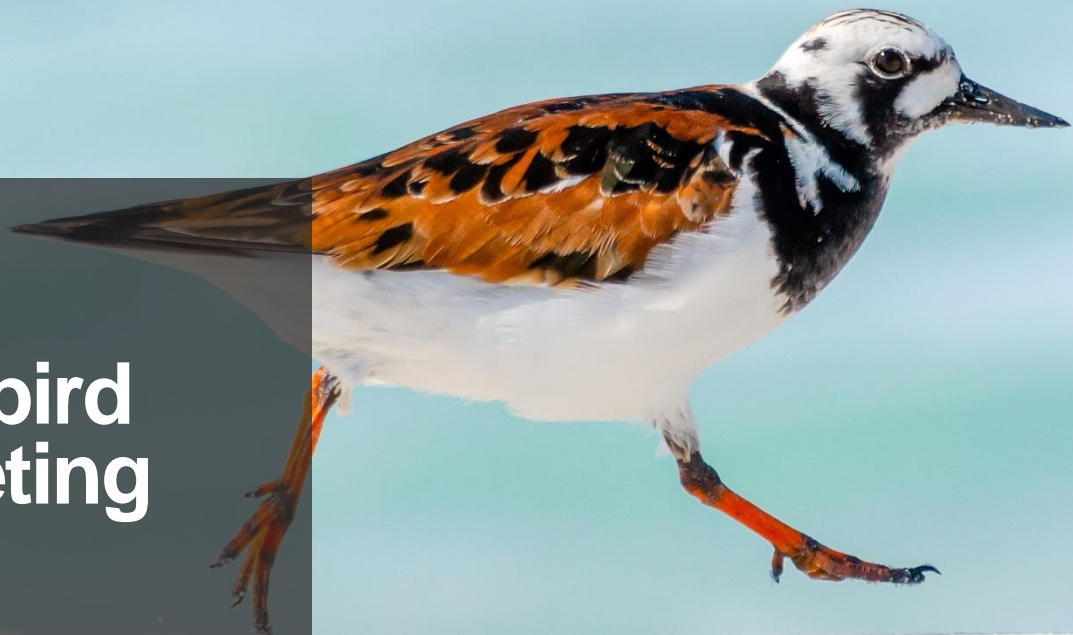


 Audubon | SOUTH CAROLINA

2024 Shorebird Annual Meeting

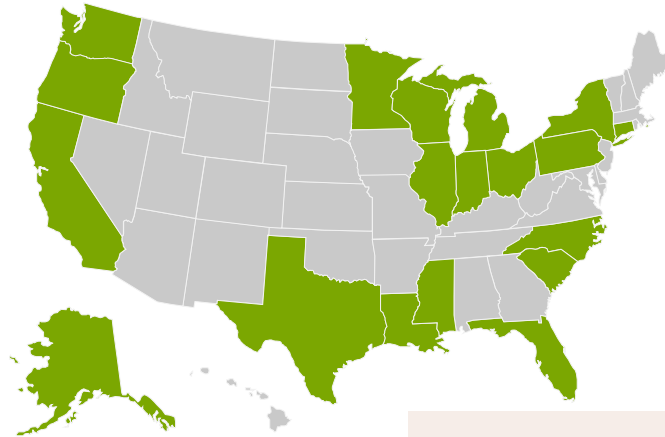
COASTAL BIRD STEWARDS

2023 SEASON SUMMARY



Audubon's Coastal Bird Stewardship Program

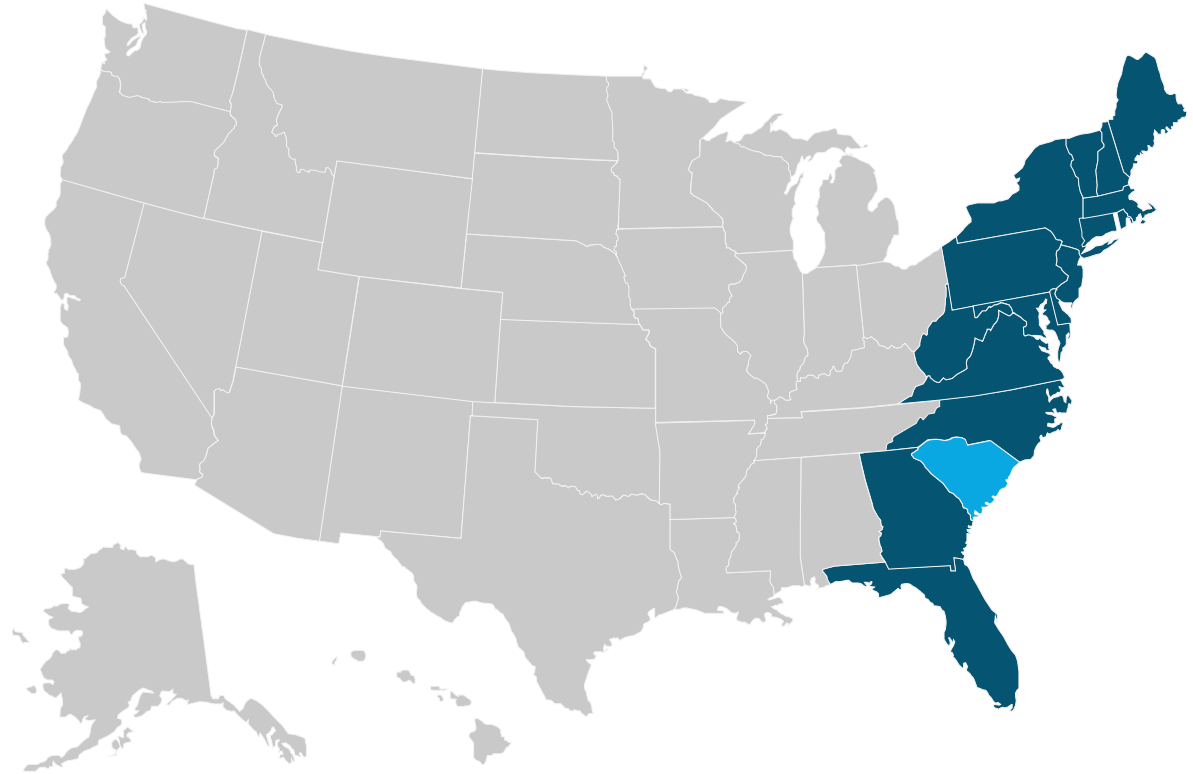
- Started with 1 island in 1923
- Now we protect nesting & migratory birds at 500+ sites in the Americas, with 1,300+ volunteers
