

# Cedar Keys Audubon



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PO Box 96 Cedar Key, FL 32625

[cedarkeysaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:cedarkeysaudubon@gmail.com) [cedarkeysaudubon.org](http://cedarkeysaudubon.org)

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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017

Advocating for Birds and Conservation

## The Avocet Newsletter November/December 2019

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.

### Cedar Key Bird Rescue Program update

- Don't forget to SEND REPORTS for any bird rescue activity and the outcome if known (even if you were not able to catch the bird). You can call or text (804) 305-6014 Dr. Savanna Barry or [email her](#).
- 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 Dr. Barry know if there are any issues.



### Aid to the Inland Avocet: A Success Story

Recently, I was out with my new camera searching for the elusive scrub jay in the scrub preserve. As I pulled off Route 24 into the Scrub State Preserve entrance, I was startled by a handsome avocet sitting by itself in the middle of the parking lot. This is a strange sight - a wading bird inland and away from its usual habitat. It was also a convenient subject matter for me! I used the injured bird as a model to test my abilities to focus and make my first camera images. After a few minutes, I called our local Audubon bird rescue people. When Doug Maple arrived with a big net to gather up the bird, it slowly began walking away. Faster and

faster it walked in the opposite direction from where we stood until it was able to gain flight. This was a "win/win" success story - I was able to test my camera and record the avocet. The avocet prospered with some protected rest. Its flight into the trees allowed escape from any predators who might have seen our solitary injured bird as easy prey. Doug and I speculated that this bird may have been injured by a blow inflicted by a car or another bird and that the rest may have been therapeutic. by *Peggy Herrick*

### October CKA Membership Meet and Greet

Jim Wortham, wildlife biologist pilot - FWS Migratory Bird Program

We had a great turn out for the first lecture of the season where Jim explained how Using airplanes, helicopters, and ground crews covering over 2 million square miles encompassing the breeding areas of multiple species in North America, he and his crew estimate the size of waterfowl populations and evaluate habitat conditions. [Read More](#)



### Cedar Key Seafood Festival

Even with the complete washout of the first day of the festival, we had a wonderful time showing off the bird houses that the Cedar Key School students decorated. Anyone making a donation to CKA was encouraged to pick one to take home. We collected enough donations to fund the next kids' project. You will have to come to the Celebration of the Arts' festival in March to see what our energetic Education Committee chaired by Maureen Magee comes with next.



[Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Swallow-tailed Kite project.](#) You can [track](#) the migratory route of “Suwannee”, a swallow-tailed kite that was tagged in the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge, as it makes its way to its nesting grounds in Brazil.

### [Florida Shorebird Alliance](#)

Coastal habitat is critical to the survival of Florida’s coastal-dependent shorebirds and seabirds. Florida has over 1,300 miles of coastal habitat. Shorebirds and seabirds share this extensive habitat with 14 million residents and millions of visitors each year. [Click here](#) for a follow up of Megan Wallrich’s presentation last spring.

### **[Citizen and Community Science Opportunities:](#)**

Check here for ongoing citizen science opportunities listed in previous [Newsletters.](#)

[We need some help.](#) From time to time we get requests for visitors who would like a guide to show them around to our good birding spots and to ID any birds that are seen. We have a couple of people who are willing to show the places, they are not always available to do the actual tour and stay with the visitor. Even if you are a short time visitor, but know birds, we could use your help. I know from the interactions I have had on nature walks that there are a lot of you who are good at bird ID. If you are willing to lead a bird walk, let us know. [Send a message](#) with times you are available and you will be added to the list.

### [Brazilian Pepper Busting](#)

It’s that time of year again. Volunteers and staff from the Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, their Friends Group, and the Cedar Key Garden Club will be working each Thursday (weather permitting) at 9:00 to try to control this invasive noxious plant that is becoming more noticeable in Levy County. New folks willing to do some hard dirty work are welcome. Contact [Roger McDaniels](#) for more info and to get on the notification list of where to meet. All materials and equipment are provided.



### [Purple Martin Housing](#)

With guidance from Dr. Jason Fischer, Program Manager-birds at Disney’s Animal Kingdom, the Cedar Keys Audubon is working to establish a breeding population in Cedar Key. Interestingly, two birds with transponders from the Disney population have roosted at Snake Key. There have been hundreds of purple martins visit Cedar Key each year in preparation for their long migration back to Brazil. With a National Audubon grant we have purchased two purple martin complexes. They will be installed in time for the January nesting season.

