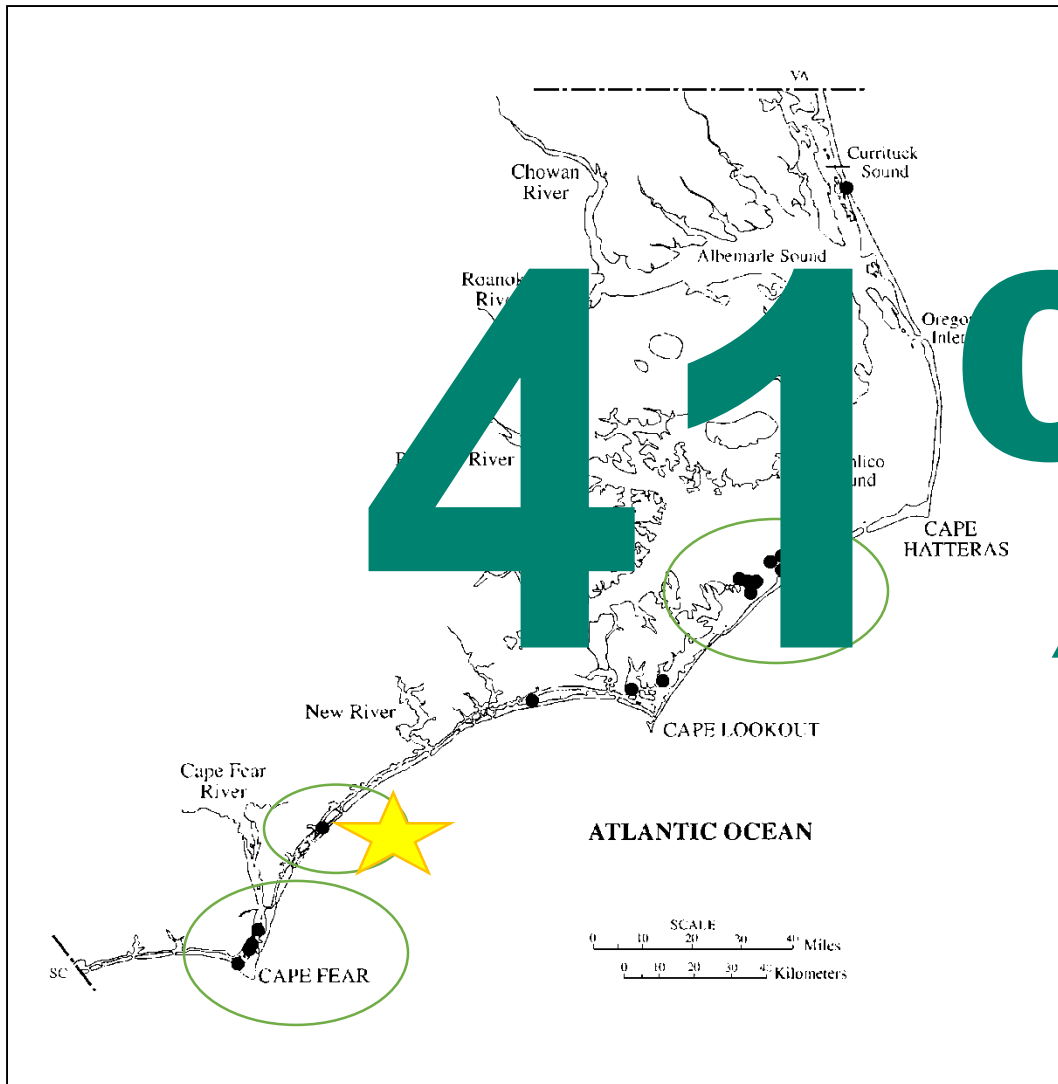


# Some Things Lindsay Knows About Bird Stewards

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# Audubon NC Sanctuary System



