

# Research Update

Western Everglades Research Center at  
Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary



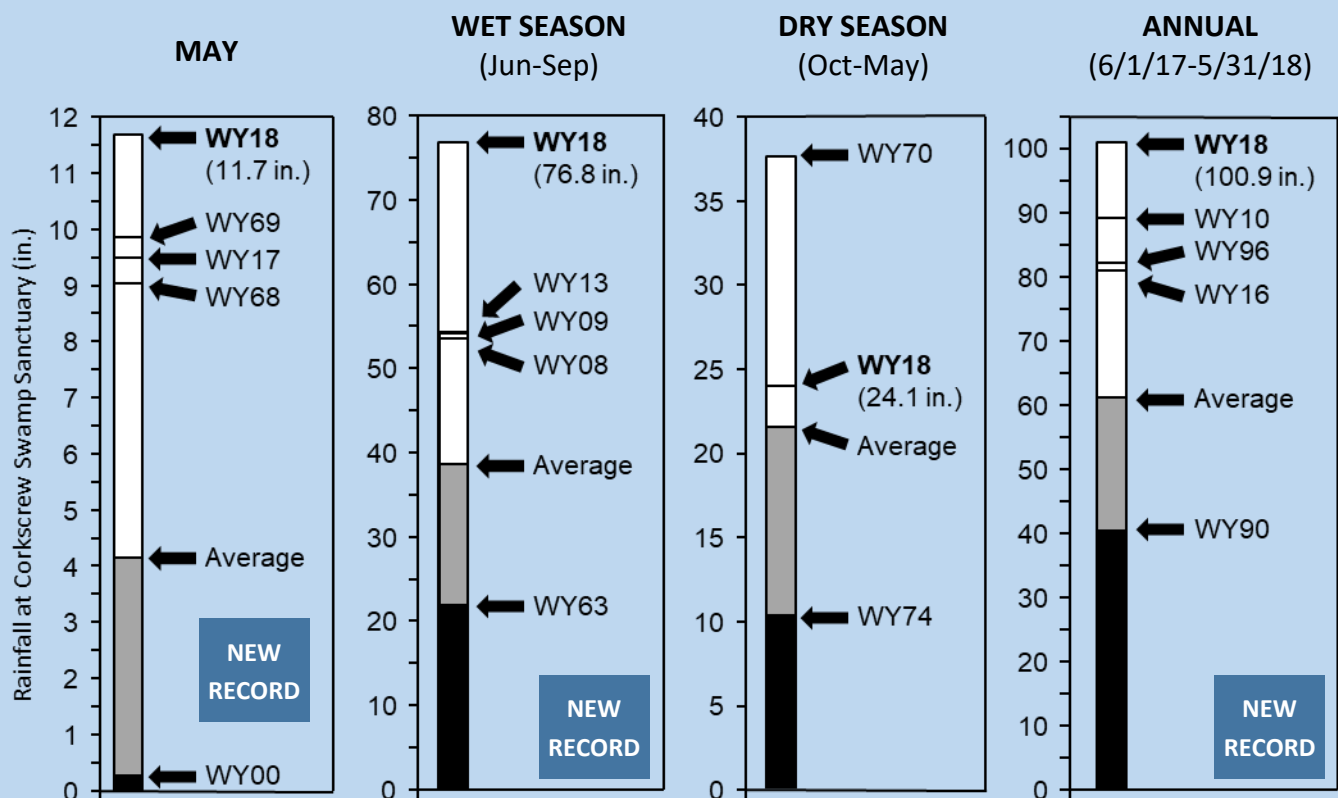
June 2018

*Rainy season is here... a little bit early! While we expected rains would return soon, May topped off our record-breaking hydrologic year with even more record rainfall. June 1<sup>st</sup> marks the start of rainy season and the 2019 hydrologic year. Here's the latest from our team—*

## Water Update



### WATER YEAR 2018 (WY18<sup>1</sup>) RAINFALL TOTALS<sup>2</sup>



Graphs indicate record high (white bar), average (gray bar) and record low (black bar). Previous record high years are also shown for May, Dry Season and Annual Rainfall.

<sup>1</sup> "Water Year" = June 1<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>;  
WY18=6/1/17-5/31/18