- Stewardship informs our coastal conservation and policy work



Atlantic Flyway

South Carolina:

- 187 miles of coastline
- 2,876 tidal shorelines
- 35 barrier islands



Background

Audubon South Carolina



THE FOCAL FIVE



Piping Plover

Wintering



Red Knot

Migratory



Least Tern

Nesting



Wilson's Plover

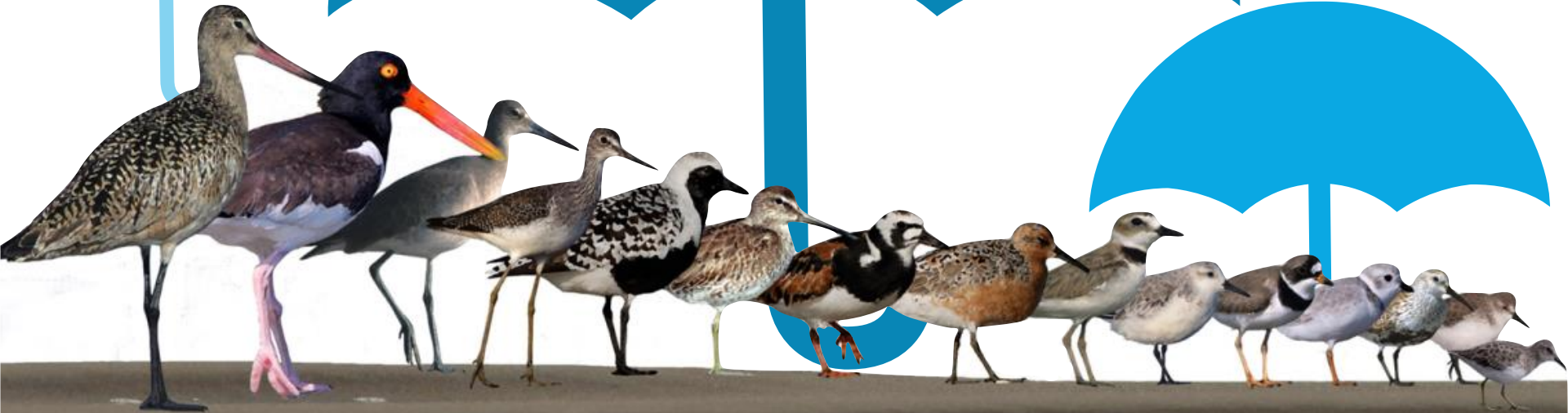
Nesting



**American
Oystercatcher**

Year Round

The Umbrella Effect





WHAT IS STEWARDING?