### [What’s at Stake - Suwannee River Water Management District \(SRWMD\)](#)

Nestle Co. has asked to withdraw more water from Ginnie Springs on the Sante Fe River to bottle and sell commercially. All for the price of the permit. After years of over-pumping, the Suwannee River Water Management District has officially designated the Sante Fe as a river in recovery. It is time to remind the [Board Members](#) of the SRWMD and the [Secretary](#) of the Department of Environmental Protection of their oath of office to the Constitution of the State of Florida and particularly [Article II, Section 7](#) Natural Resources and Scenic Beauty. Ask them to deny the consumptive use permit.

[Do we Care that birds are disappearing? Read the article here](#)

[Over 300 migrating birds smashed into Charlotte's NASCAR building](#)

[Read More](#)

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

### **CKA Membership Meet and Greet**

November 25 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Russ Anderson, Director of the 2050 Consortium - collaborators on an "avian rookery recovery program," at Seahorse Key. Partners on this project currently include UF IFAS, US FWS, and citizen science groups (including Cedar Keys Audubon; Friends of LSCKNWR). They are developing an artificial colony, ahead of the 2020 breeding season, in hopes of regenerating interest in the area and mitigating some of the population loss experienced since the 2015 exodus.

### **CK Library Lecture Series**

January 9, 2020 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library - Florida Keys Marine Sanctuary - Beth Dieveney

### **CK Library Lecture Series**

January 23, 2020 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library - Bats 101 - Megan Wallrichs, FL FWCC

### **CKA Membership Meet and Greet**

January 27 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

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

### **CKA Annual Membership Meeting**

February 16, 2020 - 4 pm - Island Hotel Courtyard

### **CKA Membership Meet and Greet**

February 24, 2020 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library - Joleen Dudley, Assistant Park Manager - Manatee Springs SP

### **Friends of Lower Suwannee and Cedar Keys NWR Annual Membership Meeting**

February 29, 2020 - 10 am at the Refuge Headquarters off CR 347

### **4th Annual Workout on Waterfront**

March 14, 2020

This year the WoW activities, as in years past, include four separate activities/challenges (Bow WoW, Coastal heritage 5K, Atsena Otie Kayak Challenge, and the Re-Purpose-It-Regatta), plus lunch and a silent auction. [Check out Flyer for more info.](#)

### **Pulitzer Prize winning Author Jack Davis**

March 14, 2020 - 5pm - Cedar Key Library - In his book "The Gulf: the making of an American Sea" Mr. Davis highlights Cedar Key with special mention of Sue Colson and Leslie Sturmmmer and their part in protecting the old Florida nature of Cedar Key.

### **Sad and Good News for White Pelicans**

I received a call from the Saindons regarding a white pelican in the water behind their house apparently in distress. I responded in my Jon boat since I live just across the water from their residence. Tom Saindon came out to the bird in his kayak. The bird was weak but had no visible signs of injury. We secured the pelican and the Saindons willingly volunteered to transport the bird to the vet in Homosassa. Unfortunately, the bird died that evening. Cause unknown but possibly parasites or plastic ingestion. by *Capt Doug Maple*



The photo of the sandbar is where the pelicans were when we got to North Key, two of them flying past us, and one of the group gathered on the beach. When we arrived, they were spread along the sand spit for several hundred yards. As the water got deeper, they started flying to the higher beach. They finally gathered in a tight cluster. I estimated that there were over 300 birds. This image is a panoramic of four photos. Four hours later when we came back past the same spot, the birds were still there waiting for the high tide to pass. by *Ann Kamzelski*



**White Pelican Photos by Ann Kamzelski**

**OFFICERS**

President	Jay Bushnell	<a href="mailto:djbushne@bellsouth.net">djbushne@bellsouth.net</a>
Vice President	Doug Maple	<a href="mailto:captaindoug758@gmail.com">captaindoug758@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Linda Kimball	<a href="mailto:blkimbal@hotmail.com">blkimbal@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary	Open	

**Number to call for Bird Rescue Help  
352-477-0057**