



# The Buzzard Bulletin

Notes & Information for CREW Trust Volunteers

August-September, 2022

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## Notepad

### Dead bug collection

Volunteers finding any *already dead* insects, especially larger specimens like butterflies, grasshoppers, and cicadas that are still in decent shape, are asked to freeze them in a baggy or small container and get them to Julie. They will become part of a collection for CREW Trust education programs.

### Watershed help

Walk Through a Watershed training is on Saturday, October 8, and programs start the following Tuesday. Volunteers willing to chaperone are encouraged to attend the teacher training session.

Sign up in Track-it-Forward or contact Julie for more information.

### walk guides

New printed guides for leading walks are coming to the Volunteer Resource Library on the CREW Trust web site (*see page 2*).

Each trail system guide will be divided into categories including history of the trail, amenities, and flora and fauna.

The information can be used as a refresher for established guides or as a learning resource for those willing to become hike leaders.

### CMT de-rocked

The collection of painted rocks near the CMT observation platform has been removed along with its wooden enclosure and signage. The benches remain.

*New this season...*

## Volunteer/staff monthly get togethers will meet in town for ideas, brunch

Join the CREW Trust staff on the fourth Thursday of each month beginning in August for an informal brunch meeting. The get togethers will be in town, eliminating the need to commute to the northern wilds of CREW.

The decision to meet in town came because there is no CREW Trust visitor center, so the staff often goes without seeing or hearing from many volunteers for extended periods of time.

Now, staff can meet with volunteers in person on a more regular basis, allowing volunteers to discuss ideas and needs and to collaborate more effectively with staff on plans and projects.

Please bring questions, ideas for projects, enthusiasm, and enjoy a little brunch with the CREW Trust staff.

For locations and times and to reserve a spot, log in to Track-it-Forward and click the Events tab.

## Water resistant sweeps needed this summer

Sweeps are needed for three upcoming wet walks on CREW trails in August and September.

Walks are on the Wild Coffee Trail in CDT on August 10, on August 23 in

CDT for World Water Week, and on September 20 in CMT for National Public Lands Day.

Sign up to help in Track-it-Forward by clicking the Events tab.

## Swallow-tailed Kite nesting season less successful

This spring FWC biologists and volunteers conducted the sixth year of Swallow-tailed Kite (STKI) nest surveys in CREW.

Data collected focused on STKI spatial and temporal distribution and nesting presence and success on CREW lands.

Data is also shared with the Avian Research and Conservation Institute (ARCI) in Gainesville for its research program.

A total of 23 nests were found and monitored. All were in the Corkscrew Marsh which includes the Cypress Dome trails and in the Pepper Ranch units that are part of CREW.

A few nests were abandoned before egg laying. The remaining nests had 19 observed chicks. There were six definite fledges and another two fledges that were probable but not visually confirmed.

Overall nest success was 30%, which is significantly lower than in 2021.

Predation was the suspected reason with the Great Horned Owl being the most common predator.

All nests were located in slash pine trees. Thirteen of the nests were rebuilt in the same nest trees used in the 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 or 2021 seasons.



*ID Tip...*

## Identifying male, female woodpeckers

Seven species of woodpeckers are found in CREW lands and all but one are year round residents and nest here. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is present only in winter.

To distinguish between the female and male, look at markings and colors on the heads. The males always have additional red on their heads.

Only female and male Red-headed Woodpeckers appear the same.



**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER**

Females and males are similar in appearance; juveniles start with a gray head that gradually turns red



*female*



*male*

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**

Females only have red on the back of the head; males are also red on the top.



*female*



*male*

**DOWNY & HAIRY WOODPECKERS**

Females are all black-and-white; males have a red patch on the back of the head



*female*



*male*

**NORTHERN FLICKER**

Female heads are all brown; males have red on the back and a black "mustache"

## Staying connected

People

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Web sites

[www.crewtrust.org](http://www.crewtrust.org)

[www.trackitforward.com](http://www.trackitforward.com) (hours)

[www.crewtrust.org/crew-trust-volunteers](http://www.crewtrust.org/crew-trust-volunteers) (volunteer library—the password is **crew17**)

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.



*female*



*male*

**PILEATED WOODPECKER**

Females cheeks have a black band; male cheeks have a red band



*female*



*male*

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER**

Females have a white chin; males have a red chin