

2015 FSD Annual Report

A Quick Overview

Florida Shorebird Database: Annual Report - 2015

Summary of data collected by Florida Shorebird Alliance partners



Created By: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
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www.flshorebirdalliance.org

Map & table credit: Whitney Haskell



Monitoring Effort 2011-2016

(*2016 data are preliminary)

FSD Statistic		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*	
Users	Registered users	164	324	467	589	742	770	
	Users reporting data	114	162	185	195	258	281	
Counties with FSD data		30	34	34	37	38	35	
Routes	Number of routes	184	228	203	268	299	331	
	<i>complete surveys</i>	<i>1058</i>	<i>1736</i>	<i>1844</i>	<i>3011</i>	<i>3264</i>	<i>3920</i>	
	Miles of coverage	448	609	596	696	769	850	
Ground	Solitary	sites	887	1105	1265	1313	1570	1067
		visits	2522	3113	3858	4369	5349	4354
	Colonial	sites	123	170	170	192	196	208
		visits	656	1015	1164	1534	1425	1809
Rooftop	sites	169	221	261	315	385	408	
	visits	320	659	1001	1481	2407	2891	
Roving chick/ staging young records		617	1011	1170	1304	2242	2866	

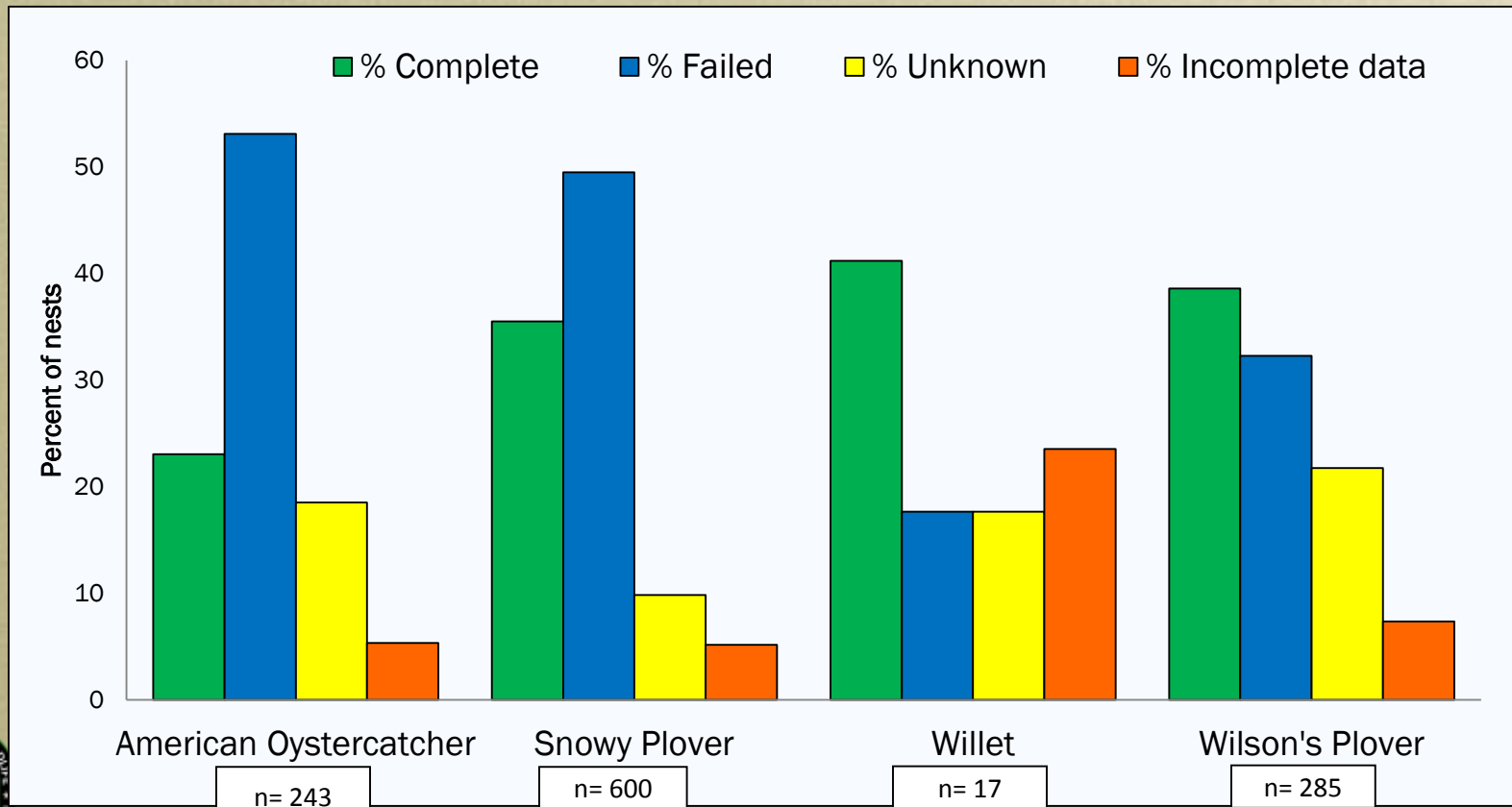


Route Coverage in 2015



Shorebirds: Numbers & Nest Loss

