

2016 Lee County Shorebird Partnership Meeting

February 17, 2016

2 – 5 P.M.

Lakes Regional Library, 15290 Bass Rd, Ft. Myers, FL 33919

Attendees:

- Charlie Ewell – Partnership Coordinator
- Rae Blake – Town of Ft. Myers Beach (the new Keith Laakkonen)
- Marianne Korosy – Audubon Florida
- Melinda Averhart – Audubon of SW Florida
- Brad Cornell – Audubon FL/AWE
- Adam DiNuovo – Audubon
- Katie Moses – Lovers Key SP (DEP)
- Karen Schanzle – DEP
- Joel Caouette – City of Sanibel (formerly Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation)
- Amy Clifton – FWC
- Kat Harris – FWC

Black Skimmer Band Resighting Update – Marianne Korosy (Audubon FL)

- First black skimmer banding effort in FL in at least 10 years (previous banding attempts occurred in panhandle).
- 2015 was first year of a multi-year black skimmer banding project: 47 black skimmer chicks were banded during June and July at 2 colonies in central and south Pinellas County.
- Used White-on-Green, wrap around plastic bands with unique 3-digit alpha numeric codes: A00-A47.
- Of the 47 BLSK chicks banded:
 - 17 resighted in Collier County (Marco Island City Beach and Clam Pass) – possible wintering grounds for first year juveniles?
 - 6 resighted at two sites on Tampa Bay
 - 1 resighted north of Tampa Bay, in Pasco County
 - 2 resighted at Lake Okeechobee
 - 1 resighted on East Coast at Cocoa Beach (not seen last Fall)
- Banding continues summer of 2016.
- Lindsay Addison will begin banding in North Carolina this nesting season using similar 3-digit alpha numeric, wrap around bands, but will use the White-on-Black combination.

Breeding Bird Protocol/FSD 2016 Updates– Kat Harris (FWC/FSA)

- Following protocol is staying the same: focal species, count windows, basic monitoring steps, count types.

- Key changes in 2016:
 - Report Total Adult Counts along your route for American Oystercatcher, snowy plover, and Wilson's plover
 - *Do not include groups of birds with 10 or more individuals, these are most likely non-breeding, migratory birds.
 - Eliminated "pre-nesting" site status for both solitary and colony nest sites.
 - "Probable" site status added to Solitary Nest Site Form – select only when nests cannot be located/confirmed.
 - Rooftop forms were re-organized to make data collection in the field more efficient
 - Building management info was put on separate form, and optional data moved to bottom of Colony Site Form.
- Additional training: March 8 (12-1pm.) *webinar for new surveyors*; March 10 (12-1 pm.) *webinar for rooftop monitors*. Sign up at: FLShorebirdDatabase@myfwc.com
- For more information, visit www.FLShorebirdDatabase.org

Route & Rooftop Signups for 2016 – Kat Harris (FWC)

- Signup sheets for FSD routes and rooftops were passed around to obtain 2016 volunteer contact info.
- Melinda Averhart will provide 2016 rooftop volunteer info to Kat at a later time via email.

Roundtable Discussion:

Lovers Key – Katie Moses (DEP)

- Purchased new audio system to attract least terns to same area where they attempted to nest last year (all nests were depredated).
- Also will continue to use decoys to attract least terns to nest.
- Recommended checking out research article by Berger et al. on success of decoys used to attract nesting birds.
- From the 300,000 cubic ft of sand deposited, about 20% lost to erosion already.

Carlos Pointe – Amy Clifton (FWC)

- Identical project to last year.
- Two technicians will survey area 7 days a week. Dan Larremore will return for a second season, and one technician will be hired.
- Will continue to apply herbicide to vegetation that accrues in posted nesting areas that cannot be raked during nesting season.
- Beach-raking activities will continue as last year, two methods:
 - Beach-raking will occur around posted nesting area, and around satellite nest sites that pop up during the nesting season.
 - More intensive beach-raking will occur after the nesting season to remove vegetation that accrues from BLSK/LETE colony.
- FWC will have access to park at Carlos Pointe.

- Brad Cornell requested Audubon stewards need access either at Castle Beach or Carlos Pointe. Penny might be a good point of contact for getting access to Castle Beach.

Winter Stewardship Program – Brad Cornell and Melinda Averhart (Audubon)

- This past winter (2015/2016), Audubon began a Winter Stewardship Program in Lee County.
- Mainly going out to Bunche Beach at low tide (important foraging site).
- Main goal is to educate people about keeping distance from flocks of feeding and resting birds.
- Started requesting stewards report various data during their shift (species, behavior, number of banded birds, number of people reached, number of negative reactions, etc.), but may have scared away some participants.
- Program needs better advertisement.
- Announcements can be entered in FL Weekly and other local community papers.
- Will be beginning to organize spring stewardship meetings soon, stay tuned!

Sanibel 2015 Nesting Season/Winter PIPL Surveys – Joel Caouette (City of Sanibel/formerly SCCF)

- 2 PIPL (one banded) and 13 REKN observed.
- During renourishment, saw around 60 REKN.
- 2015 nesting season results:
 - 15 SNPL nests – 11 nests hatched (31 chicks), and 9 chicks fledged
 - 2 BNST nests – 1 chick reported, 1 chick fledged
 - Used decoys to attract least terns, but no success (2014-lost 4 colonies)
- Coyote predation management:
 - On-going issues with coyotes
 - City of Sanibel looking at possible sterilization options, but more so eradication.
 - Working with Univ. of Georgia on a coyote family network study.
- Lost potential habitat to storms, causing steep escarpments
- County might conduct dredging on Blunt Pass, and sand may be deposited on west end of Sanibel.
- Audrey Albrecht is the new Shorebird Program Coordinator at SCCF (the new Joel).

Cayo Costa – Karen Schanzle (DEP)

- Lagoon opened up mid island between two access points, was previously closed during Hurricane Charlie.
- At the south end of the island, the beach is eroding and is not passable except at low tide.
- WIPL nested near lagoon area last year.
- LETE did not nest on island last year.
- 10-11 pairs of SNPLs nested at south end, resulting in an estimated 22 fledges for 2015!
- Plan to use decoys at Cayo Costa and other parks to attract LETE.
- Have already pre-posted at Cayo Costa and Gasparilla.
- March, DEP and Charlie Ewell will coordinate FSD surveys.