

American Oystercatcher

Haematopus palliatus



CONSERVATION STATUS

Florida: Threatened



2018 MINIMUM PAIRS

118 pairs observed April 27 - May 6

WHEN DO THEY BREED?



March – September

Days to hatch: 27-29

Flight capable: 35-45 days

CHICKS



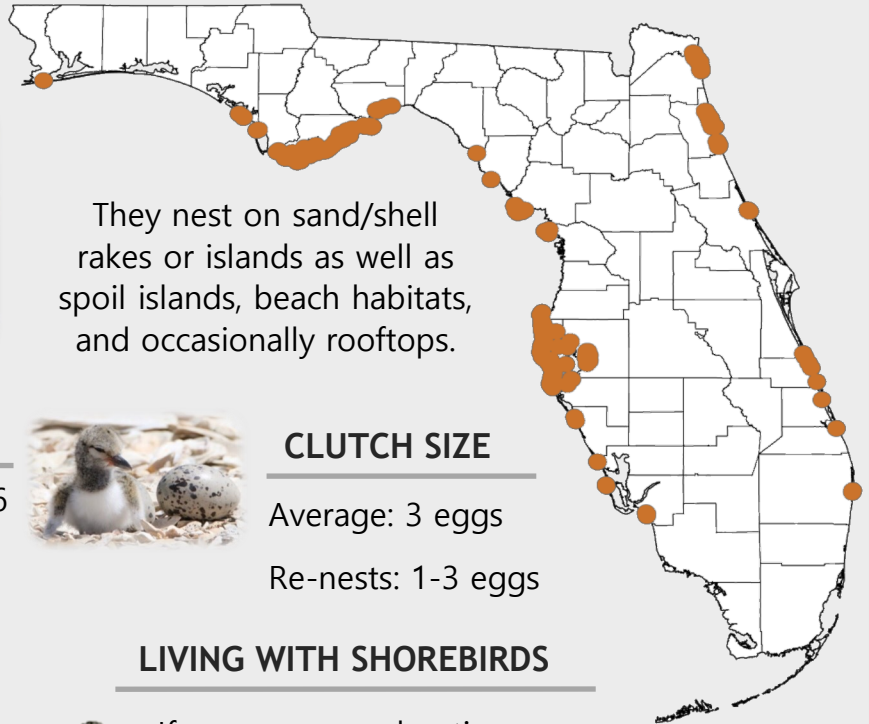
When chicks are young, they will lie flat and remain still if they become frightened. As they get older, they will jump in the water to flee danger.

LONGER NESTING SEASON ~ 150 days

Oystercatchers arrive at nesting territory and defend ~60 days before laying eggs.

Chicks remain dependent on adults ~25 days after becoming flight capable.

WHERE DO AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHERS BREED?



They nest on sand/shell rakes or islands as well as spoil islands, beach habitats, and occasionally rooftops.

CLUTCH SIZE

Average: 3 eggs

Re-nests: 1-3 eggs

LIVING WITH SHOREBIRDS

If you are boating or kayaking near shell rakes, stay back **300 ft**, especially if you see one or two adults.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Determining cause of nest failure is challenging because tracks are rarely visible in their nesting habitat.

Overwash and unknown predation are leading causes of nest failure.

KEY NONBREEDING AREA - FLORIDA'S BIG BEND REGION

2nd largest concentration of wintering oystercatchers, with flocks of up to 500 birds



