

Volusia Shorebird Partnership
Tuesday March 1, 2016, 1:00- 3:00 p.m.
Beach Safety Headquarters, 3rd floor conference room
515 S. Atlantic Ave. Daytona Beach, FL

Meeting Agenda

1:00-1:10: Welcome and Introductions (new partners)

Attendees:

Naomi Avissar, FWC Florida Shorebird Alliance Coordinator

Jennifer Winters, County of Volusia, Volusia Shorebird Partnership Coordinator

Anna Deyle, FWC Northeast Region Assistant Species Conservation Biologist

Lt Steve Van Nortwick, FWC Law Enforcement

Michael Brothers, Marine Science Center Manager

David Hartgrove, Halifax River Audubon

Mike Simmons, County of Volusia, Sea Turtle HCP Field Manager

Brandon Noel, Bethune Cookman University

Amber Stevenson, Ecological Associates, Field Biologist

Alex Kropp, FWC Northeast Region non-game biologist

Jessica Winterwerp, Volusia County Coastal Division Director

No representatives from National Park Service, Canaveral (Michael Cooper), FL Park Service (Jason DePue), SE Volusia Audubon (Don Picard)

1:10-1:30: Summary of route surveys conducted by FSA in 2015

We discussed who will cover which routes and rooftops this year - file attached. Still awaiting response from Don Picard about one NSB route and rooftops.

Canaveral National Seashore: Mike Cooper with Canaveral was not present. Jennifer confirmed after the meeting that he is doing the same

routes in 2016 at Apollo Beach and Playalinda. He also indicated they are doing predator control.

Michael Brothers brought up Bird Island near Apollo Beach (see attached Google map) – there was LETE nesting in 2014. It's about 1.5 acres in size. Michael Brothers checks it sometimes but it is remote and you have to get to it by boat. It was posted in 2014 but he is not sure if it's in Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge or Canaveral. It is too far away by boat for Michael to monitor regularly-sort of thing he could get to once a season. He indicated that Doug Mullins with National Wildlife Refuge would be a good contact for the site.

*Alex will call Doug Mullins and Michael Cooper to check in about this and see if they have volunteers who need to be trained on the monitoring protocol, etc.

Follow-up. Per Michael Cooper, the island is in Canaveral National Seashore, it was not surveyed in 2015. He is trying to get a boat survey planned for 2016 and has volunteers to assist with shorebird surveys. Alex also contacted Michael and offered steward training if needed.

County of Volusia Managed Beaches: Jennifer Winters and Mike Simmons can cover the same routes again. They will retire the Volusia County Beaches route as it is 36 miles long. They will separate it into smaller routes when the database is open (after March 18th) and will contact Naomi to let her know so that the old long route can be retired.

They also cover Rattlesnake Island (FIND), Smyrna Dunes Park shoreline and Disappearing Island.

2015 was the first year they did all of the managed beaches (36 miles) every month.

Dolphin View-MDC: Don Picard began this route but Lisa Mickey did it for him last year because he was out of town. Jennifer is to check with Don Picard to see if he can run this route this year or if he needs someone else to do it.

Follow-up: Don will continue to monitor this site. Lisa Mickey and Lynn Peterson will provide back-up help.

Dunlawton Bridge routes: David Hartgrove will cover it again. He might have trouble covering the April count window (April 15-21). Brandon Noel might be able to cover a couple count windows. Anything close to BCU esp. Jennifer & Michael can help survey Dunlawton for David in April, or other survey windows as needed.

NPSP- Jason DePue is covering again. It is on our route list for Flagler County (that's why it's not showing up on the Volusia route list)

Rooftops:

Ormond and Daytona Beach Rooftops:

David Hartgrove can cover all of his same rooftops again. There was a new one discovered at Waterway West Condo in NSB in 2015. He would prefer to let someone closer do that one. There is another one on the list at Lopez RV park in Oak Hill which no one covered in 2015. Jennifer will ask Don if he can cover these two. During the meeting David called and confirmed that Lopez RV Park still has a tar and gravel roof.

Brandon Noel makes the drive on Ridgewood/US 1 from BCU all the way past Ormond Beach to I-95 several days a week so he can take some of the load off of David and check some rooftops on his way home.