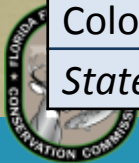
- About a 20% increase in number of monitored solitary sites in 2015
- Primary known causes of nest failure were **animals (70%)** (dogs/coyotes and ghost crabs), and **overwash events (6%)**
- Room to expand survey areas for Wilson's Plover and Willet (likely under-surveying habitat)



Seabirds: Ground Colony Numbers & Nest Loss

- Total # of colonies have leveled off since 2013: Probably attributed to more consistent and expanded statewide coverage over recent years.
- Primary known causes of nest loss were **animals at 60%**(dogs/coyotes and ghost crabs), and **overwash events (21%)**

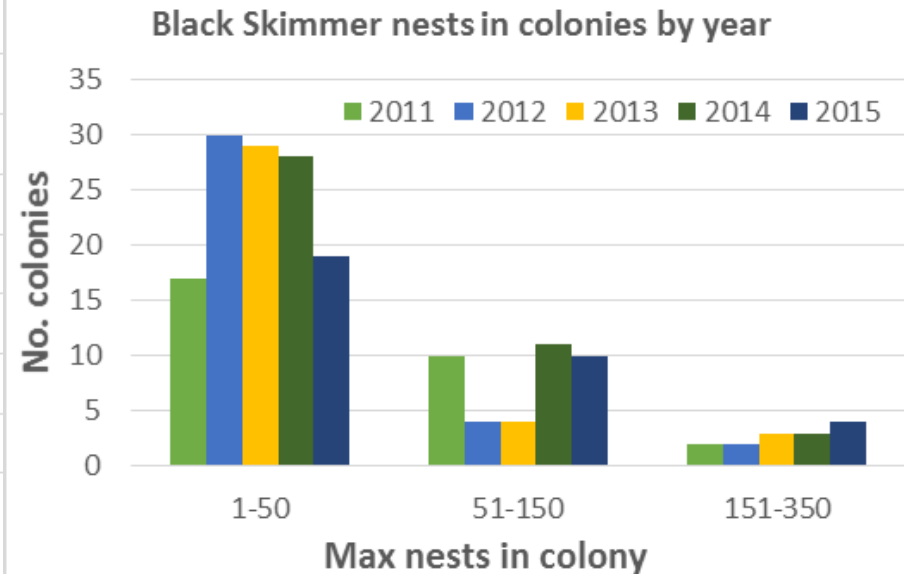
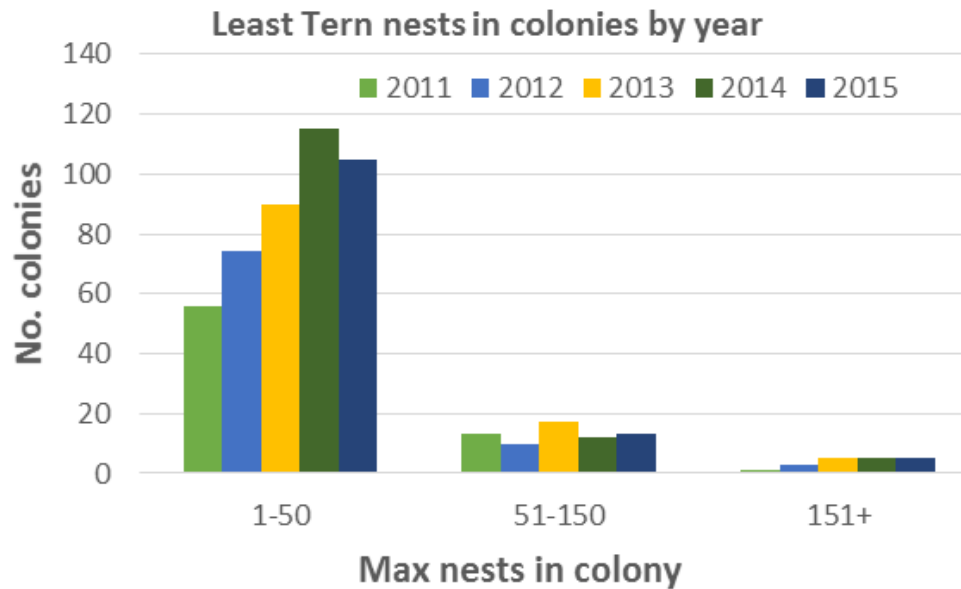
Species	Number of colonies with confirmed nesting				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Colonies with Black Skimmers	30	37	40	43	33
Colonies with Caspian Terns	3	5	4	6	4
Colonies with Gull-billed Terns	9	8	12	8	5
Colonies with Laughing Gulls	11	9	12	13	15
Colonies with Least Terns	75	96	119	132	123
Colonies with Roseate Terns	1	--	2	1	--
Colonies with Royal Terns	4	9	8	8	7
Colonies with Sandwich Terns	3	8	6	7	6
<i>Statewide Total</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>219</i>	<i>194</i>



