

Hello everybody!

As many of you may have heard, the beaches locally will be closing to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Audubon Staff have been granted permission by the county to continue doing surveys and monitoring for all beaches: Siesta, Lido and Longboat. In accordance with the county we will continue to practice social distancing and are acting according to CDC guidelines. These precautions are being made for public safety and I believe it is the right decision. I also believe this will be a positive thing for our birds as human disturbances should no longer be an issue. I am determined to keep you all updated on what is going on with the birds during this difficult time!

Siesta:

The count on Snowy Plovers has varied but I would say we have about 10 individuals regularly on the beach and 4 pairs that are actively working on scrapes! One of these pairs includes Ms. Sanibel, our banded beauty and nesting champ from last season. She has already been observed working on a scrape with her mate and is looking pretty plump so hopefully she will be with a nest soon!

Lido:

Just today I found a pair of Snowy Plovers on Lido working on a scrape! This is exciting as Snowy Plovers have not successfully nested on Lido in several years. I will be keeping a close eye on this pair. Also, Black Skimmers are already starting to arrive at Lido - I had a count of around 170 this morning. Although they won't nest until later in April it is exciting to see growing numbers arrive .

Please stay safe out there and adhere to the warnings and advice of our county and state officials. Together we can get through this!

Best wishes,

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