

2017 Spring Collier County Shorebird Partnership Meeting

February 21, 2017

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

Attendees:

Beverly Anderson – RBNERR

Amelia Horadam - RBNERR

Brian Barrington – FWC/DLE

Jayson Horadam - RBNERR

Brad Cornell – Audubon Florida/AWE

Brita Jessen – RBNERR

Mark Danaher – USFWS

Marianne Korosy – Audubon Florida

Adam DiNuovo – Audubon Florida

Keith Laakkonen – RBNERR

Jean Hall - AWE

Jessica McIntosh – RBNERR

Kat Harris – FWC

Alli Smith - Audubon Florida/RBNRR

Mary Toro – Collier County

Ricardo Zambrano – FWC

Notable Results from the 2016 Winter Shorebird Survey

Ricardo Zambrano (FWC), Beverly Anderson (RBNERR), Alli Smith (Audubon Florida/RBNERR)

Marco Island/Big Marco Pass CWA on 2/6/17

- 12 species and 747 individuals recorded along the route.
- 33 Wilson's plover recorded but no piping plover or snowy plover.
- There was a huge flock of birds on the north end of Sand Dollar (Big Marco Pass) that was constantly being flushed by walkers, boaters and kayakers.

Kice, Morgan, Cape Romano and Second Chance on 2/6/17

- 18 species and 3916 individuals recorded along route.
- Largest numbers of birds were at Morgan Beach and Second Chance.
- Dunlin were the most common species (1153 birds).
- No piping plover, snowy plover or American oystercatcher.
- 15 American white pelican in Morgan Bay.
- 32 Wilson's plover at New Beach.

Keewaydin Island on 2/7/17

- 8 species and 228 individuals seen along route.
- all the shorebirds were on the south end of Keewaydin and most of the gulls, terns, pelicans and cormorants were at Gordon Pass.

Clam Pass Park on 2/7/17

- 9 species and 605 individuals.
- 605 black skimmer.
- 3 banded birds - 2 banded black skimmer (1 with a blue engraved band from Belmar, NJ) and 1 brown pelican.

Migration and Wintering Non-breeding Shorebird Survey Results & Ten Thousand Islands Shorebird survey results

Alli Smith (Audubon Florida/RBNRR), Mark Danaher (USFWS)

Second Chance CWA, Cape Romano, Big Marco Pass CWA, Marco Island City Beach, Clam Pass Park

- 76 shorebird/seabird surveys along established routes between August 2016 to present.
- High Counts - Second Chance/Cape Romano: red knot 69; piping plover 15. Big Marco Pass CWA: red knot 290, piping plover 14.
- 71 banded birds resighted. 5 Piping plover, 1 semipalmated plover, 15 red knot, 1 sanderling, 1 brown pelican, 1 ring-billed gull, 4 sandwich tern, 26 royal tern, 17 black skimmer.

Ten Thousand Islands

- TTI Shorebird Surveys begun in 2004 and conducted monthly on a rising tide; 12 survey points along a route between Coon Key and Round Key.
- Highest number of shorebirds are recorded on Hog Key and Round Key; Round Key is most productive during migration.
- Birds are most often disturbed by people on Coon Key.
- Survey data is entered into USFWS Integrated Waterbird Management & Monitoring (IWMM) database. Additional information, monitoring protocol and instructions on how to register for an account and gain access to the IWMM database at <http://iwmmprogram.org/>

Fish Crow Management at Big Marco Pass CWA and Pinellas County Sites

Ricardo Zambrano (FWC), Marianne Korosy (Audubon Florida)

Marco Island

- In 2015, FWC tried trapping and using a laser gun to deter crow predation of beach-nesting bird eggs and chicks on Marco Island. These methods were unsuccessful and the colony failed.
- The crow management method used in 2016 was successful and FWC will use the same strategy again for the 2017 nesting season.
- FWC will contract with USDA for crow removal as soon as harassment or predation is observed (probably beginning in May).
- FWC will again contact and update nearby condo associations and homeowners and offer them additional information if requested.

Pinellas County area

- Dr. Beth Forsy has tried several non-lethal methods to deter crows from taking beach-nesting bird eggs and chicks: effigies, trapping, lasers and conditioned taste aversion using artificial eggs.
- No non-lethal method has been successful.
- This year she's trying electroshock methods. Crows receive a shock if they touch an electrified artificial egg. This method is labor intensive.

