cedar Key Bird Rescue Program

We have a new poster around town that provides the numbers to call if you see a bird in distress. [Maureen Magee](#) has a supply of them. Contact her if you have a place to display one.



FWC has enacted a rule that anyone transporting birds must have a current Bird Transport Permit to transfer and hold birds for up to 24 hours while arranging to get them to rehab. All rescuers and transporters should have been notified. Do not transport if don't have the permit on record. More info on all things pertaining to the Bird Rescue Program can be obtained from [Dr. Savanna Barry](#). Also, a limited number of gas cards are available to help defray the cost.

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.

No More Plastic Straws

A few months ago we took on a project to reduce the number of straws that get into our water ways. We have provided cards to hand out in restaurants asking that they only serve straws when requested, and we are starting to see a difference in the way some servers are responding. There is still a long way to go. There have been a lot of articles written about other communities working for the same outcome. This is a link to an article that discusses the problem.

http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/Plastic-straws-Everyone-uses-them-and-that-s-the-problem_166783992



Celebrate Earth Day

April 20 9 am to noon

Refuge Headquarters Off CR 347 - 16450 Northwest 31 Place, Chiefland 32626, about half way between Chiefland and Cedar Key.



The Friends of the Lower Suwannee NWR will sponsor various topics related to conserving our natural resources. The three experts cover marine mammals, fisheries, and the health of our rivers.

9:15 - "Marine Mammals and Marine Debris", presented by MacKenzie Russell of University of Florida.

10:15 - "How FWC Manages Marine Fisheries", presented by Hannah Healey of Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

11:15 - "Water Quality Monitoring - How, Where, When, and You", presentation by John Quarterman of the WWALS Watershed Coalition (Suwannee Riverkeepers)

Attend one or all presentations. Other nearby recreational opportunities include the River Walk, Tram Ridge Trail, and Shell Mound. Contact [Bob Lewis](#) for more info.

<http://www.friendsofrefuges.org/home/earth-day-at-the-refuge>

CKA Membership Meet and Greet

April 23 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

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.



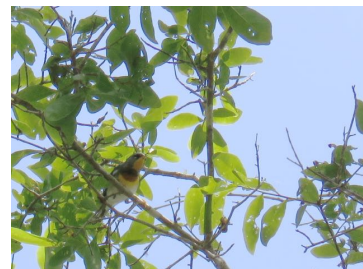
[The Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail](#) is a network of 510 premier wildlife viewing sites across the state. When you want to know where to go in Florida to see native birds, butterflies, and more, head for the Trail. It's Your Road to Adventure!

<https://public.myfwc.com/maps/birdtrip/default.aspx>

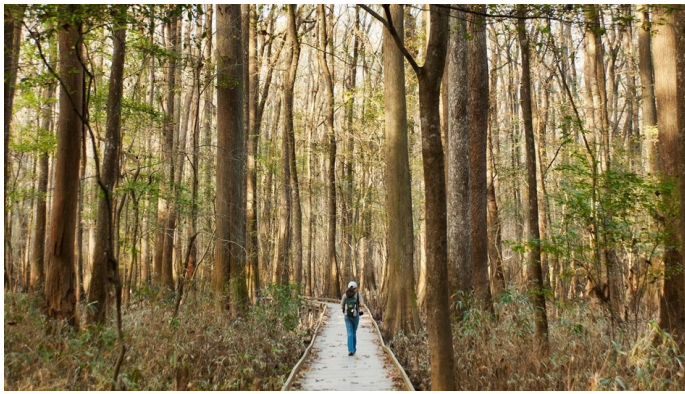
Bird Walk

April 24 8:30 am - Cedar Key State Museum

Our resident birders extraordinaire, Doug Maple and Dale Henderson will start in the parking lot of the museum spending some time there and then caravanning to Shell Mound. There may be a stop or two on the way depending on the time and the tide. Maybe we will get lucky and see a Northern Parula Warbler like this one recently spotted in Rosewood. Bring your binoculars, cameras, repellent, and water.



Message from Dale - If anyone is interested, I bird most days, this time of year, and would be happy to have others join me as I concentrate on warblers and other land based beauties. I can be reached via 352-538-0738 or dalehenderson2@icloud.com.



South Carolina Magical Birding Trip

May 18-20

We have been invited to join Orange Audubon Society's fun fund-raising trip to [Congaree National Park](#), 15 miles southeast of Columbia, South Carolina, which contains the largest remaining area of [old growth bottomland hardwood forest in the United States](#). [More info](#) about trip.

Second Annual Sunset Birding Cruise

May 21 7 pm Cedar Key - Tidewater Tours Kiosk

We have chartered a boat and can take 24 people. Last year it was a great success despite the bumpy, wet ride. This is a wonderful opportunity to cruise by the islands to see what birds are roosting and nesting on Seahorse and Snake Keys. For a mere \$25 each, the first twenty-four lucky souls to speak up will have the pleasure of the company of the others with commentary by our own Doug Maple. Will we be greeted by a rainbow again this year? To reserve your spot call Barbara or Doug Maple at 352 949 1995.



Citizen Science Opportunities:

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

What's at Stake - International Migratory Bird Act

It is the law that saved some of America's most beautiful and beloved birds from mass slaughter by a fashion industry that prized their plumes for hats and clothing in the early 1900s. At one point, an ounce of egret feathers was worth more than an ounce of gold.

Today's industrial threat to birds isn't the trade in fancy feathers, but rather oil pits, gas flares from drilling, oil spills, power lines, communication towers, improperly sited wind turbines and solar arrays and other deadly, but avoidable hazards.

The bird protection law—known officially as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act—is more important now than ever. It protects more than 1,000 species of birds by making it illegal to kill or harm any birds not covered by permits. [Read More](#)



Time to write or call your elected officials to let them know you vote.

Events Relating to Birds and Conservation

County Road 347 Friends Adopt a Highway

The first Monday of each month - 9 to 10 am

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.

Earth Day

April 20 9 am to noon

Lower Suwannee NWR HQ

Alachua County Audubon Cedar Key Birding Field Trip

April 21 7:30ish

North end of Bridge Four

Trip Leader Rex Rowan - The emphasis on this trip will be migrants – mainly warblers and shorebirds. We'll also look for some uncommon and/or coastal-nesting species: Gray Kingbird, Swallow-tailed Kite, and Short-tailed Hawk

Member Photo

When we have space we will feature a member's photo. This one is of a juvenile Black-crowned Night Heron taken by Ann Kamzelski in Cedar Key.



Numbers to call for Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

615 944 3714

352 949 1995

352 262 6665

OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Deborah Anderson & Crosby Hunt	deborah.anderson@mtsu.edu crosby.hunt@mtsu.edu
Vice President	Doug Maple	captaindoug758@gmail.com
Treasurer	Linda Kimball	blkimbal@hotmail.com
Secretary	Libby Cagle	libbysart@netscape.net