

# Cedar Keys Audubon

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Advocating for Birds and Conservation

## The Avocet Newsletter

November/December 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. Check the Events section below to see what will be happening in the near future. Hope to see you at some of them.

### Sightings from Captain Doug Maple

"I have been on a couple of outings by boat over the last two weeks. In general, birds are on schedule and in healthy numbers, except possibly the peeps, ie; western sandpipers, least sandpipers, semi-palmated plovers, etc. Those numbers seem down. Early birds... picked up injured ruddy duck during festival weekend; that was unusual and early. Also, observed a loon on November 5<sup>th</sup>; that's a little early. White pelicans arrived in good numbers, on schedule, the weekend of October 20<sup>th</sup>. Noteworthy sightings, peregrine falcon on October 6 and long-billed curlew on November 5. Good Stuff!"



White Pelicans photo by Ann Kamzelski

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

From January through October there were 50 attempted or successful bird rescues in Cedar Key that included 21 pelicans, 8 ospreys, 4 cormorants, 2 great horned owls, and several other species. The two most frequent issues were fishing gear entanglement (14) and emaciation (10). Of the 50, 21 have been successfully released. This is a good time to stress the need for anglers to be careful with their lines and to not cut them if they 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 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 [savanna.barry@ufl.edu](mailto:savanna.barry@ufl.edu)

- In December, I will be emailing to all bird rescue volunteers a reminder to submit

their annual bird transporter permit to FWC to remain eligible to handle, hold, or transport birds. It is a free permit and required to keep everyone in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Please, respond to this request in a timely manner 😊.

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.



Horned Owl photos  
by Doug Maple

## Cedar Key Seafood Festival

This year's fall Seafood Festival was a success for our Audubon booth, located over by the gazebo at City Park. We had newly designed T shirts (thanks to Maureen) as well as ball caps, metal straws (packaged nicely with their own cleaning brushes), our past T shirts (a bargain at \$5), and magnets. Over 400 people visited our booth, purchasing our fabulous merchandise (or "merch," as today's vendor calls it). Thanks to Mandy Offerle, Maureen Magee, Jay Bushnell, Doug Maple, Crosby Hunt, and Deborah Anderson for putting up and striking the booth as well as manning it for the 12 hours or so we were open. Our totals were good considering we had no live birds on site to help attract people to our location; Mary Opall of the Nature World Wildlife Rescue has promised to bring a couple of her owls to the Spring Arts festival in April. So please plan on assisting us then in whatever way you can; thanks to everyone who stopped by the booth.

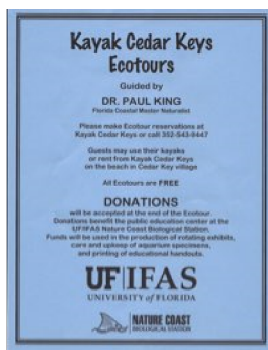
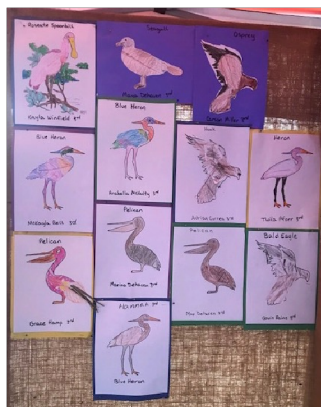


## Getting Kids Involved from Maureen Magee

Once again, the walls of the Audubon Booth at this year's Seafood Festival were "bedazzled" with the colorful artwork of Cedar Key School students. With the guidance of art teacher Tina Hackey, the students

presented images of local birds, using crayons and leaves to create wings and tail feathers. Our "gallery" showcased 77 entries from kindergarten through fifth grade.

In addition to continuing this partnership with the art students, Audubon plans to implement some local field trips and even some boat birding tours for the students. So, stay tuned!



## Ecotours

Check out this opportunity for guided kayak ecotours.

## Bird Walks

This is the time each year when Cedar Key welcomes our seasonal residents and many visitors. We hope to set up some bird and nature field trips but need guides. Locals know the places, but many of us don't have the expertise to pick out and identify what we see and hear.