Photos by Janell Brush, Joe Marchionno, Amy Schwarzer

Black Skimmer

Rynchops niger

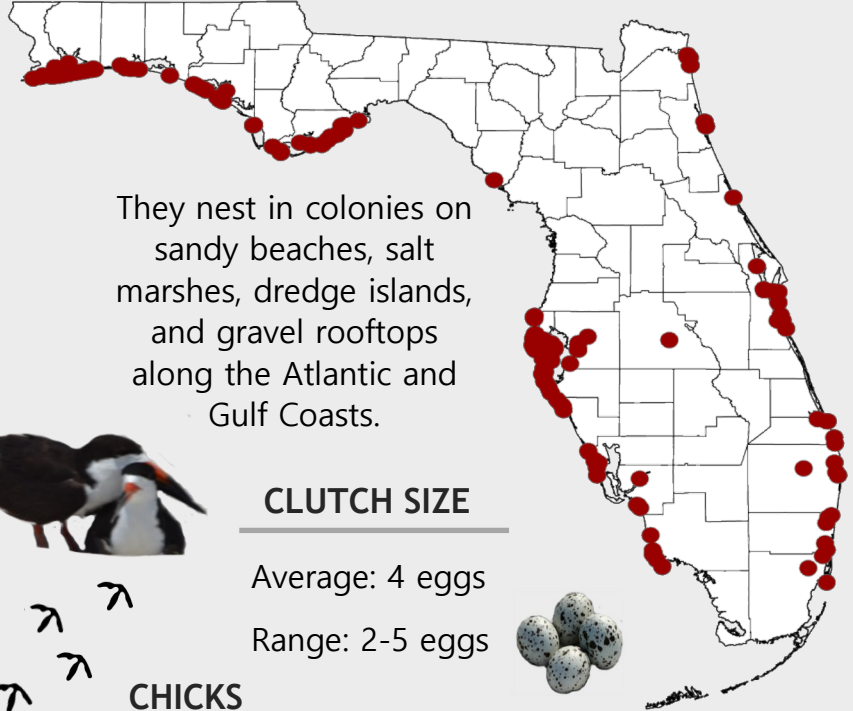


CONSERVATION STATUS

Florida: Threatened



WHERE DO BLACK SKIMMERS BREED?



They nest in colonies on sandy beaches, salt marshes, dredge islands, and gravel rooftops along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

2018 MINIMUM PAIRS

2,834 pairs observed June 9-18



CLUTCH SIZE

Average: 4 eggs

Range: 2-5 eggs



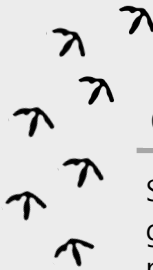
WHEN DO THEY BREED?



May - September

Days to hatch: 21-25

Flight capable: 23-26 days



CHICKS

Small chicks will hide in the sand; as they get older, they will wander out of the posted area toward the water or shade.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Predation (unknown predator) and overwash are the leading causes of nest failure.



LIVING WITH SEABIRDS – PHOTOGRAPHY

Predators of seabird eggs and young are opportunistic. When photographing a colony, remain **behind** posting, don't exceed **10** minutes, and stay **at least 300 ft** away from birds—farther if they are disturbed. These birds are easily disturbed and flush frequently, please give them **space to rest!**

CREPUSCULAR FEEDERS

Adults predominantly feed at dawn and dusk; sometimes even at night.



BANDING

In 2015, researchers from Pinellas County, FL started putting green bands with an alpha-numeric code on chicks. Multiple Atlantic coast states are banding chicks to learn more about movement, habitat use, and longevity.



Least Tern

Sternula antillarum



CONSERVATION STATUS

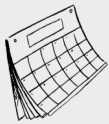
Florida: Threatened



MINIMUM PAIRS 2018

4,718 pairs observed May 13-22

WHEN DO THEY BREED?



April - September

Days to hatch: 19-25

Flight capable: 19-20 days

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Almost half of colony loss in 2018 was from unknown causes, followed by predation and overwash.

FALLEN CHICKS

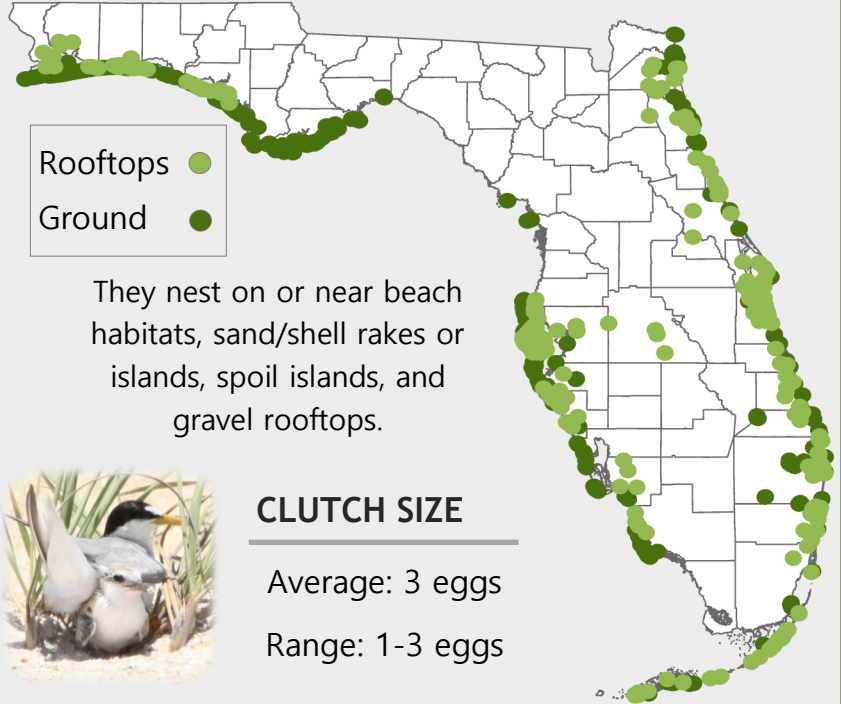
Occasionally, chicks fall off rooftops, are blown off, or get washed down gutters. If you find a chick, please notify the managers/staff of the building immediately.



