Shorebirds face many threats on Florida Beaches. Beach walkers, shell collectors, dog walkers, boaters anchoring on shore with pets relieving themselves or playing load music or speeding with dangerous wakes too close to shore. Predators abound from Bald Eagles, Fish Crows, Raccoons, Armadillos, Coyotes, Bobcats to Fire Ants. Many Southwest Florida Audubon volunteers protected shorebirds and educated the public this summer including Mary Lundeberg. To the right is an abridged version of Mary’s 2021 report. Photos by Mary Lundeberg.

**Photos**

Photos: Above is Least Tern, to the right: Rare species: Arctic tern (left), Sooty Shearwater (middle), American Avocet (right) Other sightings: Snowy Plover, Bridled Tern, Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, Piping Plover, Red Knot, American Oystercatcher, Roseate Spoonbill, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover and Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher

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**Stump Pass Park Shorebird Report**

Beach-nesting birds flourished this year at Stump Pass Beach State Park. More beach-nesting birds have rested, nested, and fledged young in 2021 than in the past ten years at Stump Pass Beach State Park. Both seabirds (least terns and black skimmers) forming colonies and solitary nesting shorebirds (Wilson’s plovers) made scrape nests. Least terns migrate from South America to nest on our shores, and this year 250 terns laid 72 nests and fledged 52 chicks. More than twice as many least tern chicks fledged at Stump this year than in any year since the Florida Shorebird Database started keeping records (2011). The most exciting news this year was the successful nesting of black skimmers, who are named for skimming the surface of water with their lower candy-corn colored bill. Black skimmers nested twice in the past ten years at Stump but abandoned their nests in previous years. This year 202 black skimmers laid 39 nests and fledged 31 chicks! Two Wilson’s plovers also fledged 1 chick this year. Rare species were sighted below...
**PRAS In-Person Gatherings**

In April, Peace River Audubon participated in CHEC’s Earth Day providing information at a booth, distributing an activity booklet and doing demonstrations in Conservation.

Pennington Park Wednesday volunteers were recently honored as one of this year’s recipients for the KCB Keep Charlotte Beautiful Florida Award.

**Fall Migration**

Bird migration forecast maps show predicted nocturnal migration 3 hours after local sunset and are updated every 6 hours. Colorado State University and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology currently produce these forecasts. For more information, go to this site: [https://birdcast.info/?fbclid=IwARzRlb90eHfIqZc3JaOD7U51473hHh53oU67zQzOv6QrGOEmuipg](https://birdcast.info/?fbclid=IwARzRlb90eHfIqZc3JaOD7U51473hHh53oU67zQzOv6QrGOEmuipg) Many species of birds migrate to Florida for the winter and many species use Florida as a much needed resting and refueling spot. Unfortunately it is in the height of hurricane season. Although some take advantage of the prevailing winds others get caught in strong winds and get thrown off course. Some perish and others get lost. Cornell Lab of Ornithology asks us to darken the sky when forecasts show birds migrating. Learn more about the Lights Out project here: [https://birdcast.info/science-to-action/lights-out/](https://birdcast.info/science-to-action/lights-out/)

**Florida Scrub Jay**

Due to the continuing loss of its scrub-oak specific habitat to development, Florida’s unique jay is also a Federally-designated threatened species. The 2001 Florida Natural Areas Inventory reported that the Florida scrub-jay population had declined 90 percent in the past century then estimated at a population of 4,000. Today, it is estimated that the state’s scrub-jay population is 7,700 to 9,300. Audubon sees Climate Change threats are spring heat waves, heavy rain, urbanization and sea level rise. Go to [https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/florida-scrub-jay](https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/florida-scrub-jay) to see how.


Rob Mills, a Master Gardener was this year’s KCB Community Greening Ambush Award choice because of how many spaces in Charlotte County are greener and more environmentally friendly. He certifies yards and gardens as Bird and Butterfly Habitats for PRAS.