

# Cedar Keys Audubon

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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

## The Avocet Newsletter

September/October 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. While it has been quiet for the summer, that doesn't mean we haven't been busy. Thanks to our Program Coordinator Boyd Kimball, we have a vibrant lecture series set.

We are looking for help on the board in the form of a president, education and outreach committee members, festival coordinator and volunteers, and nature and birding field trip guides. This chapter can only be as good as the members want it to be. So, please, step up and help out even if you are only part-time residents, you can help. If we don't get help for the Seafood Festival, we will have to forego this opportunity to connect and engage the public since many of the board members will not be available.



### Purple Martins invaded Cedar Key

For a couple of months, purple martins took advantage of the overhead utility lines and snags. It looks like we need to install some houses for them. They are a natural insect pest control and, with all the rain we had, were welcome visitors.



### Cedar Key Bird Rescue Program

From January through July there were 27 attempted or successful bird rescues in Cedar Key that included 9 pelicans, 8 ospreys, 4 cormorants, and several other species. The two most frequent issues were fishing gear entanglement (8) and emaciation (6). One of the entangled birds had a foot missing because of the constriction. This is a good time to stress the need for anglers to be careful with their lines and to not cut them if you hook a bird.

This spring we added several folks in the Yankeetown/Gulf Hammock area to our ranks who are willing to act as transporters of the injured and rehabbed birds. We welcome them aboard and appreciate their help. 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 they cannot remember all details, please send anything they can remember about rescue activities. Photos are also essential to the record keeping



### Too Much Rain

The dry season never came this spring. As a result, the normal rain events of summer flooded much of the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge. Rainfall patterns kept the entire Suwannee watershed wet all spring and into the typically wet summer. Since the Refuge is located at the very end of the watershed, the 9-mile long Nature Drive had to close for a while and the road lost a portion of the lime rock surface.

### Second Annual Sunset Birding Cruise

After a month delay because of bad weather, twenty-six birders and conservationist enjoyed a sunset cruise out to Dog, Seahorse, and Snake Keys in the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge. With about 15,000 birds nesting on Snake Key, it has become the substitute for Seahorse after the nest abandonment several years ago. Thanks to Doug and Barbara Maple for arranging and to Mike and Connie O'Dell for the excellent experience on their Tidewater Tours boat.



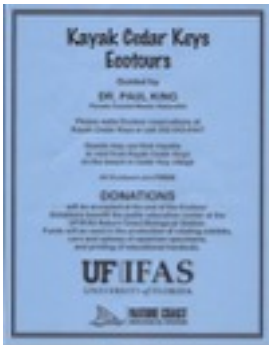
### Ecotours

Check out this opportunity for guided kayak ecotours.

### Alachua Audubon Field Trips

[Here is the schedule](#)

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!



### Bird Walks

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.



### Every Coast Counts

September 15 10 am to 1 pm  
12231 SW 166<sup>th</sup> Court, Cedar Key FL

The Cedar Key Museum State Park is not known for beautiful beaches or an expansive shore line, but on International Coastal Clean Up Day they want to show that cleaning up **Every Coast Counts**. Volunteers will meet in the Museum's parking lot before starting to collect trash along the 0.15 miles of shoreline (you may finish before 1PM if all the trash is collected). Volunteers are required to wear sturdy gloves and closed toed shoes that they don't mind getting wet and mucky. Because of the time of day, we recommend sunscreen and a hat. The rangers also suggest you bring bug spray and plenty of drinking water. Guests will be allowed into the Museum and St. Clair Whitman house free of charge (after they clean off their shoes).



### Nature Coast Biological Station Open House

September 22 10 am to 3 pm  
552 1st Street Cedar Key FL

### Hidden Coast Paddling Adventure

October 3 - 7th  
[Registration is now open!](#) 100 participants maximum



### [CKA Membership Meet and Greet](#)

October 22 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

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

The dolphins of Cedar Key hold a wealth of information and may provide valuable information on the health of the ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico. Dolphins are a long-lived species and, as a result, are suited to long-term research studies. This project started in 2001. Come out and hear the latest update.



### [Citizen Science Opportunities:](#)

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

### [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](#)

The big conservation issue in Florida this summer has been the algae bloom that covered the entire lower half of the state. [Read More](#) and keep this in mind when you vote. Time to write or call your elected officials to let them know you vote.

### [Events Relating to Birds and Conservation](#)

#### [CKA Membership Meet and Greet](#)

Nov 26 at 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Doris and Pat Leary, "Twelve Seasons of American Oystercatcher Winter Surveys" The Learys are experienced citizen-scientists who have done extensive research in the CK area.

#### [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 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 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.

**Alachua County Audubon Field Trips**

[Check here for schedule](#)

**Member Photo**

When we have space we will feature a member’s photo. This is of a tri-color heron nestling by Libby Cagle.



**OFFICERS**

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Numbers to call for Bird Rescue Help

615 337 3213

615 944 3714

352 949 1995

352 262 6665