

## 2016 Spring Collier County Shorebird Partnership Meeting

February 16, 2016

10:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, 300 Tower Road, Naples, Florida

### Objectives:

- Share 2016 Collier County shorebird and seabird posting, monitoring and outreach plans.
- Receive Florida Shorebird Database updates.
- Provide ideas and feedback to expand the Collier Shorebird Stewardship Program.

### Purpose:

The spring pre-season meeting is an opportunity for partners to meet and share information about shorebird and seabird nesting in Collier County, learn more about statewide data collection and provide partners with an opportunity to discuss management issues that arose during the previous nesting season.

### Attendees:

Beverly Anderson – Rookery Bay Reserve

Dave Bruening – Collier County Sheriff's Office

Jeff Carter – Rookery Bay Reserve

Chadd Chustz – City of Marco Island

Brad Cornell – Audubon Florida/AWE

Kevin Cunniff – Rookery Bay Reserve

Mark Danaher – USFWS

Daniel Darren – Collier County Sheriff's Office

Jean Hall – Collier Shorebird Stewards

Kat Harris – FWC

Jayson Horadam - Rookery Bay Reserve

Jayne Johnson – Collier Shorebird Stewards

Marianne Korosy – Audubon Florida

SJ Kwiatkowska - Rookery Bay Reserve

Keith Laakkonen - Rookery Bay Reserve

Mark Mahoney – FWC/DLE

Mitts Mravic - FWC/DLE

Liz Quinter – Rookery Bay Reserve

Carol Rizkalla – FWC

Ashley Taylor – FWC

Ricardo Zambrano – FWC

### Notable Results from the 2016 International Piping Plover Survey and 2016 Winter Shorebird Survey –

Carol Rizkalla and Ricardo Zambrano (FWC); Beverly Anderson (RBNERR)

- International Piping Plover Survey: Between 1/20/16 and 1/25/16, RBNERR and FWC surveyed 8 routes from Clam Pass to Round Key (Ten Thousand Islands).
- 16 PIPL (3 banded) were recorded at Big Marco Pass CWA and 15 PIPL (2 banded) were recorded at Second Chance CWA.
- Nine unique banded PIPL have been recorded in Collier this fall/winter.
- Winter Shorebird Survey: Rookery Bay (2/6/16) - Caxambas Pass to Second Chance CWA. 21 seabird/shorebird species/3570 individuals. Highlights were 750 American white pelicans at Morgan Bay and Second Chance and 35 red knots at Second Chance.
- Rookery Bay (2/8/16) - south end of Keewaydin Island. 11 species/66 individuals. Highlight was 2 Bonaparte's gulls.
- FWC posted a new feeding area for shorebirds at BMP.

### **Black Skimmer Banding and Resighting Data Update** – Adam DiNuovo (Audubon Florida/RBNERR)

- During the first year of a multi-year black skimmer banding project, 47 black skimmers were banded as chicks in June and July 2015 at 2 colonies in central and south Pinellas County.
- Used dark green wrap around plastic bands with unique 3-digit alpha numeric code in white.
- Of these 47 banded BLSK: 17 were resighted in Collier (Marco Island City Beach and Clam Pass), 6 at two sites on Tampa Bay, 1 north of Tampa Bay and 1 on the NE Florida coast.
- 2 BLSK (A11 and A16) were observed 10+ times between 9/18/15 and 10/31/15 in Collier County, then later recorded at Jaycee Park, Okeechobee County on 12/18/2015.
- Black skimmers banded in NY, NC and SC also recorded in Collier.

### **Migration and Wintering Non-breeding Shorebird Survey Results** - Adam DiNuovo (Audubon Florida/RBNERR)


- RBNERR and Audubon Florida have completed 90+ seabird/shorebird site surveys between August 2015 and February 2016.
- Winter Survey Highlights:
  - 🐦 High counts of 29 PIPL, 22 SNPL and 94 REKN at Big Marco Pass CWA.
  - 🐦 High counts of 23 PIPL and 301 REKN along Cape Romano route (Caxambas CWA to Second Chance CWA).
  - 🐦 High count of 28 AMOY roosting on Coon Key.
  - 🐦 9 banded PIPL identified.
  - 🐦 14 banded REKN identified.
- Winter Resighting Highlights:
  - 🐦 First record of trans-Gulf seasonal movement in snowy plover.
  - 🐦 4 WIPL banded by Raya Pruner in the Florida Panhandle seen on Second Chance CWA and on Morgan Beach (only 4 prior records outside of Panhandle).
  - 🐦 First record in Collier of rooftop LETE banded in Pinellas County.
  - 🐦 80+ metal BBL bands read on ROYT, SATE and BLSK.