Ormond Beach rooftops: David Hartgrove will call Michael Brothers or Brandon Noel if he needs them to cover a count window. Also encouraged Michael and Brandon to do additional, closer to weekly surveys on any active rooftops if at all possible.

If any new volunteers are recruited, send Jess Rodriguez their names. David will also look for someone from the Halifax Audubon group to train to do rooftop surveys with him in the event he needs back-up help.

Bethune Cookman University (BCU) Rooftop:

Brandon Noel will cover again. Access to the roof requires a ladder for the first tier and climbing is easy enough over the second two tiers. It's good to have a second person to hold the ladder.

What will disturbance be like this year? The adjacent property is under construction. There is a retention pond nearby, he is not sure if it will be

maintained. Unfortunately there were 60 pairs last year and they didn't fledge anything. He will know more after Alex does a site visit there today. There might be an opportunity for volunteer effort there to put up some chick fencing- a couple chicks fell off the roof last year.

Follow up: Alex, Brandon and Jennifer went to the BCU rooftop after the meeting. Brandon will coordinate adding some gravel rocks to the primary area where nesting was previously observed and will request FWC to provide temperature data loggers so he can work with students and try to determine if the thinner portions of gravel areas were much hotter than areas with thicker gravel. It is suspected that temperature may have had something to do with past failures. The chicks may not have made it to the shade structures provided before overheating. The fallen chicks all appeared to be newly hatched (within 24-48 hours).

Winchester Manor Condos: did they replace the roof? Lots of birds used to nest there and stopped. David can never track someone down in the office there to ask if they have re-roofed.

Follow-up: Jennifer looked up permitting records for Winchester Manor Condos and found out that the roof was re-roofed with modified bitumen (roll-out rubberized) roofing material in 2013. It can be retired from the list to survey if nesting is no longer occurring there.

Rooftop chick checking needed anywhere?:

Waterway West Condo: David Hartgrove reported it has a 10-12 inch high parapet, so they couldn't fall off there.

Covidien: David has never heard of them falling off at Covidien. Also, a woman who worked there reported that to her knowledge, no birds have fallen off. David can't remember if parapet exists, but he thinks there is. The woman also mentioned they will be replacing the roof there at some point.

Parisian Villas: the problem in years past was that birds fell down the downspout, were crushed at the bottom, and you couldn't get them out. But this roof hasn't been active for 10 years.

David is not aware of any rooftops that need drains covered.

1:30-3:00: 2015 Volusia routes, partners & projects

Pre-posting Bethune Beach:

Jennifer, Amber Stevenson, and Mike Simmons are planning to pre-post some reminder posts and signs at Bethune Beach (Using the educational Please don't disturb nesting birds sign - not the Do Not Enter signs). Mostly residents use that stretch of beach and many private walkovers are present, so cordoning off potential nesting areas is impractical. Nests will be located and cordoned off as needed during biweekly sea turtle surveys in April and daily surveys for the remainder of the bird nesting window. 8-9 WIPL nests there last year - beach driving is not allowed in that area. How many chicks last year? Need to check.

Follow up: 8 of the 9 identified WIPL nests successfully hatched their eggs at a rate of 100%. In total, 23 eggs yielded 23 chicks.

Pre-posting Disappearing Island: The island looks good and is going to also be pre-posted. Jennifer would like to do in the next couple of weeks (before the 17th). She will send a notice out once the date and boats are confirmed.

FWC suggested that promising bird stewards from last year might be able to help with pre-posting. Jennifer can contact them and ask and Jess can contact new volunteers.

Follow-up: Island pre-posting is scheduled for 3/9/16

Critical Wildlife Area (CWA) establishment? There is still no formal designation process per FWC. Could Disappearing Island be designated as a non-breeding CWA? It is just outside of federal designated PIPL critical habitat-most PIPL activity is on Disappearing Island. County staff is doing shorebird surveys out there year round now. They also just did the PIPL international survey. FWC suggestion was to compile that data to see what it looks like and also compile disturbance data and see how it looks (including photos). Include all listed species in the review including, Red knots, PIPL in winter, LETE in breeding season.

Survey Gaps?