“

**CONSERVATION BEGINS
WITH HUMAN
AWARENESS**

”



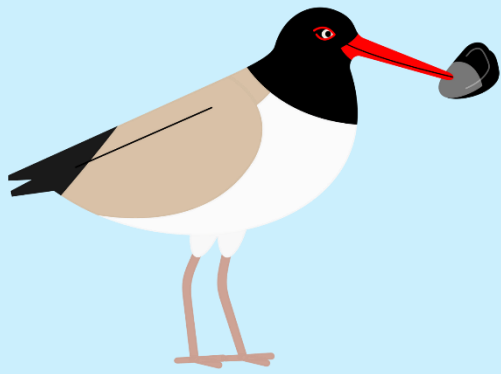
Audubon Mots "Share The Beach This Summer"

by: Roger@RogerSchillerstrom.com



<p>MONDAY</p>	<p>TUESDAY</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>DO YOU THINK IT'S A BOY?</p>	<p>THURSDAY</p> <p>TWO EGGS?! YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED. GO TAKE IT EASY....</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p> <p>THREE EGGS!!!</p>
<p>SATURDAY</p> <p>UH-OH.</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>WE GOTTA GO, IT'S NOT SAFE!</p>	<p>MONDAY</p> <p>hello?</p>		

SCHILLERSTROM 5/2018



We've Come a Long Way!

2016

3 Sites

2017

3 Sites
35 Volunteers
702 Hours

2018

6 Sites
37 Volunteers
1003 Hours

2019

8 Sites
60 Volunteers
1185 Hours

2020

9 Sites¹

2021

10 Sites
95 Volunteers
2604 Hours

2022

12 Sites
124 Volunteers
3641 Hours

2023

12 Sites
154 Volunteers
3149 Hours

2022 Fall and Winter Stewardship

Volunteers



38 active
volunteers



534 total volunteer
hours



38 shift reports
submitted



150 interactions with
beachgoers

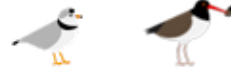


4 Sites: Huntington
Beach State Park,
Lighthouse Inlet,
Kiawah Island,
Hunting Island State
Park



Economic value of
volunteer time is
\$16,981.20 ²

Reported Birds



Piping Plover and American
Oystercatcher were the most observed of
ASC's focal species



Wilson's Plover, Least Tern and Red Knot
were observed at these sites, but much
less frequently



38 other bird species were observed. The
most common were Royal Tern, Black
Skimmer, Dunlin, Semipalmated Plover
and Sanderling.

2023 Spring & Summer Stewardship

Volunteers



154 active volunteers



348 people trained



3,149 total volunteer hours²



218 shift reports submitted



1,985 interactions with beachgoers



Economic value of volunteer time is \$100,138.20³

Nesting and Reported Birds



28 Wilson's Plover nests



4 American Oystercatcher nests



0 Least Tern colonies⁴



~3000 Red Knot at staging sites in the spring



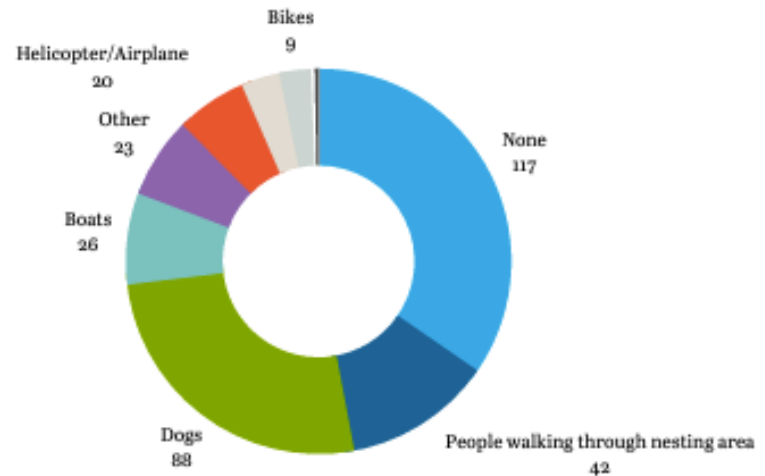
Individuals from all Piping Plover breeding populations recorded at sites



50 other bird species reported during shifts

Human Disturbances

Shift surveys asked Shorebird Stewards to provide specific human disturbance data that was observed and/or addressed during their shift. This chart shows how many instances of each disturbance they reported. A breakdown of this data can be found on Page 9.



2023 Steward Reflections

"Watching beach goers response when you show them the adorable baby shorebird chicks with their parents and have them thank you for doing what you do."

Peggy Lucas, Harbor Island

"..I loved taking photos of the beautiful birds and I was hoping that I would learn more about them..I was captivated by their migration habits and nesting habits. The shorebirds and seabirds now have a special place in my heart. I learned so much and now I look forward to sharing my knowledge with everyone who comes on to the beach. It's my hope that the people I talk to will also fall in love with these special birds and that our conservation efforts work so future generations can also enjoy these beautiful creatures."

