

Birding from the Balcony



Roseate Spoonbill

Although more common in winter, they can be seen year-round. "Rosies" are distinctive pink birds with elongated paddle-like bills. Often confused with flamingos, which do not come this far north.



American Wood Stork

Wood storks can be seen soaring and hunting around Cedar Key almost year-round. Although they are rather ugly and awkward on the ground, they are magnificent in flight; often circling in large numbers on air currents.



White Ibis

Ibis are easily recognized by their very long, downward-curved red orange bill. Adults are white with black wing tips seen in flight. Immature Ibis are mottled brown and often seen in mixed flocks with adults.

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Snowy Egret

Each year male Snowies grow elaborate display feathers called “egrets” in French (and hence their name). The Snowy is much smaller than the Great White Egret and has yellow feet and a black bill.



Great White Egret

The largest of the white wading birds, Great Whites are seen year round hunting on the flats at low tide. They really enjoy crabs and are very adept at clipping off the legs and claws before swallowing them whole.



Great Blue Heron (GBH)

The tallest wading bird around, GBHs are often seen poking about at low-tide or flying with their distinctive lazy wing beats.

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Tri-Color Heron (Louisiana)

Tri-colors are about the same size as Snowy Egrets, but much slimmer and dark bluish-gray. They are easily distinguished from Little Blue Herons by their white breast and brown/white stripe down the front of the neck.



Little Green Heron

Although not common, Little Greens come to hunt insects and lizards in the coastal shrubbery. They are the smallest of the herons/egrets you'll find here.



Yellow Crown Night Heron

Night herons tend to stay hidden in the marsh grass and shrubbery along shorelines. They are "stockier appearance" compared to other herons and egrets. The young are disguised with streaky brown plumage, which is quite different than the adult's sharp gray and black.

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Brown Pelican

Adults (over 2 years) have white heads. Younger pelicans are mostly brown all over. Skilled fliers and divers, Brown Pelicans are a year round fixture and symbol of Cedar Key.



White Pelican

White Pelicans are the largest bird you'll see around Cedar Key. More common in cooler months, they often are seen in the bays in large flocks. A flight of white pelicans soaring by is an unforgettable sight.



Magnificent Frigate Bird

Frigate birds rarely land, but spend most of their time gliding the ocean breezes. In flight they are easily recognized by their slim, dark wings and forked tails. Juveniles have white heads and chests and adult females have white chests. Males have red throats which they inflate as a part of their mating ritual. (also known as "Man of War" bird)

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Osprey

Also known as the “fish hawk” or “fish eagle”, Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish. The shallow waters around Cedar Key make ideal fishing grounds for the Osprey and their many nests attest to their success.



Bald Eagle

Our national bird, yadda, etc. Despite the cliches, it’s still an impressive site to see an adult fly by. At a distance they are often confused with Ospreys, which are smaller and have white breasts.



Turkey Vulture

Turkey Vultures are very common around Cedar Key and often soar on thermals over the warm bay waters. Their red-heads and white wing bands (underside) distinguish them from Black Vultures.

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Red-wing Blackbird

Male Red-wings establish territories in the marshlands and defend them vigorously. Using their bright red and yellow wing patches as signals, they ward off all intruders relentlessly.



Boat-tailed Grackle

Males are glossy black and often confused with crows, which are larger. Females are brownish. Very common and produce many of the sounds that are associated with coastal living.



Black Skimmer

Skimmers are extremely skillful fliers. They fly with precision just inches above the water surface until something hits the extended lower bill, which snaps shut on the snack.