



Georgia Bight Shorebird (and Seabirds too) Conservation Plan

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Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Initiative
Manomet

Why do we need another conservation plan?



Bringing many resources and partners together

National and international plans, state wildlife action plans, refuges, parks and even beach management plans...



Focusing on key species to help guide management

Understanding similarities within our region to best support conservation action for priority species. Our audience is managers and conservation partners rather than the general public.



Apply Conservation Standards approach to process


A systematic approach, but moving beyond the planning and getting towards iterative action items by site



Why a Story Map?

- **Flexibility, easy to update, spatially explicit**
- **Can include many different types of information, including maps, videos and photos**
- **Easier to navigate than a static word document**
- **Everybody's doing it**
SC DNR, Ft Pulaski, many others

DRAFT-Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Plan-DRAFT



DRAFT-Georgia Bight Shorebird Conservation Plan- DRAFT

A visual, geographically referenced conservation plan focused on shorebirds and seabird of the Georgia Bight

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Strengths (positive conditions or attributes of a site that are currently happening on the ground)

- Active Seasonal Stewarding
- Collaborative Conservation Efforts
- Conservation Research and Monitoring
- Ecological Significance
- Existing Dog Restrictions-Full Closure
- Existing Dog Restrictions-Seasonal
- Existing Protected Areas Status
- Food Resources
- High Species and Habitat Diversity
- Known Night Roost
- Limited Human Access
- Location
- Management Expertise
- Migratory Stopover
- Nesting Grounds- Colonial Seabirds
- Nesting Grounds- Shorebirds
- Opportunities for Public Access
- Private Ownership with Conservation Focus
- Protection from Predators
- Public Awareness, Support and Education
- Strong Conservation Plan
- Special Protection Designation
- Seasonal Posting and Roping
- Wintering Habitats



Weaknesses (negative conditions or attributes of a site that are currently happening on the ground)

Development Pressure

Erosion

Fragmented Ownership

Habitat Degradation

Human Disturbance- On site

Human Disturbance-Remote

Knowledge Gaps

Limited Enforcement

Limited Monitoring or Management on site

Limited Public Access/Engagement Opportunities

Low nesting success

Night Beach Driving

Predation Pressure

Resource Constraints

Vulnerability to Climate Change

Wildlife Beach Zone

Protect our coastal birds using this beach:



Black Skimmers nest in colonies on our beaches. They need space to raise their chicks from April-August.



Endangered Piping Plovers spend the winter with us, feeding and resting.



Rare Wilson's Plover nest here from March-August. Stay on the wet sand to

This section of Tybee Island is a Wildlife Beach Zone. **Please walk on the wet sand** to help protect rare birds, wildli



Opportunities (Action Items)

Conservation Planning
Education, Outreach and Awareness
Habitat Enhancement
Habitat Management
Habitat Restoration
Scientific Research and Monitoring
Signage, symbolic fencing
Special Protection Designation
Stakeholder Engagement
Stewarding programs



Process so far

- Cross referenced existing conservation plans (thanks Melissa!)
- Drafted and workshopped ideas with key stakeholders
- Held a meeting with a steering committee
- Got input from state partners (thanks Cami!)
- Held a meeting in October to get feedback
- Seeking feedback now from you!
- Update plan annually at Shorebird Meeting



The GBSCP is still in DRAFT form- please do not share it widely



DNR



NFWF



“All in the Same Boat” Outreach For Recreational Boaters





You can make a difference for Georgia's coastal birds!

Avoid The Flocks:

During spring and fall, shorebirds like Red Knots use **beaches, inlets and sandbars** to rest and refuel during their 20,000 mile journey. Shorebirds need space to feed and rest for survival.



If you see flocks of birds feeding or resting, choose a different spot to visit or walk around them.



If birds are agitated, start to fly off, or raise an alarm call, you are too close. Move away carefully.

Even Good Dogs Scare Birds:

Dogs can chase birds from important food resources, destroy nests, and injure or kill flightless chicks.

Keep your pup at home, on the boat, or on a leash to protect our shorebirds.



From March to August, be alert!

Nesting shorebirds like Wilson's Plovers and American Oystercatchers lay eggs on sandbars, islands, and shell rakes. **Respect signs and closures**



Stay On The Wet Sand Below The Tideline

Terns and skimmers are seabirds nesting in colonies above the tideline in the dry sand and wrack.



Eggs and chicks are difficult to see. They are vulnerable to predators and overheating in the sun! Give our birds 100 feet of space.



To learn more, visit the Georgia Shorebird Alliance website at gashorebird.com or scan the QR code



Shorebirds and seabirds are protected by state and federal laws. Harassment, including chasing or destruction of nests, is prohibited.



This sign was created with funds from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' 501(c)(3) Trust for Conservation Lands.



**BE A BIRD FRIENDLY BOATER
Inlets & Sandbars Are Important Habitats**

**Know WHAT To
LOOK FOR**

ARTWORK BY
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**Share
THE
Shore!**

To learn more about the Georgia Shorebird Alliance website at gashorebird.com or scan this QR Code



Want to provide input or learn more?

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