OPPORTUNISTIC NESTERS

Can be found nesting at newly available habitats like construction sites
May utilize derelict bridges, elevated or floating platforms

WHERE DO LEAST TERNS BREED?



They nest on or near beach habitats, sand/shell rakes or islands, spoil islands, and gravel rooftops.



CLUTCH SIZE

Average: 3 eggs

Range: 1-3 eggs

LIVING WITH SEABIRDS

Gravel rooftops are an essential nesting habitat for least terns. To support ongoing nesting, FSA Rooftop Stewards put significant resources into managing rooftops, like '**chick-proofing**' rooftops and '**chick checking**'. Learn more about ways to support rooftop nesting at www.flshorebirdalliance.org!



DECLINING NEST DENSITY ON ROOFTOPS

Average of 29 nesting pairs per rooftop in 2018, which is **half** the number reported in 1993.



Snowy Plover

Charadrius nivosus

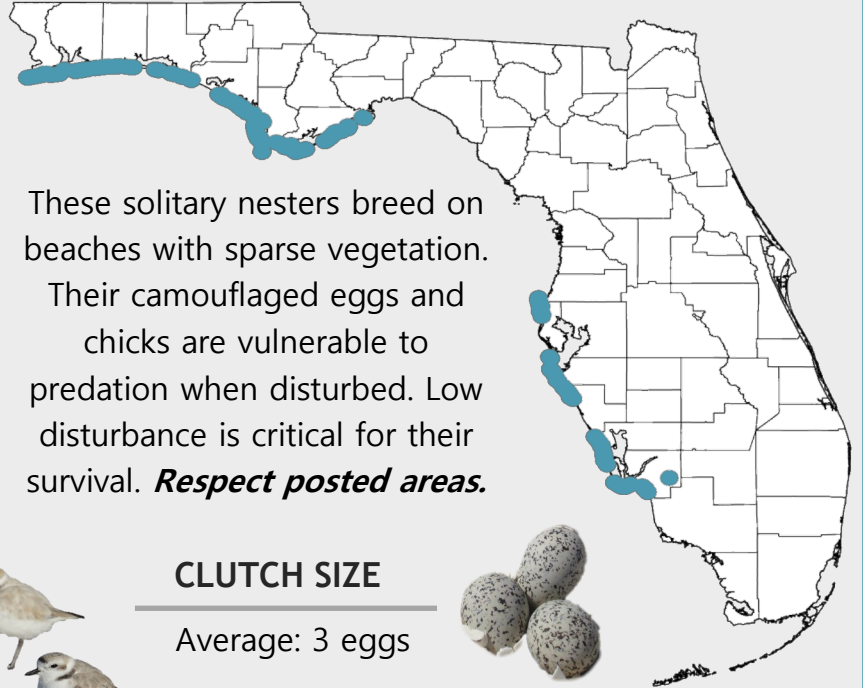


CONSERVATION STATUS

Florida: Threatened



LIVING WITH SHOREBIRDS



These solitary nesters breed on beaches with sparse vegetation. Their camouflaged eggs and chicks are vulnerable to predation when disturbed. Low disturbance is critical for their survival. **Respect posted areas.**

MINIMUM PAIRS 2018

142 pairs observed May 7-16



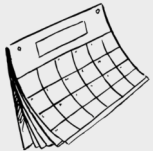
CLUTCH SIZE

Average: 3 eggs

Range: 1-3 eggs



WHEN DO THEY BREED?



