

**Beach-nesting Birds of Lee County**

adults

nests

chicks



Least Tern



Black Skimmer



Snowy Plover



A. Oystercatcher



Wilson's Plover



Willet



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\*MYS 2009

## Species in Trouble

Many of Florida's beach-nesting shorebirds and seabirds have experienced declines as a result of habitat loss and excessive disturbance at nests and colonies. In response, FWC and a growing network of partners are working to improve protection and management of important nesting locations throughout Florida, and the following are ways you can help our effort.

### 1 MINIMIZE NEST DISTURBANCE

- Please respect posted areas for beach-nesting birds and set an example for beachgoers around you.
- Many nests are not posted. Please pay careful attention where you step in order to avoid stepping on a nest. Agitated adults are an indication a nest may be near.
- Keep dogs leashed. An unleashed dog can destroy a colony in minutes.

**Report acts of vandalism at posted sites to the Wildlife Alert Hotline (1-888-404-3922) and notify your respective FWC Regional Biologist.**

### 2 WATCH OUT FOR CHICKS

- Avoid walking in or near the wrack line or areas with dense seaweed and debris since these areas are frequently used by chicks as foraging habitat and shelter.
- Chicks are very mobile soon after hatching and can be found well outside posted areas. As with nests, agitated adults (e.g. dive-bombing, broken-wing display) may signify a chick is nearby, proceed carefully.
- If you find a chick without an adult nearby, do not assume it has been abandoned and try to pick it up—chicks are fairly independent.

*Thank you for your help!*

For additional information on beach-nesting birds and to learn how you can get involved in local conservation efforts, please visit the Florida Shorebird Alliance website: [www.flshorebirdalliance.org](http://www.flshorebirdalliance.org)



Photographs contributed by the following: Jack Rogers, Maxis Gamez/GVISIONS.ORG, Chris Burney, Alex Kropp, Marina Scarr, Brian Tague, NCCR-NCNERR, and Margo Zdrakovic.



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