

Cedar Keys Audubon

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PO Box 96 Cedar Key, FL 32625

cedarkeysaudubon@gmail.com cedarkeysaudubon.org

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Advocating for Birds and Conservation

The Avocet Newsletter

September 2017

Welcome to Cedar Keys Audubon. The chapter encompasses all of Levy County, FL. Although things slowed down for the summer, we were still busy behind the scenes getting things done and making a difference. 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 and/or making a tax deductible contribution.

Need guides for bird walks

There are many trails in our Chapter perimeter (all of Levy County) and within short driving distances. We want to set up some bird walks in the refuges, state parks, preserves, forests, etc. for the fall/winter/spring season, but we need guides. If you have a favorite trail that you would like to share and are knowledgeable about the birds, let us know by replying to this email.

Bird Rescue Program

Even though activities quieted down for some folks, our rescue operations didn't take a break. Thank you Robin Gillies, Anne Lindgren, Doug Maple, Crosby Hunt, Deborah Anderson, Savanna Barry, and all who have been involved.

Success story: Cedar Key Bird Rescue members Robin Gillies and Anne Lindgren released a rehabilitated pelican at the Cedar Key Marina on 8/14/2017. This pelican was originally rescued by Crosby Hunt and Deborah Anderson and was rehabilitated by Mary Opall and team at Nature World Wildlife Rescue center.



Doug Maple



Anne Lindgren



Robin Gillies

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).

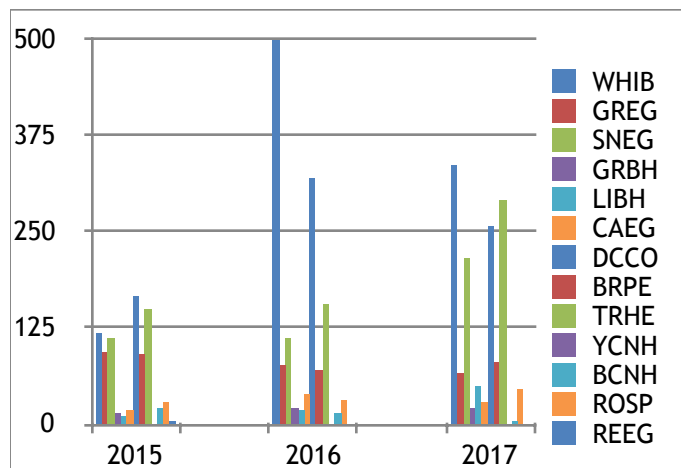
Even if you cannot remember all details, please send anything you can remember about rescue activities. Photos are also essential to the record keeping.



“This is the sick wood stork that Tammy Bierman spotted outside her front door on Monday, Aug 14. She texted me at 8:30. Doug and I were there by 9:15 and had it in the cage and on its way to the Nature World Wildlife Rescue. Upon arrival Mary Opall immediately treated the emaciated 2 lb bird for intestinal parasites. She says that once a parasite load gets to a point, the first thing the bird loses is its ability to fly. Dr. Savanna Barry of the University of Florida IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station stated that this was an important rescue due to the wood stork’s ‘Endangered Species’ status. Many thanks going out to Tammy for calling this bird in.” [Anne Lindgren](#)

Numbers to call for rescue are at the end of this newsletter and are on each page of the website.

[Snake Key flight line count](#) - This chart is a compilation of data collected during early mornings by the staff at Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge. The Snake Key rookery is only about 40 - 50% of the abandoned Seahorse Key (SHK) rookery. In a nutshell, we can see that the relative numbers of nesters at the Snake Key rookery has remained fairly stable, with a slight increase since the SHK abandonment 2 1/2 years ago. White Ibis have increased, although there are not as many this year as last. Roseate Spoonbills have increased significantly, with now over 30 nesting pairs at the Snake Key rookery; there were only 3 nests at Seahorse Key when they started nesting here back in 2013.



[Vic Doig](#)

[Audubon Strategic Plan](#) -

“If you take care of the birds, you take care of most of the big problems in the world.” Take a look at the new plan and see where you can help.

http://strategicplan.audubon.org/assets/SP16_Full_Web_Res.pdf

[Endangered Species Act](#)

Congress is moving quickly to gut the Endangered Species Act, America’s strongest and most important law for protecting wildlife. The Endangered Species Act has a proven track record of success in providing

a safety net that protects our most vulnerable wildlife. It has prevented 99 percent of the species under its care from going extinct, including America's symbol, the Bald Eagle. We should allow this critical law to continue to protect wildlife for future generations, not undermine it.

Please ask your members of Congress to oppose efforts to weaken the Endangered Species Act.

Events relating to birds and conservation

County Road 347 Friends Adopt a Highway

October 2, 2017 (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.

CKA Membership Meeting

September 25, 2017 5:00 p.m.

Cedar Key Library

Come to our first meeting of the season to see our newly developed presentation that we will be using to spread the word on what we have accomplished and all the plans we have. It will be short and then a time for some socializing.

Bird walk in Waccasassa Bay Preserve State Park

October 7, 2017 6:30 a.m.

Waccasassa Bay Preserve still offers sweeping vistas of natural landscapes uninterrupted by buildings, power lines, and bridges. The preserve is home to numerous rare, threatened or endangered plant and animal species and commercially important marine species. Through special arrangement with the staff at Waccasassa Bay Preserve, they will take 14 **members of CKA** on a trip to a great birding spot that is not normally accessible to the public. We will meet in the Cedar Key Scrub parking lot. This will be about a half day, so bring a snack or picnic lunch, water, and be sure to wear appropriate attire for walking in swampy areas and be prepared for bugs, lots of bugs. http://www.stateparks.com/waccasassa_bay_preserve.html



This is a first come first serve. If you are interested, get on our list by [emailing](#) us.

Bird Rescue Class- Tentative

October 18, 2017 at 2 PM at the Baptist Church in Suwannee

More details to come from Dr. Barry

2017 Audubon Assembly

Date: October 20-21, 2017 (Assembly is from noon on Friday to noon on Saturday)

Location: World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort - Marriott

Registration for the Audubon Assembly will open August 1, 2017.

This year's theme is Water for Florida's Future and additional details will be posted to this page once available. <http://fl.audubon.org/about-us/audubon-assembly>

If you have any questions, please call 305-371-6399.

Cedar Key Seafood Festival

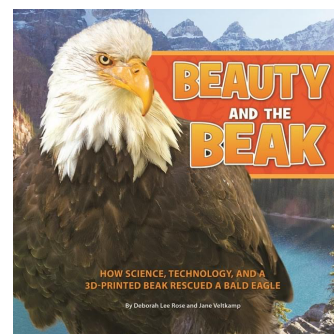
October 21-22, 2017

Author Event

October 26, 2017 by Janie Veltkamp at Cedar Key School

The Cedar Key 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.

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 who led the team that 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

Alachua Audubon Cedar Key Bird Walk

October 28, 2017

Meet at north end of Bridge Four at 7:45 a.m.

An expert bird guide will lead this walk.

Numbers to call for

Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

352 949 1995

352 262 6665

Your officers

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