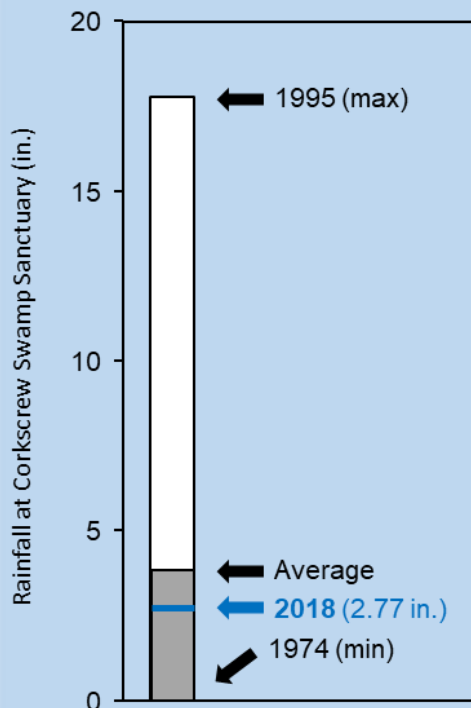


Research Update



Water Update

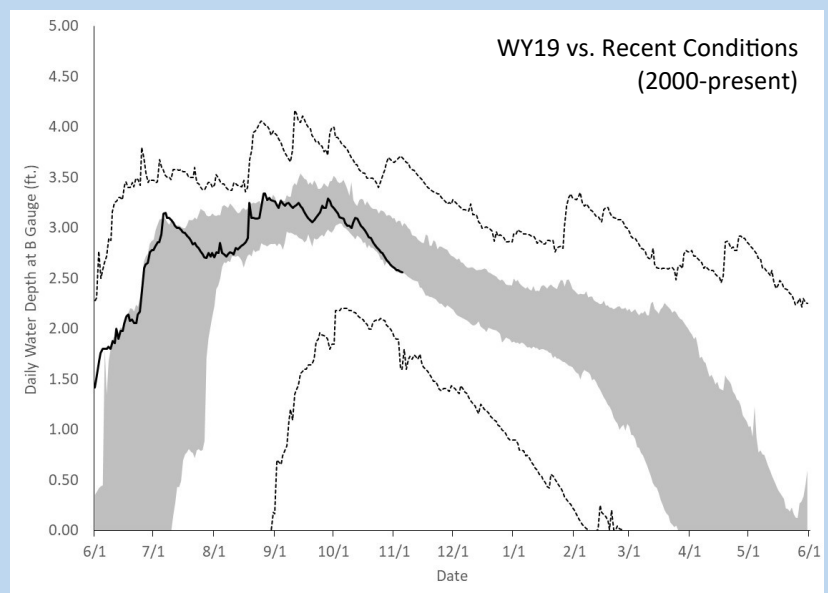
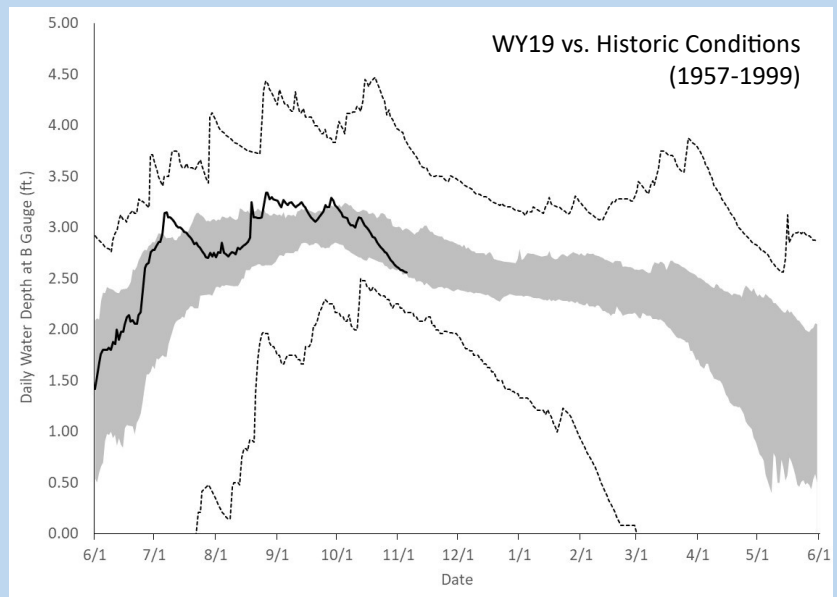
RAINFALL: OCTOBER 2018



— WY19
..... Max & Min
■ Range of 'typical' years
(25-75 percentile)

Warm temperatures and minimal rain have prompted October water levels to begin falling quickly. Only time will tell what this will mean for wading birds as we approach nesting season. More information on the referenced change in hydrology (historic versus recent conditions) can be found on our website (corkscrew.audubon.org/conservation/corkscrew-water-loss).

CURRENT WATER LEVEL: 2.56 ft. (11/5/18)



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) with questions.

