

## Timing of Imperiled Species Nesting and Flightless Chicks

### Ground Nesting

Below are the time-sensitive periods for ground-based nests and chicks of the imperiled shorebird and seabird species in Florida (Table 1). Active Nesting Date Range indicates the earliest and latest dates partners documented active shorebird nests or nests within seabird colonies. The earliest and latest records of a roving shorebird chick or not yet flight-capable young within a seabird colony are reported under Flightless Chick Observation Date Range.

These dates are generated from statewide data in the Florida Shorebird Database from 2014 to 2025. As nesting and chick-rearing timings vary across years and locations, we used 12 years of FSA data to capture annual variability in these observations. These dates are conservative; **active nesting and chick rearing could occur outside these ranges.**

**Table 1:** Ground-based active nesting and flightless chick observation dates for imperiled species in Florida. Data obtained from the Florida Shorebird Database (FSD 2014 – 2025). Query date: April 15, 2026.

| Species                | Active Nesting Date Range | Flightless Chick Observation Date Range |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| American oystercatcher | 6 March – 3 August        | 5 April – 1 September                   |
| Black skimmer          | 20 April – 31 August      | 20 May – 19 September                   |
| Least tern             | 23 March – 21 August      | 27 April – 1 September                  |
| Snowy plover           | 14 February – 11 August   | 22 March – 9 September                  |
| Wilson's plover        | 12 March – 31 July        | 4 April – 29 August                     |

## Rooftop Nesting

Below are the time-sensitive periods for birds nesting on rooftops in the state of Florida (Table 2). These dates are generated from statewide data in the Florida Shorebird Database from 2014 to 2025. Active Rooftop Date Range indicates the earliest and latest dates partners reported imperiled species breeding on a rooftop.

Given the challenges of surveying rooftop sites, nests and/or flightless chicks may not be detected at a given visit. These date ranges include active rooftops, regardless of the type of count partners reported (e.g., species present, flush, direct, extrapolated, and high counts). **Shorebird and seabird breeding on rooftops can occur outside the ranges presented here.** These dates may be influenced by the timing of surveys and annual variations in bird behavior.

**Table 2:** Active rooftop dates from the Florida Shorebird Database (FSD 2014 – 2025).  
Query date: April 15, 2026.

| Species                | Active Rooftop Date Range |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| American oystercatcher | 29 February – 31 July     |
| Black skimmer          | 26 March – 19 September   |
| Least tern             | 18 March – 21 August      |

*This document will be updated as new data become available. Observation dates for other species are available upon request. To learn more about how these data were obtained, please email [FLShorebirdDatabase@MyFWC.com](mailto:FLShorebirdDatabase@MyFWC.com). FWC is not liable for improper or incorrect use of these data. This is not a legal document and cannot be used as such.*