Lorraine Holcombe, Huntington Beach State Park

As a newbie...the most rewarding moment so far was after I watched the Shorebird training videos and studied to ID the birds. My first time back on the beach afterwards felt like someone opened my eyes for the first time. I wasn't just seeing seagulls at the beach all these years!..It showed me how magnificent the beach is- a place that is beautifully complex. Getting this lens and learning the awe-inspiring journeys and hardships of each species has truly broadened my world."

Ellie Foster, Harbor Island and Hunting Island State Park

Download the full report





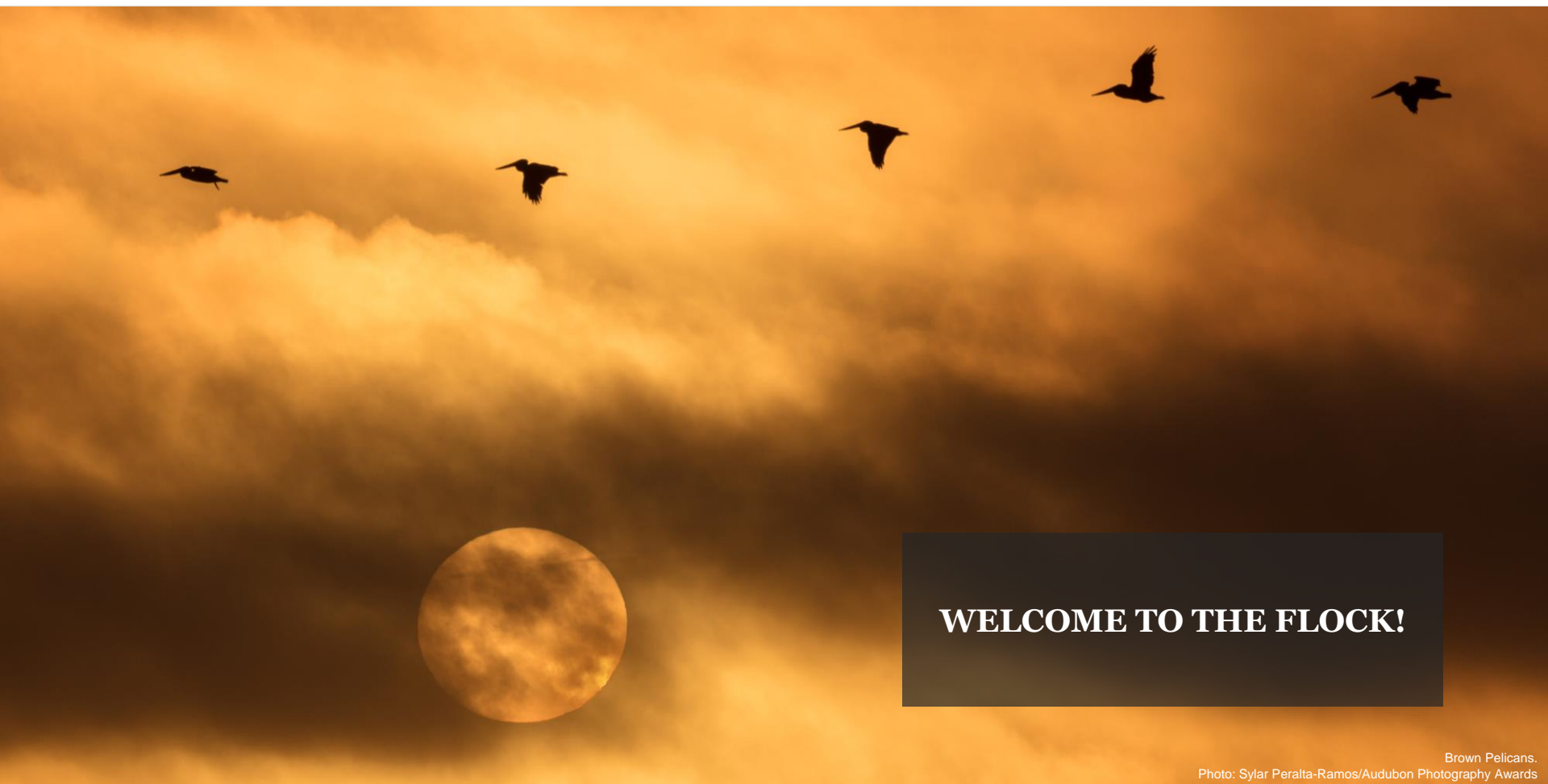
Stewarding “Seasons”

- **Our “seasons” are based on the birds:**
 - **Spring - migratory and nesting**
 - **Summer - nesting**
 - **Fall - migratory**
 - **Winter - overwintering**
- **Summer holidays!**

Key Contacts

1. **Abigail Burke** list new email here!
2. ???





WELCOME TO THE FLOCK!