

FSA Florida Keys Shorebird Partnership

2016 Post-Season meeting minutes

Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Time: 12:00 – 2:00pm

Meeting Participants:

Ricardo Zambrano – FWC Regional Biologist

Janice Duquesnel – FPS Biologist

Jessica McIntosh – FPS, Long Key

Jim Valentine – FPS, Bahia Honda

Tom Sweets – Key West Wildlife center

MINUTES

I. Introduction and Meeting Goals (Janice)

II. Open Discussion on nesting in the Florida Keys (all)

- Janice: Conducted rooftop surveys at four sites in Key Largo and one in Tavernier. Three sites became active in April, but the Bank of America in Tavernier and the West Marine building in Key Largo were inactive again this year. Numbers were down at Publix and the Bank of America in Key Largo, but 50 birds were observed in June at the VA Clinic (Garden Cove Dive Shop). Two of the sites were active for only three months, from April through June. The Publix building was active from April through July.
- Janice: Observed one adult and one juvenile black skimmer at the Carysfort site in Dagny Johnson Key Largo Hammock Botanical State Park while conducting Schaus swallowtail surveys. She also observed nesting Wilson's plovers at this site and a pair of nighthawks displaying courtship rituals.
- Jessica: Surveys were conducted each month with no nesting recorded. However, Jessica did observe one juvenile royal tern begging for food.
- Jessica: Conducted rooftop surveys at the Sandy Cove condos but no activity was documented. Ricardo observed nesting on this rooftop but it failed due to rainfall.
- Jim: Surveys were conducted weekly at the Old Bahia Honda Bridge where approximately 120 least terns were observed. Jim also observed least tern activity in the evening at Calusa Beach as well as along the Oceanside beach. Ricardo documented Roseate terns nesting at the crest of the Old Bahia Honda bridge. Janice observed a flight capable chick on the seawall that appeared in good condition and was being fed by its parents. At least two, possibly three chicks were recovered from the water but none of them survived.
- Jim: Surveys were conducted monthly along the Oceanside and Calusa beaches. No nests were documented.
- Tom: This season was busy with a lot of rescues in June and July. The Professional building in Key West was particularly problematic with chicks falling off and then getting run over either by cars or bicycles. Tom ended up relocating the chicks a little further back to keep them from continually falling off. Both least terns and roseate terns nested on this building. The LaBrisa condos also had a lot of nesting of both species. However, since two of the buildings were close together, it was difficult to distinguish nest numbers from the ground. Thirteen roseate chick died from falling off. The rooftop at the Truman Annex

has nest boxes that were installed by the Navy. However, Tom observed eggs rolling off. The AT&T building was re-roofed last year, but there was still nesting activity this year. Tom observed a shift in nesting activity at several of the rooftops that he surveyed due to re-roofing of nearby sites where nesting had occurred.

- Ricardo: Roseate terns nested on the State building of the Marathon Government Center. Although eggs were observed, the colony failed. The County building had least terns and two roseate tern nests. Roseate and least terns nested at the Cocoplum condos despite structures that were installed on the sides of the building. Roseate terns nested on the Dry Tortugas but failed due to competition, vegetative recruitment and overwash. Ricardo will contact National Park Service Staff to engage them in the FSA.

- III. Ricardo gave a presentation on the preliminary results from the 2016 survey season. FWC is still conducting quality control so it may be a few more weeks until the final results are available on the Florida Shorebird Database. It is important to note that there continues to be an increase in the number of sites that are being surveyed throughout the state.
- IV. Wrap up (Ricardo and Janice): The Winter shorebird survey is scheduled for February 2017. The spring meeting for the 2017 FSA survey season is tentatively scheduled for February. Please let Ricardo know if you need signs or brochures. Janice informed the group that she will continue to be involved with the Keys FSA, but will be stepping down as the Chair. Please let Ricardo and Janice know if you are interested in taking over this role. Ricardo updated everyone on the status of the FWC staff that are involved in shorebird protection. Naomi's position has been advertised and hopefully the new staff will be in place by the spring meeting.

Thanks for a great survey season.