Halifax River for AMOY: There are lots of oyster bars but not much suitable nesting area per Michael Brothers. The 2001 statewide oystercatcher survey is on the FSA website. It was suggested to look at that for ideas on what areas to survey. Anna will email Michael Brothers regarding setting up an aquatic route to survey for AMOY. Other departments that regularly boat in the area, such as VC water quality or FWC LE, may also be able to report any presence of AMOYS.

There is a new boat tour going out of Tomoka State Park now. Jennifer suggested we contact them and other tour boats and ask them to keep their eye out and let us know if they see AMOY. It would be great to make some: "Have you seen this bird?" signs or fliers for this sort of purpose.

N end of mosquito lagoon: UCF grad student, Phyllis Klarmann is doing some work down there interested in surveying for AMOY is collaborating with Janell Brush with FWRI (FWC's research division) about doing some AMOY surveys in that area. She is in contact with Naomi as well.

Law enforcement officers could possibly keep an eye out for AMOY? Esp. in mosquito lagoon area that Brandon Noel mentioned. It looks similar to Tolomato area that has lots of AMOY nesting. Could be another good way to use "Have you seen this bird?" signs.

Stewarding:

The new county volunteer coordinator, Becki O'keefe, has about 20 volunteers interested in being bird stewards. FWC agreed that we can set up a date for a steward training.

April 15th- Is a scheduled LEO training class date. Jennifer suggested to try to do steward training on the same day or the day after and stay overnight? Might be best for stewards if we could do the training on a weekend day (for any folks who work during the week). Jennifer to work with FWC to schedule a date.

Please keep track of your volunteer hours in 2016. (monitoring or stewarding for shorebirds)-and email them regularly to Jess Rodriguez (Jess.Rodriguez@MyFWC.com) and make sure you are registered as an FWC volunteer.

Steward chair- Alex and Anna have purchased a beach chair with a canopy for shorebird stewards to use. They will probably be purchasing 1 or 2 more for this partnership.

Bethune Beach: Tad Fyock lives across the street from where Ken Gunn lived. He is one of the best bird carvers in America. David Hartgrove will see if he would be interested in helping us by letting us store steward equipment under the boardwalk as was done when Ken lived there (Ken moved away).

Follow-up. David contacted Tad. He lives at 6164 S. Atlantic Ave., the next house north of Ken's. He said its fine for us to store equipment under his walkover. Jennifer will contact him before doing anything in the area.

Getting stewards out to Disappearing Island?

Ponce Inlet Water Sports: Located right at inlet at base of lighthouse is a company that runs pontoon boat trips. Could they ferry stewards over there? Michael Brothers will talk to the company about that possibility as they drop him off at the Island frequently.

The Marine Discovery center in New Smyrna beach: Takes a tour group out there once a week and could possibly help. They are much further away than Ponce inlet Water Sports and are not as practical an option.

Brandon Noel suggested we could we put a kayak in New Smyrna dunes park and make it available to people. A discussion on liability concerns and steward fitness in this area of high speed boat traffic and strong currents came up. We concurred that boat rides would be the best option for most people.

Marine Science Center: has a fleet of canoes and may build a dock at Lighthouse Point Park in the future. They may establish something at Light House Point Park, such as a place to keep canoes, etc., but it won't happen this year. They applied for a grant for this project idea. One grant this year and one grant next year, so it will be at least 2 years before it could happen.

3:00-3:30: FWC data entry and field form updates

The database should be open on March 18th (first date of count window). Monthly count windows are the same dates as previous years. If sites are active, they should be checked weekly preferably.

There will be no more need to document pre-nesting behavior, only confirmed and probable nests. In addition, total counts of adult AMOY, SNPL, and WIPL are requested (please report on the new Route Form). The only omission from this is for flocks of 10 or more which are clearly not nesting. As always, adult counts are requested at seabird nesting colonies (on the Seabird Colony Form).

The rooftop forms have been simplified and now only require one form to be completed instead of two.

Follow up: there have been some changes to the Breeding Bird Protocol (BBP) for Shorebirds and Seabirds this year – see this link<<https://public.myfwc.com/crossdoi/shorebirds/resources.aspx#BBProtocol>>. These changes are also covered in upcoming training webinars happening next week – see dates in the latest Wrackline<http://flshorebirdalliance.org/media/45983/WrackLine_2016_03.pdf> newsletter.

Adjourn