Florida Shorebird Database: New Explore Custom Search Feature

Katheryn Harris (FWC Florida Shorebird Alliance)

- Can now refine data search by survey year, site type (solitary, colony, rooftop, roving chick), and location (statewide, county, property, address, lat/lon, route, site).
- New search feature is up and running at www.flshorebirddatabase.org/

Posting and Management Plans for 2017 Beach-Nesting Bird Season

Ricardo Zambrano (FWC), Adam DiNuovo (RBNERR), Jayson Horadam (RBNERR), Brad Cornell (AWE)

Big Marco Pass CWA & Caxambas Pass CWA

- Will post in early to mid-April.
- New FWC CWA coordinator is Michelle Vandeventer.

- New FWC South assistant biologist is Natasha Warraich.
- Will again hire a part-time tech (April to August) and coordinate coverage with Audubon.
- Need larger and more “No Dogs” signs for north end of Big Marco Pass.
- Caxambas Pass CWA sand bar still not rebuilt enough to support nesting.
- Checking into getting educational information into brochure racks for dog owners.

Keewaydin Island, Kice, Morgan & Second Chance

- Alli Smith has been hired to work part-time for both Audubon and RBNERR. She will coordinate to bring Shorebird Stewarts over to Big Marco Pass and Keewaydin by boat on weekends.
- Second Chance CWA will be posted with large CWA signs on March 1. Closed from March 1 to August 31.
- RBNERR Team Ocean volunteers distributed educational flyers to local marinas and boat rental companies in early February to inform boaters about the CWA closure
- Keewaydin is already posted with FWC Winter Shorebird signs...will switch these with FWC Shorebird nesting signs.
- RBNERR will post parts of New Beach and Morgan Beach for Wilson’s plover and least tern.
- RBNERR looking into “No Landing” signs for Second Chance.
- Alli looking into how to get CWA’s shown on Garmin, Navionics nautical charts for boaters.

Collier County Rooftop Nesting

- Of 10-12 historical rooftop site in Collier, only 2 were active in 2016.
- Will try to see if any rooftop changes or modifications have been made since last year.

Law Enforcement Update

Officer Brian Barrington (FWC/DLE)

- LE stepping up enforcement of leash law been on Keewaydin and word is spreading.
- FWC LE can set up a detail for Second Chance CWA enforcement.
- Best dispatch number is (305) 470-6863.
- Give LE dispatch a detailed location description (lat/lon of location if possible).
- Get a photo with date/time stamp of the boat with visible FL number.
- Annual office mandatory meeting is the best time to present training program to all officers.
- Combine bird training with sea turtle training. Provide officers with training certificate.

2015 Annual Report, ISMP and CWA Updates

Ricardo Zambrano (FWC)

- Finishing up QC on the 2016 data, and will be starting on that report this summer.
- In 2015, 3264 route surveys were conducted along 299 routes covering 769 miles of coastline.
- When observer reported a cause for colony loss, in most cases it was predation; for a known nest failure, predation was by far the most likely reason.
- Colony size trends: least terns shifting toward smaller colony aggregations. black skimmers shifting into larger colonies.
- 52% of least tern colonies reported were rooftop colonies in 2015 (132 rooftop, 123 ground colonies). 36% of skimmer colonies were on rooftops (12 rooftop, 33 ground colonies).
- Future monitoring goals (least tern, black skimmer, American oystercatcher, snowy plover, Wilson’s plover) annual statewide estimates of # breeding pairs; annual statewide estimates of productivity.

Group Discussion: Creating a Coordinated Media Outreach Campaign to Spread Bird Messaging

Brad Cornell (AWE)

- Need a more effective campaign to educate the public on how beaches work for wildlife and ways to target local residents vs visitors.
- Adam DiNuovo (Audubon Florida/AWE) is already working with Marco Island hotels.
- Ideas: Florida shorebird license plate; bumper stickers; create a speaker's bureau; explore social media.
- Review beach-nesting bird information on the Collier County website.
- Shea Armstrong is the new Florida Shorebird Alliance coordinator and is seeking ideas for PSA's.
<http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org/>