

# Cedar Keys Audubon

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Audubon Florida Chapter of the Year 2017



Advocating for Birds and Conservation

## The Avocet Newsletter

September/October 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. While many of our members disbursed for the summer, our official actions were less visible but that doesn't mean that we weren't still be working. Boyd Kimball has set up some exciting and informative speakers. Our Education team has a great idea for the kid's involvement at the Seafood Festival. Come to the first Meet and Greet of the season on 28 October and hear Jim Wortham, wildlife biologist pilot - FWS Migratory Bird Program tell us about his job.



### Cedar Key Bird Rescue Program update

Our rescuers have been quite busy this summer. Among those rescued have been a screech owl, red-tailed hawk, gull, and brown pelican. [Find out](#) what happened to the osprey chicks rescued after their nest tree came down back in April. Hint - it took a village.

- Don't forget to SEND REPORTS for any bird rescue activity (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.

### April CKA Membership Meet and Greet

Imagine a public park with no roads and no signs. A park that is almost entirely underwater. You may have been out boating, scalloping or fishing and never realized you were in an aquatic preserve. But that was what Jamie Letendre, environmental specialist for the Florida DEP, came to CK Audubon's April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting to explain. Ms. Letendre's central message about the Aquatic Preserves for the audience is that they are "everybody's water". It's not just "The Nature Coast" but "Our Coast". [Read More](#)



### Citrus County Audubon

In April, the Citrus County Audubon sponsored a Cedar Key birding outing. Thanks to Dale Henderson for showing the coordinators all the good spots. They were happy with their finds. Hope to see them back in the future. [Read Recap](#)

### Good news - Snake Key Rookery

Vic Doig from Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge recently wrote an update on the status of birds colonizing Snake Key, replacing the old rookery on Seahorse Key that was abandoned in 2015. [Read more](#)



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.

## **Citizen 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.



### **Air Potato Vine and Beetle**

Air potato, *Dioscorea bulbifera*, is an invasive, high-climbing vine capable of out-competing native vegetation and displacing other organisms. They have been making their way north and we now have them in Cedar Key. If not controlled they will take over and destroy our native vegetation. Air potato beetles, that have been proven to eat only this vine, are available from the Florida Department of Agriculture through our local extension office. If the vine isn't available, the beetle dies. It costs you nothing to participate. While the vines still need to be trimmed and the bulbs destroyed, these beetles lessen that work. It is a great science project and way to conserve the habitat. [Read More](#) [See video](#)



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



### **Nature Coast Biological Station Open House**

September 14 - 10 am to 3 pm  
552 1st St, Cedar Key

### **Suwannee River Clean-up**

September 20 - 9 am  
Fowler's Bluff  
Contact Andrew Gude, 703-622-3896

### **International Coastal Clean-up**

September 21 - 7 am to 12 pm  
Cedar Key Marina, Dock Street, Cedar Key

### **Citrus County Audubon Field Trip**

October 10 - 8 am to 11 pm  
Eco-Walk Trail at Crystal River Preserve State Park

### **Florida Birding & Nature Festival**

October 17 - 20 - Hillsborough Community College, 10451 Nancy Watkins Dr, Tampa, Florida, 33619, 4 Days of Field Trips, Seminars, and Nature Expo, [More info](#)

### **Cedar Key Seafood Festival**

October 19 - 20, Down town Cedar Key

### **Audubon Florida Assembly**

October 25 - 26

Hilton University of Florida Conference Center Gainesville, 1714 SW 34th St., Gainesville, FL  
Join us for [Florida's premier conservation gathering](#), where grassroots leaders from around the state join Audubon's professional staff and partners to grow their knowledge and skills to protect Florida's precious natural resources.



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

October 28 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Jim Wortham, wildlife biologist pilot - FWS Migratory Bird Program

Using airplanes, helicopters, and ground crews covering over 2 million square miles encompassing the breeding areas of multiple species in North America, Jim and his crew estimate the size of waterfowl populations and evaluate habitat conditions.

#### [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 which is a part of the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge. 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.

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

February 24, 2020 - 5 pm - Cedar Key Library

Joleen Dudley, Assistant Park Manager - Manatee Springs State Park

#### [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. 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](#)

#### **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**

Ron and I were out in the gulf about 10 miles from Cedar Key when this egret landed on our boat. At first I thought it was a snowy egret, then I realized it was a cattle egret. He did not seem to be injured, just exhausted. He stayed on the boat the entire afternoon while we fished moving to different locations when we got near. When it came time to go in, we were concerned that he would blow off the boat at high speeds. Ron caught him in the fish net and I wrapped him in a small towel. I held him for the trip back to the boat ramp. We took him to the Cedar Key Marina II where we released him. He flew to the rocks and then the dock glad to be back on terra ferma.

Ann Kamzelski



**Cattle Egret Photos by Ann Kamzelski**