



2023 Memorial Day Coastal Stewardship

AUDUBON SOUTH CAROLINA (ASC)

Brown Pelicans.
Karli Sinclair/ Shorebird Steward, Botany Bay



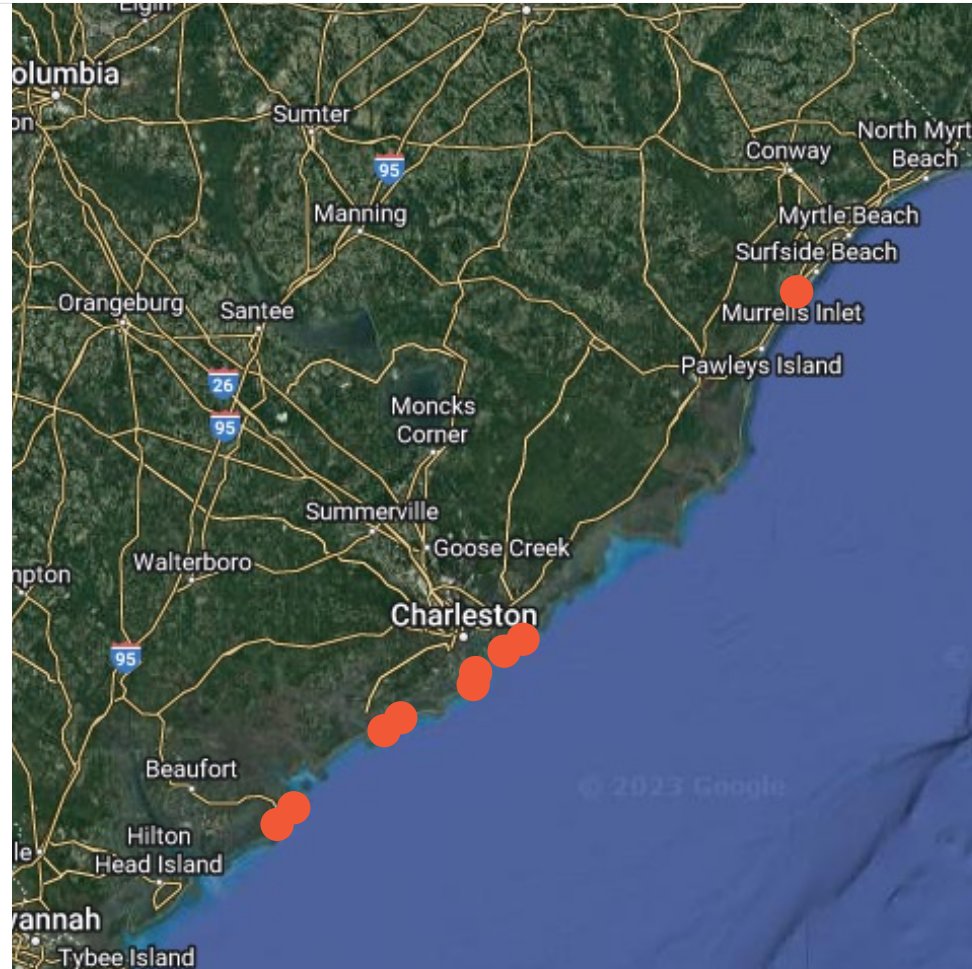
Least Tern.
Allyssa Zebrowski / ASC Staff

Background

Coastal stewardship is essential to prevent human disturbance to breeding and migratory coastal birds during busy holiday weekends. This year, nesting birds have been suffering from abnormally strong tides and storms, so preventing human disturbance has been essential to ensure they have a chance at a productive breeding season. Over Memorial Day weekend, there was overcast and stormy weather along the coast, likely contributing to fewer beachgoers and volunteers. Of note, this report only reflects stewardship from ASC staff and volunteers, but we work in partnership with SC Department of Natural Resources staff who also worked over the weekend to prevent disturbance at other sites. All photos in this report are from the weekend.

Sites

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Huntington Beach State Park | 7. Botany Bay |
| 2. Dewees Island | 8. Harbor Island |
| 3. Isle of Palms | 9. Hunting Island State Park |
| 4. Morris Island | 10. Bull Point on Pritchard's Island |
| 5. Folly Beach's Lighthouse Inlet | |
| 6. Kiawah and Seabrook Islands* | |



*Stewardship coordinated by the Towns of Kiawah and Seabrook with support from ASC staff



Wilson's Plover.
Peggy Lucas / Shorebird Steward, Harbor Island

Methods of Data Collection

The following is compiled from post-shift reports submitted by ASC's Shorebird Steward volunteers as well as verbal reports and observations from volunteers and staff of ASC from Friday May 26th – Wednesday May 30th, 2023. Of note, some data gaps do exist because of missing reports; however, what is represented shows the immense effort exerted to protect our vulnerable shorebirds and seabirds.

Data

Sites with Stewards Present: **9**

Stewards*: **35**

Hours Stewarded: **145**

Interactions with Beachgoers: **127**

Dogs on Beaches: **31**

Boats on Beaches: **31**

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





Allyssa Zebrowski, Morris Island



Visitor, Morris Island



Least Tern and Wilson's Plover.
Allyssa Zebrowski, Morris Island



Wilson's Plover.
Peggy Lucas, Harbor Island



Charlie Stricklin, Lighthouse Inlet



Wilson's Plover
Peggy Lucas, Harbor Island



Charlie Stricklin, Lighthouse Inlet



Rufous Jones, Lighthouse Inlet



Willet.
Charlie Stricklin, Lighthouse Inlet




Black Skimmer.
Charlie Stricklin, Lighthouse Inlet



Wilson's Plover.
Charlie Stricklin, Lighthouse Inlet



Whimbrel.
Charlie Stricklin, Lighthouse Inlet

A wide, shimmering ocean under a dramatic, cloudy sky. The water is covered in bright, sun-dappled reflections, creating a sparkling effect. The sky is a deep, dark blue with a thick layer of white and yellowish clouds. The horizon line is visible in the distance, separating the sea from the sky. In the foreground, there is a dark, rocky shoreline with some shallow water pools.

Thank You to our Volunteers!