2018 Wood Stork Nesting: End of Season Summary

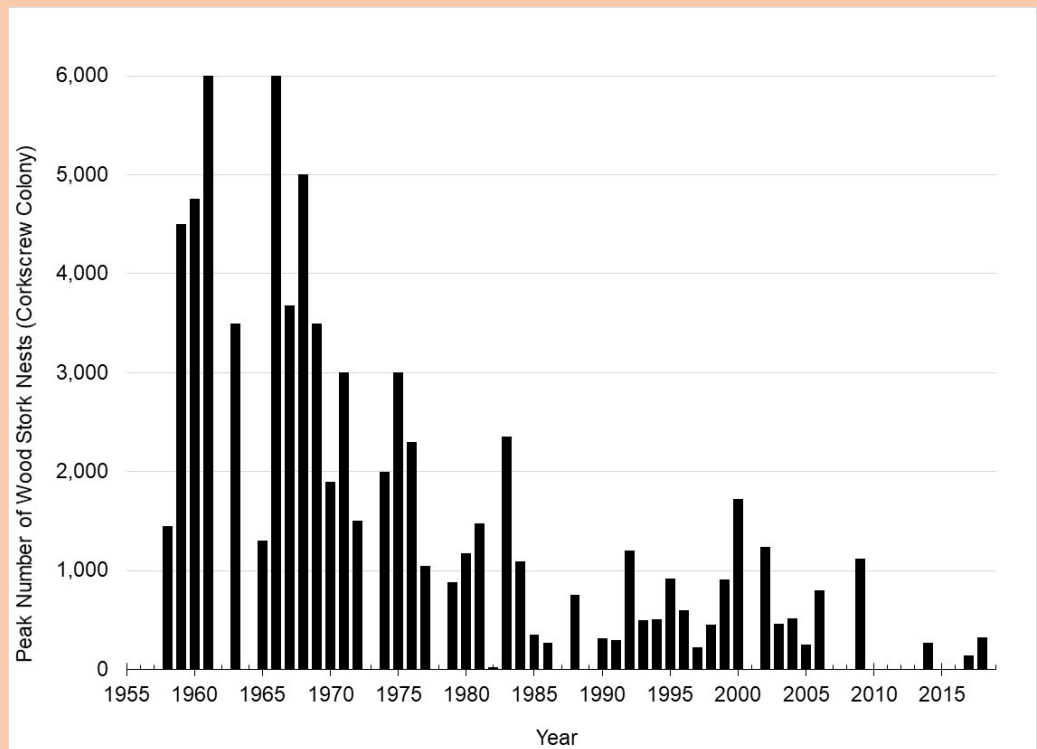


Final Wood Stork nest count data are complete and have been submitted for inclusion in the South Florida Wading Bird Report. Here is a short summary of what we saw with the Corkscrew colony. Note that the peak nest counts is reported from the monthly survey with the highest number of nests but few to no branchlings and it is conservative (in the lower range of the true peak), as we continued to observe new nests throughout the season.

This past year marked the second consecutive year of Wood Stork nesting at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and the fourth successful nesting season in the last 12 years. The last time this colony saw two successive years of nesting was 2005 and 2006. Nesting initiated in early December 2017, peaked in February 2018 and most Wood Storks fledged by early June. **Peak nest effort at CSS (2/1/2018) included 328 Wood Stork, 71 Great Egret, and 117 unidentified white wader (WW) nests.**

Peak Wood Stork nest

counts were the highest seen since 2009, but were only 22% of the annual average 1957-2006 (\bar{x} =1504). The 5-year running average of Wood Stork nesting clearly reflects the precipitous decline in this historically productive colony since the mid-1970s. Great Egret nest counts were higher than any recorded at CSS, although data for this species have only been collected in the past few years.



Welcome Abrianna!

In early October we welcomed the second of our two Conservation Interns hired to assist with the Picayune Strand monitoring project. Here are some words from Allegheny College graduate and Pittsburgh native, Abrianna Sadler-

Throughout my budding professional career I've been granted the opportunity to work with great organizations and gain experience in a field that I hope to pursue, ecological conservation. As a seasonal research assistant at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory I helped to monitor macroinvertebrate assemblages within alpine and subalpine wetlands in isolated mountain regions. In addition, a study was conducted examining the consequences range shifts due to climate change have on wetland ecosystem functions. Before coming to Corkscrew I served a one-year term as an AmeriCorps service member with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Here I worked in freshwater streams throughout PA conducting biological surveys for aquatic-macroinvertebrates, fish, and the eastern hellbender. I am eager to be joining the CSS internship crew and am looking forward to learning all I can about this ecosystem and its' inhabitants!



Other Research News:

Conservation Interns Lara Jones, Randi Bowman, Abrianna Sadler, Evan Flynn and Amanda Bressoud at Audubon Assembly (West Palm Beach, FL) October 19.



Research Technician Lee Martin, Research Director Dr. Shawn Clem, Conservation Interns Lara Jones, former intern (FGCU M.S. student) Courtney Kern and former intern (FAU M.S. student) Danielle Drumheller at the Florida Ornithological Society meeting (Davie, FL) November 3.



OUR TEAM:

Dr. Shawn Clem, Research Manager

Lee Martin, Research Technician

Conservation Interns: Abrianna Sadler,
Evan Flynn, Lara Jones & Randi Bowman