



# 2023 July 4<sup>th</sup> Coastal Stewardship

AUDUBON SOUTH CAROLINA (ASC)



Photo: Alyssa Zebrowski/ASC Staff

## Background

Coastal stewardship in South Carolina is essential to shorebird and seabird conservation— especially during busy holiday weekends coinciding with the breeding season. The following data and photos were compiled from Shorebird Steward volunteers and staff with Audubon SC. Of note, some stewardship sites that typically host volunteers had lost their nesting birds due to overwash from high tides, stormy weather and wind in the previous weeks. For that reason, some sites did not host volunteers over the holiday. We work in partnership with SC Department of Natural Resources, whose staff and volunteers also worked over the holiday weekend at other coastal sites not reflected in this report.

## Sites

1. Huntington Beach State Park
2. Dewees Island
3. Morris Island
4. Folly Beach's Lighthouse Inlet
5. Edisto Beach State Park
6. Botany Bay
7. Kiawah Island
8. Harbor Island
9. Hunting Island State Park
10. Bull Point on Pritchard's Island

\*Stewardship coordinated by the Town of Kiawah with support from ASC staff



Brown Pelican.  
Photo: Lorraine Holcombe/Shorebird Steward



Roseate Terns.

Photo: Sharon Eisenzopf / Shorebird Steward

## Methods of Data Collection

The following was compiled from post-shift reports submitted by ASC's Shorebird Steward volunteers and staff as well as personal reports/observations from Friday June 30<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Please note that some data gaps exist due to shift reports that were not submitted by volunteers. However, existing data shows an immense effort from all partners and volunteers involved in coastal stewardship.

## Data

Sites with Stewards Present: **10**

Stewards\*: **30**

Hours Stewarded: **123**

Interactions with Beachgoers: **176**

Disturbances Prevented on beaches:

- Dogs: **30**
- Boats: **4**
- Kites: **3**
- People walking through posted areas: **2**

*\*Refers to the number of individuals who worked at least one stewarding shift, if not more, over the weekend.*



Photo: Lorraine Holcombe / Shorebird Steward



Sanderling.  
Photo: Lorraine Holcombe / Shorebird Steward



Least Tern.  
Photo: Allyssa Zebrowski/ ASC Staff



Photo: Allyssa Zebrowski/ ASC Staff



Photo: Allyssa Zebrowski/ ASC Staff



Black Skimmer.  
Photo: Lorraine Holcombe / Shorebird Steward



Royal Tern.  
Photo: Lorraine Holcombe / Shorebird Steward



Reddish Egret.  
Photo: Lorraine Holcombe / Shorebird Steward



Photo: Allyssa Zebrowski/ ASC Staff