

Cedar Keys Audubon

CHAPTER CODE: E-53 501(c)3

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Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

May - June 2017

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County FL. With summer approaching, we suspended our monthly membership meetings. That does not mean we will not have a presence the next few months. There will be movie nights, a boat trip, work days, and maybe some other surprises. When we get a schedule firmed up you will be the first to know.

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.



Sanctuaries -

April 24

Ann Paul, Regional Coordinator for Audubon's Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries, presented a brief history and discussed the current programs and projects of the Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries.



Bird Rescue Program -

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 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.



Shorebird alliance - Attention Kayakers & Boaters! Upadte

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. Come on out and sit a spell to see how many birds you can ID like the house finch in the photo on the right. One feeder is located on the little rim trail which begins just after you exit the boardwalk; the second on the other side of the park close to the new modern bench-like structure near the gulf. Unfortunately, a birdbath that was installed has already been stolen. We hope it is put to good use.



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

On Saturday, April 29th, members of the Cedar Keys Audubon Society travelled to Homosassa Springs to assist the Nature World Wildlife Rescue. This outfit, run by Mary Opall and sustained purely on donations, takes in injured wildlife and attempts their rehabilitation. The facility has a number of outdoor cages and holding areas, featuring such diverse species as red shouldered hawks, great horned owls, night herons, river otters and many more. Mary's operation is the usual destination for any birds rescued in the Cedar Key area; recently four pelicans and a female osprey have been transported here. Several of the cages are in need of repair. Doug Maple, Crosby Hunt, and Deborah Anderson joined carpenter Joe Hand in Homosassa to help repair one of the cages and make plans to expand another. Bringing lumber donated by Hand and Dr.

Savanna Barry, we rebuilt the back wall of Mary's mammal cage and began work on a significant expansion to one of the larger cages. A return trip is planned to finish this work. Anyone interested in volunteering for this work day should contact Crosby Hunt at 615-944-3714 or crosby.hunt@mtsu.edu.



[When Audubon Members Speak Up for Birds, Congress Listens](#)

The link below will take you to a success story. At least for now. It shows the importance of all of us keeping aware of what is happening and getting involved by contacting our elected officials.

<http://www.audubon.org/news/when-audubon-members-speak-birds-congress-listens>

Events relating to birds and conservation

[Sunset Cruise to Snake Key](#)

May 19 6:30 - Tidewater Tours Dock at the Marina

Join us for a Tidewater Tour trip to watch as hundreds of nesting birds come to roost for the night. We have chartered a boat from Connie and Mike O'Dell for this Audubon sponsored excursion. We have room for four more to join us. Captain Doug Maple will be on board to add to the narrative and bird identifications. Cost is \$20 per person. Use our cedarkeysaudubon@gmail.com address to let us know you are interested and we will get back to you for your payment. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Adult beverages are welcome.



Movie Night

May 26 7:00 p.m. Cedar Key Library

Come join us for a free showing for the first of our summer movies.

The Big Year - (PG-13)

Three fanatical bird-watchers (Steve Martin, Owen Wilson, Jack Black) spend an entire year competing to spot the highest number of species as El Nino sends an extraordinary variety of rare breeds flying up into the U.S., but they quickly discover that there are more important things than coming out on top of the competition. Director David Frankel (David Frankel, David Frankel) teams with screenwriter Howard Franklin to adapt author Mark Obmascik's 1998 book of the same name. ~ Jason Buchanan, Rovi (movies.com)



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 Adopt a Highway

June 5 (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.

Movie Night

June 16 7:00 p.m. Cedar Key Library

Come join us. The movie has not yet been selected but it will have a bird theme.

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>

2017 Paynes Prairie Photo Contest

<http://friendsofpaynesprairie.wildapricot.org/Photo-Contest>

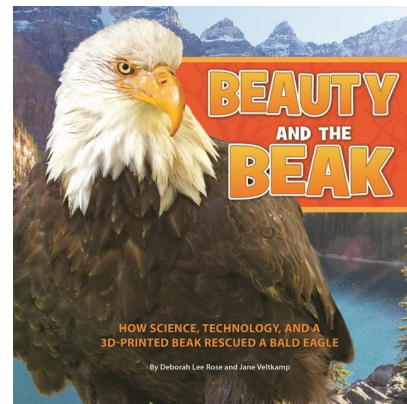
Author Event

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

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|----------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Co-Presidents | Deborah Anderson & Crosby Hunt | deborah.anderson@mtsu.edu crosby.hunt@mtsu.edu |
| Vice President | Doug Maple | captaindoug758@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Nancy Hanson | 0412nancy@live.ca |
| Secretary | Libby Cagle | libbysart@netscape.net |