### **Second Chance Critical Wildlife Area Update** – Keith Laakkonen (RBNERR)

- The Second Chance CWA proposal was approved unanimously by FWC commissioners at the commission meeting in Panama City on 11/20/15.
- Collier Shorebird Steward Jean Hall travelled from Naples to Panama City to speak in favor of the proposal (thank you Jean).
- Second Chance CWA will be closed to public access annually from March 1 to August 31.
- Additional Second Chance CWA information is on the Rookery Bay Reserve website.
- Jayson Horadam (Rookery Bay Reserve Team Ocean Coordinator): Team Ocean now has 35+ volunteers who've had interpretive training. They'll target public outreach at Second Chance and at county boat ramps and marinas.

### **Florida Shorebird Database: New Protocol Revisions, Updates and Training** – Kat Harris (Florida Shorebird Alliance)

- Staying the same: focal species, count windows, basic monitoring steps, count types.
- Key changes in 2016:
  - 🐦 Report total adult counts along route for American Oystercatcher, snowy plover, Wilson's plover.
  - 🐦 Eliminating "pre-nesting" data - report only confirmed and suspected ("probable") nests.

 Rooftop forms re-organized.

- For more information: [www.FLShorebirdDatabase.org](http://www.FLShorebirdDatabase.org)
- Additional training: March 8 (12-1 P.M.) webinar for new surveyors; March 10 (12-1 P.M.) webinar for rooftop monitors. Sign up at: [FLShorebirdDatabase@myfwc.com](mailto:FLShorebirdDatabase@myfwc.com)

#### **Monofilament Recovery & Recycling Program - Ashley Taylor (FWC)**

- Indoor and outdoor monofilament receptacles are found in over 50 counties statewide.
- Collected line is shipped to the Berkley Fishing Company where it's recycled into artificial reefs and tackle boxes.
- FSA partners can help the program by assisting in monofilament bin management, help FWC identify entanglement "hotspots" and potentially responding to entangled birds.
- Volunteers help with clean-ups at targeted shorebird entanglement "hotspots".
- Find more information about MMRP and a list of monofilament recycling bin locations by county at <http://mrrp.myfwc.com/>
- Only fishing line that is a single filament, nylon product can be recycled. Fishing line that is braided or contains wire can't be recycled.

#### **Posting and Management Plans for 2016 Beach-Nesting Bird Season**

Delnor-Wiggins SP - Kat Harris for Karen Schanzle (FPS)

- Historical area posted with decoys but no nesting in 2015. In 2016, will post at the end of February. The area may need to be shifted slightly due to ongoing erosion and potential dredging.
- District staff will work with Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park staff to check salt flats for Wilson's plover nesting activity.
- Not able to monitor for shorebird nesting activity at Collier Seminole SP. Difficult to access potential nesting areas.

Big Marco Pass CWA & Caxambas Pass CWA - Carol Rizkalla & Ricardo Zambrano (FWC)

- Dominique Rossetti will return as the Collier FWC part-time seasonal tech.
- Caxambas Pass CWA still hasn't rebuilt enough to support nesting.
- FWC will pre-post portions of Big Marco Pass CWA.
- FWC working with USDA on predator control issues.
- Collier County is proposing to dredge/widen north entrance to Tigertail Lagoon so it doesn't grow and connect Sand Dollar spit to Hideaway Beach. If it connects, concerns are for property/ownership issues, direct access and predator issues. Collier County has agreed to remove some vegetation on Sand Dollar.
- City of Marco Island is proposing to pump sand to raise a low-lying area in front of South Seas Condominiums. FWC will only post in front of the condos if birds try to nest there this year.
- FWC removed one acre of vegetation on the north end of Sand Dollar to improve least tern nesting habitat.

Marco Island City Beach - Chadd Chustz (City of Marco Island)

- To improve drainage, the City of Marco Island will be regrading three areas along the city beach from south of Sand Dollar Island to approximately 700 feet north of the Marriott hotel.
- Regrading the central Marco Island beach will take approximately 170,000 cubic yards of sand. Approximately 135,000 cys will come from the intertidal zone of central Marco beach; 30,000 cys will be donated by Hideaway Beach and 5,000 cys will be donated by the Marriott Hotel.

- It's expected that within 3 years the beach will accrete back to pre-regrading levels but will benefit from the positive slope regrade.
- The project will take at least another 9 months to permit and may be completed at this time next year.