<sup>2</sup> Period of record for rainfall data is Nov 1959 to present

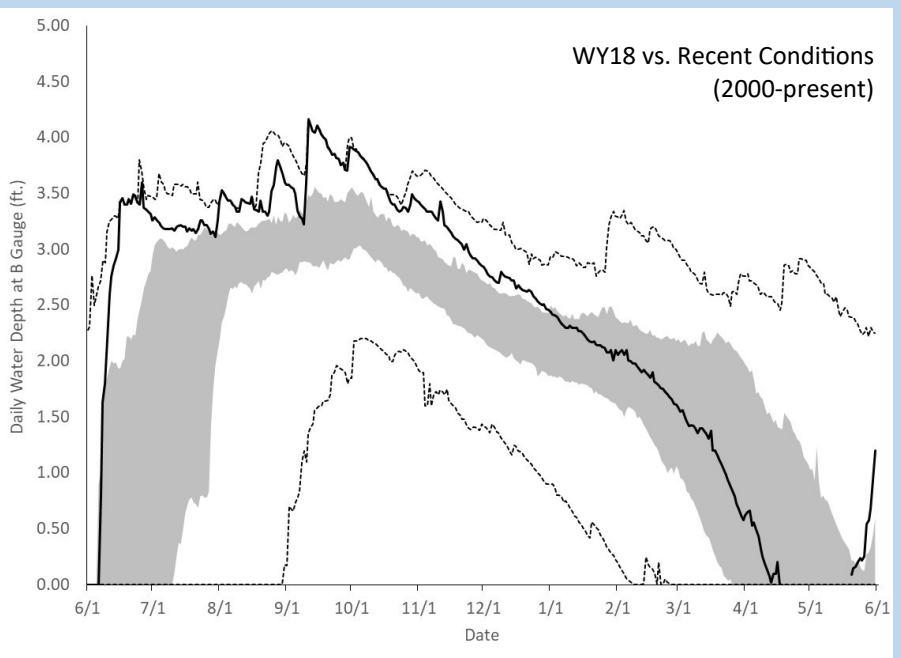
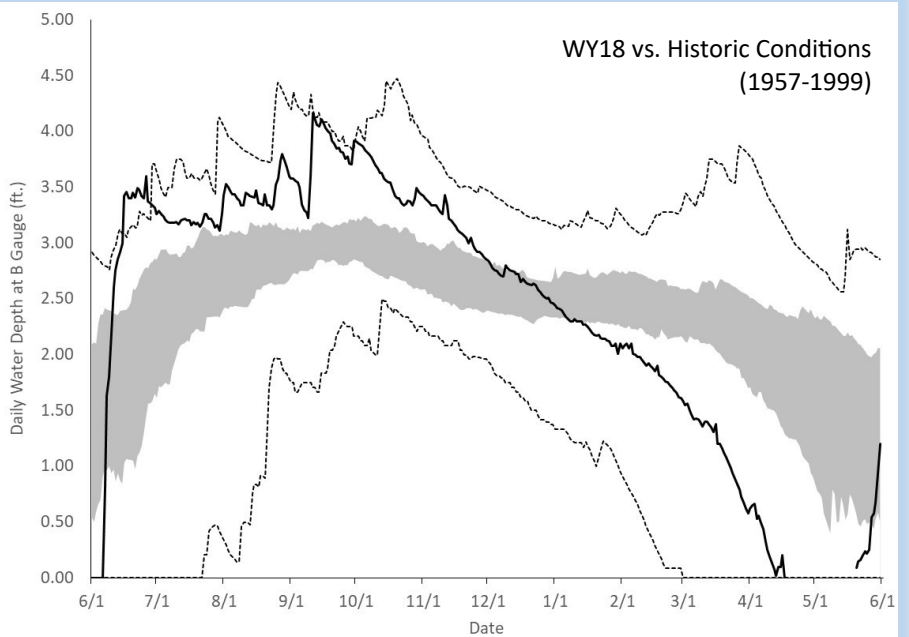
*This publication is for Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary staff, volunteers and other friends. All reported data should be considered preliminary. Please contact Dr. Shawn Clem ([sclem@audubon.org](mailto:sclem@audubon.org)) with questions.*

## Water Update (cont'd)

**CURRENT WATER LEVEL:  
1.42 ft. (6/1/18)**

May rainfall helped the water level at our B Gauge (North Lettuce Lake) return above ground level on May 20th. Current water levels are described below. More information on the referenced change in hydrology (historic versus recent conditions) can be found on our website (<http://corkscrew.audubon.org/conservation/corkscrew-water-loss>).

— WY18  
..... Max & Min  
■ Range of 'typical' years  
(25<sup>th</sup>-75<sup>th</sup> percentile)



## Wood Stork Update



Lee (Field Technician) and Melissa (Conservation Intern) completed Wood Stork monitoring flights on May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The latter flight was just after water levels had begun to rise. The Corkscrew colony had approximately 180-200 Wood Storks but most were off their nests and nearly all Wood Storks observed looked to be large enough to fledge. Wood Stork colonies at Lenore Island (Caloosahatchee River) and BC29 (State Road 29, south of Oil Well Rd.) were still active with a notable number of small chicks. We will complete one more flight of the 2018 nesting season and final nest counts will be determined in the coming months and will be shared for inclusion in the South Florida Wading Bird Report. Photos from the flight can be found on the next page.

## Wood Stork Update (cont'd)



Photos from 5/22/18 (clockwise from upper-right): Wood Stork branchlings in the Corkscrew colony; Wood Stork nests on Lenore Island; nest with young Wood Stork chicks at BC-29; empty Wood Stork nests in the Corkscrew colony (see arrows)



## Other Research News:

- With partners at FGCU and Johnson Engineering, we received funding for the 3-year post-restoration aquatic fauna monitoring for the Picayune Strand Restoration Project. Sampling will begin this summer.
- The 5th Annual Corkscrew Watershed Science Forum will be held **Friday, February 22, 2019** — Mark your calendars!

### OUR TEAM:

Melissa Gonzalez, Conservation Intern

Lee Martin, Field Technician

Dr. Shawn Clem, Research Manager