



THE BUZZARD BULLETIN

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

April-May, 2025

Volume 9, Issue 4

NOTEPAD

Welcome

Welcome to new CREW Trust volunteers **Anthony Belcastro, Bill Davis, Batya Levy, and Terry McCay.**

Platinum certified

The Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism (FLSEE) recognized CREW's volunteer-led guided walk programs with its Platinum Certification.

Volunteer leaders for this season's guided weekly walks were **Ken Bouck, Patty Chiapo, David Grinnell, Sean Hunt, Christy Miller, Tom Myles, Mike Picciano, John Shepherd, Don Stohler, and Jack Shine.**

Leaders for the monthly bird walks were **Dick Brewer and Barbara Centola.**

Trail work team

The success maintaining the existing trails and creating new trails is due to the Trail Work Tuesday (and some other days) Team.

New trails they have helped open in FPS are the Purple Spring Flowers Loop and the section of the Orange Trail north of Harrell.

The group also cleared the new Kehl Oaks Campsite which is now open.

Special thanks go to this season's Trail Work Tuesday volunteers **Randy Anderson, Paul Barnicke, Anthony Belcastro, Ken Bouck, Bill Davis, Charlie Egli, Ian Hardy, Sean Hunt, Joe Kilbride, Batya Levy, Tom Maish, Terry McCay, Leonard Singer, Rick Skrivan, Kirk Sowry, Glen Wood, and Jack Yakish.**

Guides, leaders, workers recognized

As the second grade Soil Rocks! program winds down for this season, the CREW Trust education staff extends a special thanks to volunteers **Batya Levy and Leonard Singer** for their invaluable assistance with the programs.

Soil Rocks! begins with a hike focused on soil quality and Florida habitats. Levy and Singer then lead birding, skull, and scavenger hunt stations and answer student questions.

"My personal favorite part about being an educator is opening the door for kids to become curious about the environment and explore the ecosystem in which they live," said Education Coordinator Piper Jones. "Having Leonard and Batya here to

help has helped us lean into that mission even more."



Myth debunked: Handling baby birds

Myth: Mother birds will reject their babies if they've been touched by humans.

Fact: They won't! Well-meaning humans who find a chick on the ground often want to return the chick to the nest. Don't do it! Odds are the bird has fledged, flown to the ground, and a parent is nearby watching over it. It doesn't need help.

Also, most birds have poorly developed senses of smell and won't notice a human scent. An exception is the Turkey Vulture, which has an excellent sense of smell. However, Turkey Vultures are typically ground nesters, so chicks won't have a nest from which to fall.

The wren at the left is about two weeks old and has already fledged. Leave it alone!

The tale may have started to keep people from handling young birds.



2024-2025 programs winding down

April marks the end of the 2024-2025 seasonal programs. However, there will be pop-up programs during the summer. Watch for emails.

Final programs offer volunteer opportunities

Sweeps needed, Strolling Science Seminars

Apr. 5: Arachnids, CMT, 9AM

Apr. 12: Bird Science, BRS, 8AM

Sweeps needed, bird walk

Apr. 9: Spring migration, FPS

Leaders, sweeps needed for last of weekly walks

(except holidays)

Wednesdays: BRS

Thursdays: alternate CMT-CDT-FPS

3rd Saturdays: BRS

Bug Watch ends season's members-only programs

Volunteers who are also CREW Trust members are invited to attend all members-only programs.

Apr. 5: Member meeting, office

Apr. 19: Morning Roll & Stroll, BRS

Apr. 25: Nighttime Bug Watch, CMT

Staying connected

People

Bob Lucius

831-236-5518

rlucius@crewtrust.org

Piper Jones

239-229-1088

education@crewtrust.org

Robin Serne

919-649-7158

robin@crewtrust.org

Trish Schranck

239-657-2253

ee@crewtrust.org

Web sites

www.crewtrust.org

www.trackitforward.com

(hours & events)

The Buzzard Bulletin contains notes and information for CREW volunteers and is emailed six times a year (September, November, January, March, May, July). Dick Brewer, editor.

In case a visitor asks...

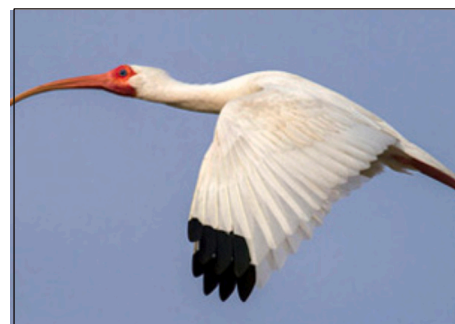
Why are the wing tips and tails of so many birds black or very darkly colored?

Pigmented feathers resist wear better than unpigmented feathers.

That's why woodpeckers have black tail feathers. The tail feathers get lots of wear when they're used for leverage on tree trunks when the woodpecker is foraging or drumming.

It's also why Swallow-tailed Kites, Wood Storks, and White Ibis, which are essentially white birds, have black feathers on their wings or wing tips.

Those are the areas that are most likely to come into contact with tree branches and limbs as the birds land in a tree or take off. The black pigmentation adds durability to those fragile feathers, making them less likely than white or light colored feathers to wear out as soon or to break.



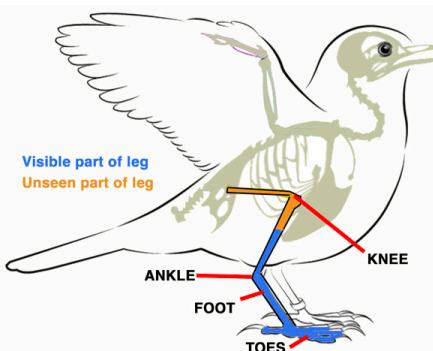
Bird trivia: Bird knees, cold legs, and black dots

Do birds have knees?

Birds have three leg parts just as we do, but the top segment (similar to our thigh) is hidden in feathers. Birds have a knee complete with patella (knee cap) that bends forward and functions much like our knee.

What appears to be a knee that bends backward is the equivalent of an ankle that separates the bones of the foot from those of the leg.

Birds actually stand on their toes all the time, like a ballerina, rather than stand on their entire feet.



Why do birds stand on one foot?

It's mostly because most bird legs and feet lack feathers so significant heat is lost in cooler weather. Tucking a leg into feathers conserves body heat.

What's the black dot in the middle of otherwise white bird droppings?

The black dot is fecal matter; the white is urine. Both collect together and are voided simultaneously out of the same orifice. Feces are in the middle because the urine is slightly sticky and clings to it.