Trends in Colony Size

Least Terns and Black Skimmers

- Least Terns: shifting toward smaller colony aggregations
- Black Skimmers: shifting into larger colonies
 - Differentiating nesting vs. loafing skimmers can be challenging
 - Black Skimmer visual training guide: (www.flshorebirdalliance.org)



Seabirds: Ground Colonies with Young

- Least Terns and Black Skimmers:
 - Lower % of chicks and juveniles reported than other species.
 - Not all colonies monitored weekly, which may affect detection of young.
 - Understanding Age Classes Important: Training guides in development.

Species	Number of colonies with confirmed nesting	Percent* of colonies with flightless chicks	Percent* of colonies with flight-capable juveniles
Black Skimmer	33	49%	67%
Caspian Tern	4	100%	100%
Gull-billed Tern	5	80%	80%
Laughing Gull	15	93%	93%
Least Tern	123	51%	39%
Royal Tern	7	86%	100%
Sandwich Tern	6	100%	100%



Rooftops with Active Nesting

(% of total monitored rooftops)

- About **30%-40%** of monitored rooftops statewide are reported active each year.
- Birds may be moving to different sites to avoid predators or transition to new rooftops when historic rooftops are re-roofed.
- Least Terns 2015: **132 rooftop colonies, 123 ground colonies (52%)**
- Black Skimmers 2015: **12 rooftop colonies, 33 ground colonies (36%)**

IBNB Region	Number of active rooftops (% of total monitored rooftops)				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
NE	13 (36%)	22 (33%)	29 (40%)	30 (34%)	35 (38%)
NW	1 (100%)	5 (83%)	5 (71%)	23 (44%)	28 (47%)
S	9 (100%)	10 (100%)	38 (84%)	28 (74%)	31 (79%)
SE	1 (100%)	2 (67%)	11 (58%)	10 (30%)	18 (38%)
SW	41 (33%)	43 (31%)	27 (23%)	26 (25%)	26 (18%)
Statewide	65 (38%)	82 (37%)	110 (42%)	117 (37%)	138 (36%)



Future Direction for Monitoring

2011–2015:

- Monitoring focused on presence/absence, statewide nesting distribution
- Plus, much more intensive monitoring on a local level for some species.

2016-2019: With new NFWF funds, transition to new monitoring goals for some species:

- Least Tern, Black Skimmer, American Oystercatcher, Snowy Plover, Wilson's Plover
 - Annual statewide estimates of # breeding pairs
 - Annual statewide estimates of productivity



THANK YOU for your help
*Monitoring and Conserving Florida's
Shorebirds and Seabirds !!*



Photo by Alex Kropp