- First islands leased in 1982
- Coast office field staff: 1 full-time, 2 seasonal
- 1 islands; 16 with nesting in 2019
- 1 beach posting
- **Over 42,000 birds**

# South Wrightsville Beach 2019

61 active stewards, 2,976 hours



Thousands of beachgoers educated

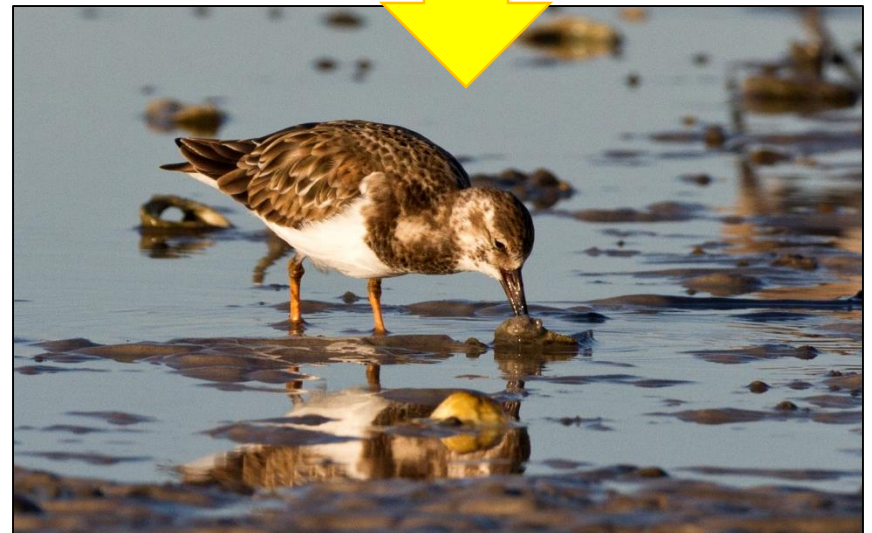
# Stewards Provide



- Information and education about birds
- Guided views of beach-nesting birds
- Reasons to care about birds
- Scheduled tours of the colony
- An example of community support for beach-nesting birds

# Showing People Birds = Winning Support for Birds

- People like to see neat things, and people (often) like to help things that they are aware of
- Laminated sheet and photo book
- Optics, optics, optics
  - Scopes and binoculars



# Specifically, Stewards...

- Talk to beachgoers informally, whenever the opportunity presents itself to educate the public about beach-nesting birds
  - Look for eye contact or other signs of curiosity
- Check the posts and string and do basic maintenance, notify of larger problems
  - They can also check the perimeter of postings for entrances and pick up trash
- Keep an eye on the posting to prevent disturbance
  - Just having someone watching prevents many people from choosing to enter a posted area

# Specifically, Stewards Are Not...

- Law enforcement
  - Stewards may discretely call law enforcement as a last resort only for activities that are threatening the safety of the birds or threatening human safety
- Biologists or biological technicians
  - Trained staff carry out monitoring and scientific projects; some of these activities use volunteers, but these are different from bird stewarding
- Required to be experts
  - Anyone can learn enough to contribute

# What Makes a Site Work for Stewards

- Volunteer access and safety
  - For obvious reasons!
- Enforceable posting
  - It's very difficult for volunteers to ask for compliance with non-existent signage or rules
- Management situation
  - Must be coordinated with the site manager
- Public use
  - There must people present to educate
- Bird use
  - There need to be birds available for people to see

# What Makes a Steward Work for Birds

- Ability to tolerate conditions on the beach
  - For obvious reasons!
- A friendly and positive attitude
  - Stewards make friends for birds
- Sincere interest or enjoyment in the birds
  - It's apparent to anyone you interact with...and often contagious
- Basic information about birds and the site
  - Most people are happy with a couple simple facts and current numbers; if you don't know an answer, say so
- Listening
  - Listening makes for good conversations and helps calm down people who might be disgruntled or upset