**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!

### October CKA Membership Meet and Greet

Dr. Stephanie Gazda - [Cedar Key Dolphin Project](#)

At the regular Cedar Keys Audubon meeting on Monday, October 22, in the Cedar Key Library, Dr. Stefanie Gaza shared her enduring research on Cedar Key dolphins. Gazda originated and operates the Dolphin Project, a 5013c; its goal is to "conserve bottlenose dolphins through research, collaboration, and education." Her website, <https://cedarkeydolphinproject.org/>, chronicles recent "Notes from the Field" and cites her partners, which include the University of Florida and National Geographic. She travels from Keaton Beach to Cedar Key conducting her research.



Through the years, Dr. Gazda has not only learned the Cedar Key dolphin population by name, but that a division of labor, role specialization, and cooperation are extant in dolphins' feeding events. Currently, a colleague is studying the dolphins' "voices" which she records from microphones located on Gazda's boat.

### **Citizen Science Opportunities:**

#### 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 - Lake Okeechobee, Everglades, and the Florida Coast

For the latest update on the red tide bloom click <http://myfwc.com/research/redtide/statewide/>.

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

#### Withlacochee Gulf Preserve Duck Race

November 18 at noon - [Yankeetown Seafood Festival](#)

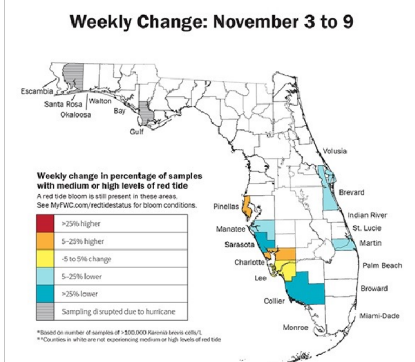
#### Nature Walk with Donna Thalacker

November 24 at 9 am - Meet at Shell Mound parking area

#### CKA Membership Meet and Greet

November 26 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Doris and Pat Leary, "Twelve Seasons of American Oystercatcher Winter Surveys". Doris and Patrick are natives of Amelia Island, FL and now retired. As both volunteers and contract field technicians, they have been surveying and monitoring coastal birds for decades and have assisted FWC conservation efforts since the late 70s. Their collected data is shared with state and federal agencies and a host of researchers across the hemisphere. Over the years, their contributions have received numerous forms of recognition and appreciation and in 2014 Audubon of Florida presented to them the Guy Bradley award for: "Relentless Commitment to the Science of Shorebird Conservation in Florida".





### Friends of Crystal River Sunrise Tour

December 8 at 8 am - Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge <https://cedarkeynews.com/index.php/activities/20-conservation/4276-friends-of-crystal-river-sunrise-tour>

### Lake Apopka North Shore Birding Festival

January 17-21, 2019 - Great opportunity for local and visiting Florida birders wanting to learn more from well known, knowledgeable birding guides. Add to your life list while exploring a unique birding hot spot. Participate in field trips on the 20,000-acre Lake Apopka North Shore property and other nearby sites, sponsored by Orange Audubon Society. Trips will search for as many as possible of the 360+ species documented, plus recently sighted rarities. <https://www.orangeaudubonfl.org/festival/>

### CKA Membership Meet and Greet

January 28, 2019 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

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

### CKA Membership Meet and Greet

February 25, 2019 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Dr. Peter Frederick, Oyster Reef Restoration Update.

### CKA Membership Meet and Greet

March 25, 2019 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Megan Wallrichs, Florida Shorebird Alliance

### CKA Membership Meet and Greet

April 22, 2019 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Jamie Letendre is the Sea Grass and Marine Health Specialist in the St Martins Marsh/ Big Bend Aquatic Preserve surrounding Cedar Keys.

### 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.

### Member Photo

When we have space we will feature a member's photo. These Avocets were photographed by Ann Kamzelski on an early morning boating trip with Tidewater Tours and Capt Doug.



American Avocets photo by Ann Kamzelski



Numbers to call for  
Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

615 944 3714

352 949 1995

352 262 6665



**OFFICERS**

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Secretary	Libby Cagle	<a href="mailto:libbysart@netscape.net">libbysart@netscape.net</a>