

Crested Caracara Surveys

Brevard County, Florida



Blue Wing Environmental (BWE) is assisting Taylor Engineering in conducting crested caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) surveys during the 2019 survey season (January - April 2019). Surveys are being conducted according to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Crested Caracara Draft Survey Protocol - Additional Guidance document.

The project site is an approximate 101-acre site located in Brevard County, Florida. Surveys began prior to January 10, 2019 and will be conducted every two weeks through April 30, 2019. Per the USFWS guidance, the foraging and nesting surveys must begin at least 15 minutes prior to sunrise and last 3 hours. BWE collects all required information on data sheets during each survey session. Information includes; date, location, observer, weather conditions (sky, wind, temperature, precipitation/fog), avian observations (focused on crested caracara, American crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), red-shouldered hawks (*Buteo lineatus*), bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*)).

If caracara are observed, the following information is documented: number, plumage, activity/behavior, location on an aerial map, direction of flight, and notation of any documented nesting material or food observed during flight. If a nest is observed, the location is documented on an aerial map and the observer immediately notifies the client. If nesting is confirmed, BWE will transition the surveys to productivity surveys per USFWS guidelines.



Client

Taylor Engineering, Inc.

Location

Mims, Florida

Project Date

January 2019—Ongoing

Expertise Provided

Avian Observations

Listed Species Surveys

