

*WHAT ARE THE STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES THAT ARE REQUIRED?*

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is required by the Federal Endangered Species Act to abide by standard measures adopted to protect this endangered falcon:

1. A caracara protection/education plan has been developed which requires training for all construction crews.
2. A qualified observer/biologist will be on-site for notification by construction personnel if a caracara is sighted.
3. If a caracara is found on the construction site, all activity must cease immediately, the qualified observer must be notified, and the bird allowed to move away from any dangerous area on its own.



**WHO DO YOU CONTACT IF YOU SEE A CARACARA ON THE RESERVATION?**

**CONTACT YOUR DIRECT SUPERVISOR**

You may also contact:

Seminole Tribe of Florida's  
Wildlife Biologist  
Office: (863)902-3249 x13411  
Cell: (954)410-7073  
Email: [ermdwildlife@semtribe.com](mailto:ermdwildlife@semtribe.com)



*Seminole Tribe of Florida  
Environmental Resource  
Management Department*

**Audubon's Crested  
Caracara**  
*Caracara cheriway*



**Protecting Tribal Resources**

# WHAT IS A CARACARA?



*The caracara is the most terrestrial bird in the falcon group. It spends a great deal of time on the ground.*

It prefers open habitats, typically grassland, prairie, or pastures with scattered taller trees, particularly cabbage palms, to nest in. May use sparsely wooded areas and brushland if patches of trees are interspersed with expanses of open grassland.

Caracaras usually feed on carrion (dead animals) but they will take advantage of any food opportunity. Caracaras also hunt live food on the ground or take food from other birds.

**CARACARAS ARE LISTED AS A THREATENED SPECIES FEDERALLY AND BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

## HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A CARACARA?



\* Males and females look the same

*Immature (left):*

- Brown back
- Pale buff neck and throat
- Pale breast streaked with dark brown

*Adult (right):*

- Black back and belly
- Breast and upper back marked by fine, dark bars
- Black cap with slight crest at rear of head
- White tail with black barring and thick terminal band
- Long yellow legs
- Long neck, especially apparent in flight
- Medium-sized, broad-winged, long-tailed
- Thick, gray hooked beak, with reddish, bare facial skin around eye

## WHAT DO THEIR NESTS LOOK LIKE?

Stick nests are built in tops of cabbage palms more typically, but may also be found in pine trees and shrubs. The nests are very concealed and are not generally noticeable.

## WHY ARE CARACARAS IMPORTANT?

Caracaras, like vultures, feed on dead animals and also help eliminate road kill throughout communities. Because populations of birds of prey are declining across the nation, it is important to secure our local populations.

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A CARACARA?

If you encounter a caracara, avoid all contact with it. If you are driving a vehicle or heavy equipment, stop, cease operation and allow the bird to fly out of the area. Do not harm or harass the bird in any way. Please contact your supervisor or the number at the back of this pamphlet and report the location and circumstances.

