

2017 Pre-Season Space Coast Shorebird Partnership Meeting

Location: Cocoa Beach Public Library
550 North Brevard Ave. Cocoa Beach, FL 32931
Jane von Thron Room

Date: October 26, 2017
Time: 10:00am – 12:30pm

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 2017 season*

AGENDA

10:00 – 10:10 Introductions – All

Meeting Participants:

Ruth Ellen Peipert (FWC volunteer), Mark Nathan (FWC volunteer), Traci Frampton (FL Wildlife Hospital), Michael Cooper (Canaveral National Seashore), Margie Mitchell (City of Cocoa Beach), Lisa Ruckman (FWC volunteer), Heather Hitt (FWC), Anna Deyle (FWC), Logan McDonald (FWC)

10:10 – 10:50 Round robin of 2017 Space Coast Nesting Season – All

Michael Cooper- implementing predator control at Canaveral National Seashore usually just a couple sets of WIPLs nesting, this year tons of WIPL nests. In Volusia and Brevard Counties 28-30 WIPLs actually mated. Will be bigger next year- lots of nests in Volusia portion and some roving chicks came down to Brevard.

Ruth Ellen- rooftops- Health First (STP 5) had 100 LETE flush in March- next month, nothing.

Other rooftops nothing- the Post Office in Satellite Beach still has not been sold. Someone put owl decoys on the roof there.

On beach route didn't see any WIPLs- missed July window was on vacation. Bicentennial to Paradise- 50 LETE fledging on beach- guessing came from Winn Dixie

Condo across from the yacht club- saw some LETE- private drive, gated community.

Beach renourishment this year- Patrick south to 192. Area has always been off limits due to environmental sensitivity.

Cocoa Beach route- Margie- no nesting attempts on beach this year that she saw

Motel 6- LETE showed up on schedule- circling- a few down on roof then disappeared- people at the motel had no explanation. Skimmers showed up, then disappeared- saw them flying over by beach by Merritt Island Condo (Bounty St 180). Saw some crows this year and last year some too. No chicks of either species ever on the beach- late in the season nothing. Very unusual.

180 Bounty St- lots of LETE and BLSK- success. A lot of chicks falling off- sent a few to the hospital and Traci sent them back to be returned to the roof- almost flight capable when Heather was there. This was the biggest BLSK nesting site this year in Brevard. Never saw BLSK babies- Erin, resident who lived there whose daughters where chick checking there every day this year moved out- need chick checkers every day for next year.

Honeymoon Islands- Mark Nathan- fish kill- BRPE nesting pretty consistent again this year. Probably 200 adults, at least 50 young from the nest to the nursery. 50-75 flight capable juveniles. Didn't see many roseate spoonbills other than a handful- not nesting. A few GREG nesting. LETE there sporadically flying fishing. Tricolored herons- not nesting though. Ibis nesting.

Those islands are bombarded by people in boats especially on the weekends- got with Matt Anderson with DEP and posted signs on both islands- putting up signs in the trees because otherwise people take them down. Mark Nathan will get with Matt Anderson about taking down the FWC "Do Not Enter" signs outside of the nesting season.

Honeymoon West has picnic tables on. East is smaller- no one really uses it and it has the most birds nesting.

Mark Nathan trying to get it designated as a CWA- went out with Irene with DEP to walk the island.

Mark Nathan and Ruth Ellen are going to contact Michelle van Deventer with FWC about proposing the Honey Moon Islands as a new CWA.

Traci- missed several count windows this year- Best Western. Saw some LETE landing on the building, not very many. She won't park on the property anymore. Heather only saw a couple LETE when she went.

Saw a few LETE at the Chevy Dealer- but not as many as in past year. She has to survey from across the street because the building is so tall.

Heather- Melbourne Beach Publix: Someone in Heather's office who surfs across from Melbourne Beach Publix- saw some Skimmer chicks being fed on the beach- probably came from the rooftop there. Heather put in the notes for one of her visits but didn't add a roving chick form b/c didn't have all details. Thinks he saw 2 BLSK chicks.

Alex is still trying to figure out the Publix permitting thing for rooftops. Would allow them to go up and hopefully reduce take. When Heather and Alex went up LETE already gone- 6 adult skimmers- and 2 nests never saw any chicks.

Harris- Heather went up on the roof a couple times, after the company who will be re-roofing it called Anna to let FWC know they were planning to re-roof and knew they needed to coordinate with us because of nesting LETE. A big LETE colony- at least 9 flight capable juveniles- they are re-roofing probably now. LETE were all on one side of the roof and Heather came out on roof on other side. Didn't have an edge- 4 stories high- employees checked it- a few chicks fell off but didn't make it, long fall.

Nance Park- might get staging LETE and BLSK- Ruth couldn't get to that part of the beach.

10:50 – 11:10 Preliminary data summaries for 2017 – Heather Hitt, FWC

Did not have a presentation on preliminary data summaries ready yet due to QA/QC still being done on the data. Will hopefully have preliminary data summaries by pre-season meeting at the beginning of next year.

11:10 – 11:20 Break

11:20 – 11:40 Overview of new Shorebird Program structure – Anna Deyle, FWC

See Power Point slides

11:40 – 12:00 CWA update – Anna Deyle, FWC

See Power Point slides

12:00 – 12:15 Impacts from Irma? – All

Heather gave an update on chick fencing hanging off of rooftops after Hurricane Irma.

Playalinda Beach has some bad erosion. Boardwalks lost, some dunes over-washed. There's a place where the tide still going over the road.

12:15 – 12:30 Wrap-up – Heather Hitt, FWC

- Ocean Reef Beach Festival- Dec 2nd this year (a Saturday)- Heather submitted a vendor application so we have a spot. Ruth Ellen can do it- will see if Kathryn can do it with her- Heather will get with her for materials.

USFWS does winter shorebird surveys they organize in Jan/Feb, Heather will forward out and will be notices in the Wrackline.

The pre-season meeting will probably be scheduled for February.

Heather will try to call as many rooftop building owners in the off season as possible to determine if roofs are still gravel. She may have some of the volunteers help with this- Jean Olbert may be able to help with some too.