

2016 Post-Season Space Coast Shorebird Partnership Meeting

Location: Merritt Island Public Library, Auditorium
1195 N Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL 32953

Date: October 4th, 2016

Time: 9:30am – 12:15pm

9:30 – 9:40 Introductions: Heather Hitt (FWC), Margie Mitchell (City of Cocoa Beach), David Saylor (Brevard Zoo), Becky Bolt (KSC), Catherine Vecchio

9:40 – 10:40 Round Robin on Space Coast Nesting

- Not many attendees (probably due to impending Hurricane)
- Spreadsheet of routes and rooftops shared with group, showing data entered as of 9/28/16. If your data were entered after that date they won't show up on it.
- 3 Least Tern ground sites
 - o 2 sites just south of Cape Canaveral abandoned due to dogs/coyotes (only 1 pair of LETE at each, probably the same pair)
 - o 1 site at Viera construction site again, about 50 adults and maybe 20 juveniles fledged
- 30 active rooftops (23 Least Terns, 6 Black Skimmers)
- Check the database to make sure all your entries are there, some folks at the meeting said they entered data for each count window even though our spreadsheet said they did not

10:40 – 11:00 2016 Preliminary Data Summaries – Powerpoint presentation shows data entered as of 9/28/16. If your data were entered after that date they won't show up in it.

11:00 – 11:15 Break

11:15 – 11:35 FWC Critical Wildlife Areas (CWAs)–Anna and Alex, FWC

- Neither Alex nor Anna were able to attend meeting unfortunately
- Two CWAs proposed for this region: BC49 and Stickmarsh
- Meeting attendees thought a wetland/burrow pit in the middle of Merritt Island should be considered for CWA status since there's a lot of bird activity
- Currently there are 20 CWAs and FWC is working with the public to create new or expand current ones
- The final decision on CWAs will be made at the November Commission meeting
- Visit <http://myfwc.com/cwa> to learn more
- See PowerPoint slides from presentation that Anna was not able to give at the meeting

11:35 – 11:55 Don't Cut the Line, Bird Entanglement Campaign –Alex, FWC

FWC campaign to prevent seabird entanglement and educate anglers on how to free hooked seabirds

- Signs to post at fishing piers and marinas
 - o Let Alex know if you need signs to post for the Don't Cut the Line campaign (<http://myfwc.com/news/news-releases/2016/march/02/hooked-bird/>)
 - o 3 different sign designs: Do Not Feed Sign, Prevent Entanglement Sign, and Hooked a Bird Sign
 - o Need to have agreement from owners of piers/marinas to post signs
 - o Signs are printed on marine grade aluminum with UV-resistant ink to reduce the impact from weathering.
 - o It would be possible to order more of these official signs to be printed for high priority sites. Also possible for Alex to send PDFs of sign design to site managers and have them print their own signs.
 - o **Does anyone know of a good contact in Brevard County to id priority sites e.g. fishing piers and marinas in the county where it would be good to post these signs?**
- Alex is keeping database of where signs are located.
 - o Contact name, phone #, email, address of site where sign(s) put, and place name.
 - o If you post official FWC signs, or have your own signs made from the PDFs, please contact Alex or Anna and let us know where the sign was placed and contact info.
 - o Want to keep track of where the signs are plus contact info to contact places and ask periodically if signs are still up and if new replacement signs are needed.
- FWC's Bird Mortality Database now has option to report entanglement as a cause of death (<http://legacy.myfwc.com/bird/default.asp>)

11:55 – 12:15 Wrap up – Heather

- Wild About Nature at Avenue Viera October 1st – Heather was guest speaker to talk about our partnership and local nesting, low turnout though
- Ocean Reef Beach Festival in Satellite Beach on December 3rd – Catherine Vecchio and Ruth Ellen Peipert said they could attend and provide own table and tent (Heather to get them materials to handout and maps/photos to show people)
- Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival in January 17-20 – not sure if FWC is attending
- Space Coast VW Car and Lagoon Fest October 16th, hosted by Brevard Zoo? David will probably be attending – Heather to get him materials to hand out/display if possible
- Indian River County Sea Turtle Lighting Surveys – need volunteers for next season to conduct night-time light surveys 2-3 times during the season, if anyone is interested let Heather know
- Melbourne Beach known as a place people bring their dogs to run around off leash even though Canova Beach is just down the road and is the “dog” beach
- Pre-Season meeting will be scheduled for February
- Winter shorebird surveys in February – hosted by USFWS