February - August

Days to hatch: 24-32

Flight capable: 28-42 days

KEY BREEDING AREAS



>50% of the Snowy Plover fledglings produced in Florida over the last 5 years fledged from only **7** locations.

St. Joseph State Park | Fort Pickens-GUIS | Santa Rosa-GUIS | Eglin Restricted | Perdido Key-GUIS | Windmark Beach | Crooked Island East-Tyndall AFB

MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Predation is the leading cause of nest failure for Snowy Plovers in Florida.



Ghost crabs and coyote are the most frequently documented predators on Gulf coast beaches.



LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS

At just days old, chicks may travel over 9 miles in search of food.



LONGEVITY



Based on band re-sights, the oldest known Snowy Plover in Florida lived to be **17 years old**. He hatched at Grayton Beach State Park and bred on Tyndall Air Force Base, 1998-2015!

Wilson's Plover

Charadrius wilsonia



CONSERVATION STATUS

Florida: Species of Greatest Conservation Need

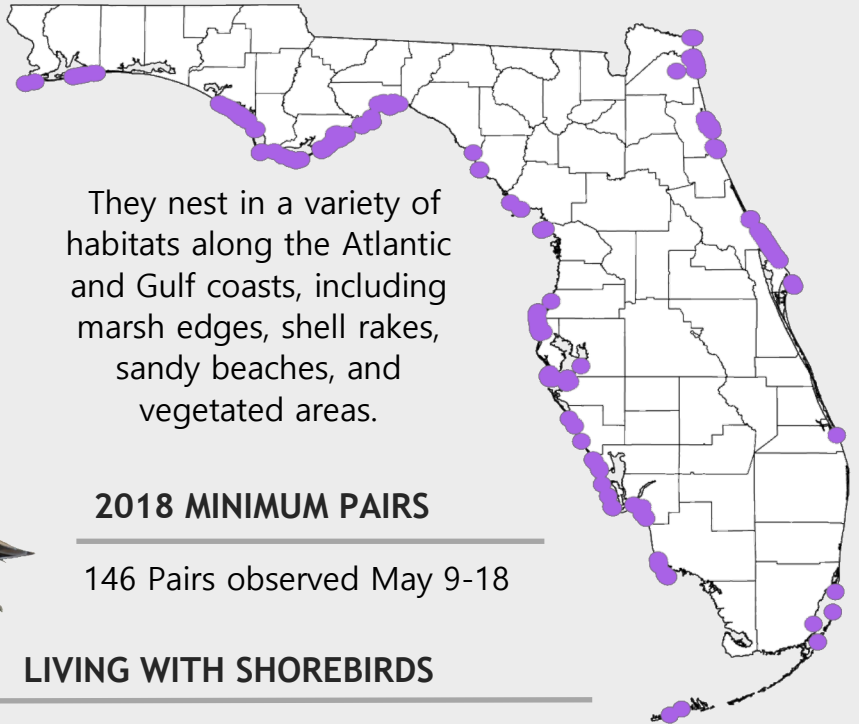


CLUTCH SIZE

Average: 3 eggs
Range: 2-4 eggs



WHERE DO WILSON'S PLOVERS BREED?

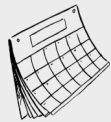


They nest in a variety of habitats along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, including marsh edges, shell rakes, sandy beaches, and vegetated areas.

2018 MINIMUM PAIRS

146 Pairs observed May 9-18

WHEN DO THEY BREED?



March - August
Days to hatch: 24-25
Flight capable: 31-35 days

LIVING WITH SHOREBIRDS

Trash and food scraps attract predators to nesting areas. Please keep beaches **clean**.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

About $\frac{1}{4}$ of nest failures had cause unknown. Predation and overwash were the next most common causes of failure.



UNIQUE NESTING HABITATS

New nest sites are discovered every season as we expand the search into new habitats. Keep your eyes open, you never know where they may nest.

FOOD SELECTION

Their larger bill allows for a highly varied diet including crustaceans like fiddler crabs.



MONITORING CHALLENGES

Locating nests can be challenging. Wilson's plover nests are cryptic and can be found in a variety of habitats, including within seabird colonies.