

Bill Giuliano – Cedar Key Raptorthon 15 April 2022



Two weeks in to my work with the Hawk Migration Association of North America, this is my first go at a Raptorthon, and the first for HMANA at Cedar Key.

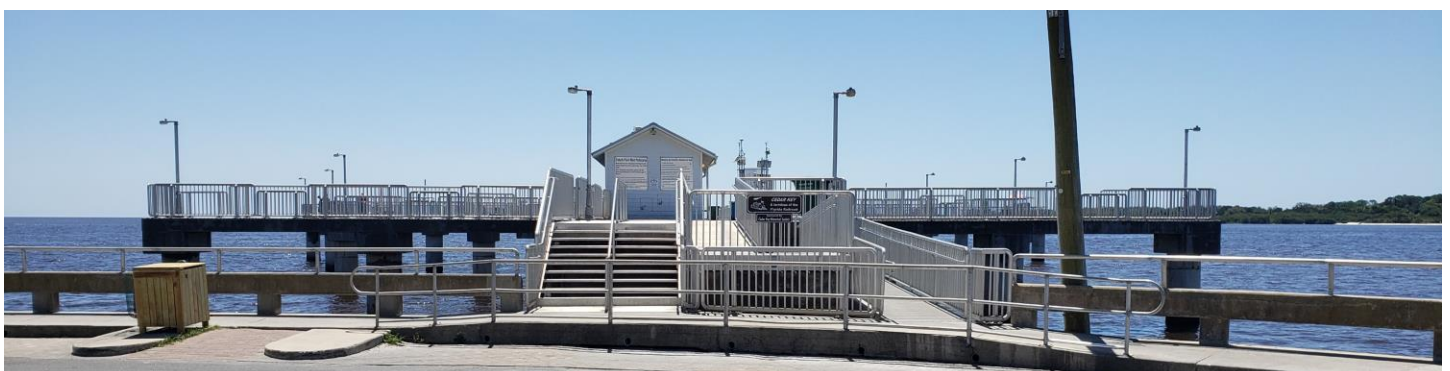
Cedar Key is a great location on Florida's west coast in the Gulf of Mexico. We scanned the skies around and above the fishing pier (see the header and footer). Atsena Otie Key shown in the header, is the original location of the Town of Cedar Key that got blown ashore in a hurricane. Historically, Cedar Key was known for producing the wood for lead pencils and their Mullet fishery. Gone are the cedar trees and Mullet, and it is now the biggest farm raised clam producer in the U.S.

We got to visit with many great people and tell HMANA's story. I look forward to visiting again during International Hawk Migration Week later this year and doing this again next spring.



Eyes hit the skies at 7:30 last Friday morning. A special thanks to Bob for stopping by and locating birds. Light winds from the east, partly cloudy, rain clouds to the south and many birds on the move. By noon the wind picked up, clouds gone, and flight minimal. Charlie, the Brown Pelican, kept me company as did a curious momma Grackle.

Ospreys were the most common raptor observed, but we also found Merlin's, Bald Eagles, Turkey Vultures and Black Vultures. Non raptors were highlighted by a tremendous variety of waders. A complete bird list, less exotics, is on the next page. We also had a large pod of Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins around for most of the morning. Fishing was OK, with one great snook. I'll have to bring my fishing gear next time!



Native Birds Observed

Osprey
Merlin
Bald Eagle
Turkey Vulture
Black Vulture
Tricolored Heron
Great Blue Heron
Cattle Egret
Snowy Egret
Great Egret
White Ibis
Roseate Spoonbill
Double-crested Cormorant
Brown Pelican
American White Pelican
American Oystercatcher
Black Skimmer
Common Grackle
American Crow
Fish Crow
Brown-headed Cowbird
Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Forster's Tern
Royal Tern
Tree Swallow
Barn Swallow
Mourning Dove



Thanks to everyone! Our Raptorthon is a great way to welcome spring, get outside, and look for raptors and other wildlife. It's also a great opportunity to raise money for something that is very important to us – raptor conservation. Thanks to your donation, we raised significant funds to help engage kids in hawk watching through our Junior Hawk Watch Program and support our citizen science database HawkCount.org, which is the foundation of the Raptor Population Index, that allows us to evaluate raptor populations across the continent. These donations also make grants possible for hawk watch sites to purchase optics for kids and train new volunteers. Your support makes HMANA's work possible – advancing conservation through study, enjoyment and appreciation of raptors. Thanks again for your support!



Hawk Migration Association of North America



Advancing Conservation through Study, Enjoyment & Appreciation of Raptors

Bill Giuliano, Executive Director



Advancing Conservation through Study, Enjoyment & Appreciation of Raptors