

2017 Pre-Season Space Coast Shorebird Partnership Meeting

Location: Cocoa Beach Public Library
550 North Brevard Ave. Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

Date: March 15, 2017

Time: 9:30am – 12:00pm

Meeting Participants:

- *Please be prepared to give a 5 minute summary of shorebird sightings, conservation issues, or challenges you'd like to talk about from the 2016 season and upcoming 2017 season.*

AGENDA

9:30 – 9:40 Introductions – All

Shea Armstrong (new FWC Florida Shorebird Alliance Coordinator), Heather Hitt (FWC NE Wildlife Legacy Biologist), Alex Kropp (FWC NE Regional Biologist), Michael Cooper (Canaveral National Seashore), Joseph Byrd (Canaveral National Seashore), Becky Bolt (KSC), Margie Mitchell (City of Cocoa Beach), Ken Collins (Space Coast Audubon), RuthEllen Peipert (Space Coast Audubon), Gloria LeBlanc (Space Coast Audubon), Lisa Ruckman (volunteer), Catherine Vecchio (volunteer)

9:40 – 10:10 2015 Statewide Report – Alex Kropp, FWC

The 2015 statewide report is available on the Florida Shorebird Alliance Website (<http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org/resources/reports.aspx>). These reports are created yearly.

10:10 – 10:40 Review of 2016 Space Coast Nesting and 2017 Winter Shorebird Surveys – All

See attached spreadsheet

10:40 – 11:00 Sign up to monitor routes and rooftops for 2017 – All

See attached spreadsheet

11:00 – 11:15 Florida Shorebird Database Custom Search Option – Alex Kropp, FWC

The custom search option is finally available. Click on Explore Data Tab in the Florida Shorebird Database (www.flshorebirddbatabase.org). Must be signed in to use it.

11:15 – 11:45 Critical Wildlife Area/Imperiled Species Management Plan Update – Alex Kropp, FWC

Thirteen new CWAs were recently established and 5 were improved. Two of them are located in Brevard County: Stick Marsh (for nesting Roseate Spoonbills) and BC49 (for roosting and nesting wading birds). To become a CWA, the area must have large concentrations of wildlife (usually birds for nesting or roosting), human disturbance issues, and landowner support. See <http://myfwc.com/conservation/terrestrial/cwa/> for more information.

The Imperiled Species Management Plan (ISMP) was approved in November 2016. It includes rule changes for Florida's state listed species. We no longer have Endangered Species, they are all listed as Threatened now. Also, Species of Special Concern will be phased out (these species will be re-evaluated and either upgraded to Threatened or removed from the list). Each of the 57 species has a Species Action Plan. See <http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/imperiled/> for more information.

- The Least Tern is keeping Threatened status
- Black Skimmer upgraded from SSC to Threatened
- American Oystercatcher upgraded from SSC to Threatened
- Removal or modification of structures "recently occupied" does not require permit as long as at least 14 day notification is provided to FWC's Species Conservation Planning Biologist (Alex or Ricardo), and listed species are not actively engaged in nesting or breeding
 - o Heather will send updated letter for active rooftop owners/managers

11:45 – 12:00 Wrap-up – Heather Hitt, FWC

- Ocean Reef Beach Festival in Satellite Beach in December - Ruth Ellen and Catherine Vecchio attended and got some volunteers to sign up (thank you Lisa for attending the meeting!)
- Rooftop fencing – repaired fencing on Merritt Island Co-Op after Hurricane Matthew
- Keep an eye out for new rooftops/construction sites that may be active
- Pick up materials/handouts

Notes, Spreadsheets, and Presentations can be found on the FSA Space Coast Page here:

<http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org/field-notes.aspx?partners=1119>