#### Second Chance CWA - Beverly Anderson (RBNERR)

- Second Chance is much less vegetated this spring than during the 2015 nesting season due to over-wash from January winter storms.
- The Second Chance Establishment Order (CWA 16-01) was signed on 2/25/16.
- Rookery Bay will pre-post Second Chance on March 1 using small CWA signs until the large CWA signs available.
- Rookery Bay/Audubon Florida will monitor weekly.
- Team Ocean and FWC LE will help educate the public on the new CWA.

#### Keewaydin Island - Beverly Anderson (RBNERR)

- South tip of Keewaydin is also less vegetated after January 2015 winter storms.
- Rookery Bay conducted a controlled burn there to reduce vegetation. It was moderately successful. Low, patchy veg areas on the south tip made the fire difficult to maintain.
- Rookery Bay pre-posted suitable nesting habitat on February 25.
- Team Ocean going to Keewaydin 5+ days a week for public outreach and education.

#### Other Rookery Bay Areas - Beverly Anderson (RBNERR)

- Will monitor and post north Keewaydin, Kice and Morgan if nesting occurs.

#### Collier County Rooftop Nesting – Brad Cornell (AWE/AF)

- Looking for a new rooftop coordinator.
- Historically, 12 rooftop sites in Collier.
- Last year, Big Lots rooftop at Bayshore and US41 most active. Had both least terns and black skimmers.
- AWE needs a steward (full-time resident) to be on call to go up on roof with A/C repair people. FWC will train.
- Panhandle Audubon has rooftop nesting manual they provide to building owners prior to nesting season.

#### **Law Enforcement Update – Mark Mahoney (FWC/LE)**

- FWC LE has three new officers in the field training program.
- Office Lonny Schushel is covering from Marco Island to Chokoloskee.
- Please fill out a **NOVO** (Notice of Violation Occurrence) and send to Mark when you see a violation. Can use this form for unleashed dogs. Can get form from Mark, Jayson or Beverly.
- The information on the NOVO is what FWC LE Dispatch needs if you call in a violation. The call center is in Miami so tell them you're in Collier County and try not to use too locally common place names to explain to them where LE is needed.
- FWC will increase coverage at Second Chance now that it's a CWA.

#### **Collier County Winter Shorebird Stewardship: Pilot Program Update – Brad Cornell (AWE) and Adam DiNuovo (Audubon Florida)**

- Successful first season.
- Adam has been conducting beach walks and seabird/shorebird ID classes for public and volunteer stewards.
- Developing new partnership with Marco Marriott for seabird/shorebird education and outreach.

- Have increased the number of winter shorebird surveys from past years, focus on science objectives.
- Looking at new ways to step-up outreach and raise public awareness. Partner with sea turtle monitoring efforts for “Beach Babies” Program to add beach-nesting bird flyer to Collier County April sea turtle flyer mailing.
- Rookery Bay CTP providing Ecotour provider training.

**Group Discussion: Ideas on How to Improve Volunteer Steward Recruitment, Training and Retention–**  
Liz Quinter, Facilitator (RBNERR – Coastal Training Program)

**Training and Retention**

- Mentoring – pair new stewards with experienced stewards.
- Combine RB Team Ocean training and Collier Stewardship training. Joint classes, workshops.
- Organized training – classroom and in the field.
- Combine volunteer efforts for Winter Shorebird stewardship program and Beach-nesting Bird stewardship program.
- Need to keep stewards engaged year round – habitat restoration projects, train stewards to give public outreach programs.
- Organize a State-wide volunteer conference.
- Explore partnerships with FGCU and FSW. Use student service hours.
- Most important is to cultivate a “sense of community” for stewards.
- Stress stewardship teams, rather than individuals.
- Communication – stewardship website, social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram)
- Look into getting volunteers out to the north end Sand Dollar by boat (weekends, afternoons) so they don’t have to walk all the way out there.
- Be selective – have expectations for stewards and let them know up front what those expectations are.

**Get the Word Out**

- More/better TV and newspaper coverage.
- Important to stress the economic issue. The tourism dollars birds and birding brings into the community.
- Explore partnership projects with the Naples Zoo.
- 2016 is the Centennial of the Migratory Bird treaty Act – plan Rookery Bay Reserve celebration.
- Shorebird license plate for Florida.

**Set fall 2016 combined Lee/Collier Shorebird Partners Meeting Date**

- Look at last week of October.
- Survey Monkey poll.

***Thank you for your continued support of the Collier County Shorebird Partnership!***