

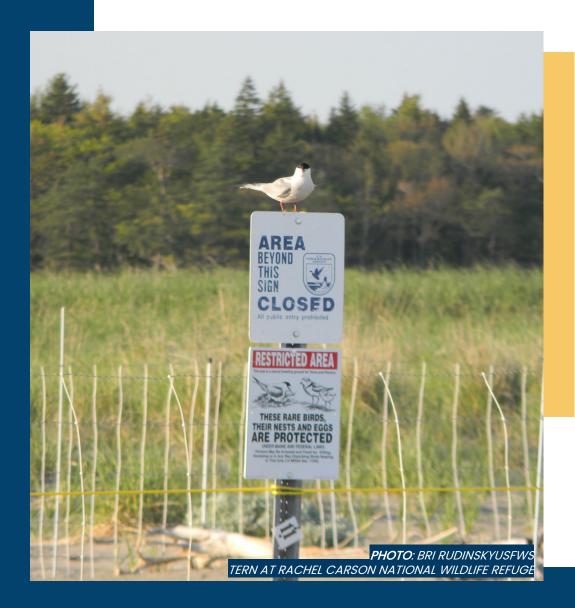
Module 2d

Why Shorebirds Need Stewards

Why Shorebirds Need Stewardship

Birds can't communicate their needs so we need people to speak out for them.

Signs aren't always obeyed, seen or understood by visitors.







Populations Are Declining

Shorebird populations have been declining at alarming rates from an array of reasons:

- Habitat Loss
 - Human Development
 - Climate Change: Sea-Level Rise
 & Powerful Storms
- Disturbance
 - Beachgoers
 - Dogs
 - Predators
- Loss of Food





Biological Priorities

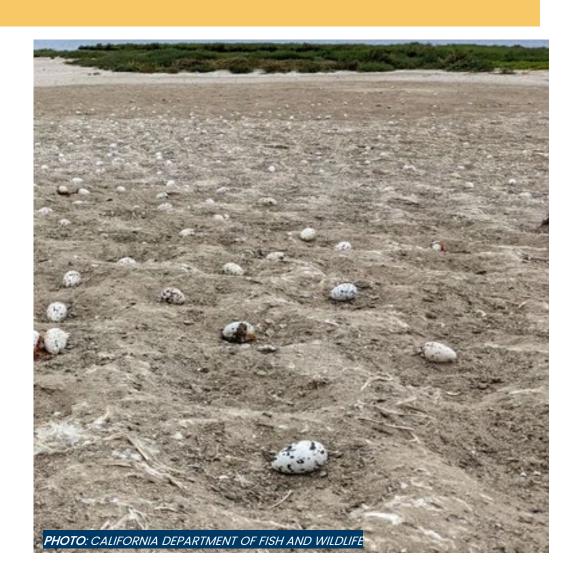
Many migratory birds rely on coastal habitats.

These birds need to constantly **forage** and **rest** to help replenish the energy lost from

- Migration
- Breeding
- Nesting / Raising Young

ANY disturbance can be detrimental.





Disturbance

People and especially off-leashed **dogs** cause birds to **waste energy**, fleeing or defending nests.

Birds suffer **deadly consequences**:

-Death from exhaustion or starvation

-Abandoned chicks or eggs are susceptible to predators, starvation, or being crushed by people or vehicles



In 2021, thousands of Elegant Tern eggs were abandoned in California after an illegal drone crashed, scaring the parents to flee.



Types of Disturbed Behavior



This video displays plovers demonstrating the "broken-wing" behavior and terns demonstrating "vocalizing" and "dive bombing" behaviors.

Broken Wing Display

- This distraction tries to lure the threat away from the nest
 - Behavior common to all plover species

Dive Bombing

 Get too close and they will dive bomb (and poop on you) to protect nests

Vocalizing

- Starts with warning calls to alert chicks
 - Adults circling noisily or attempting to lead the threat away on foot



Share the Shore



Check out <u>Share the Shore Campaign Videos</u> from the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative to see the major reasons why birds are disturbed by beachgoers and their pets.



How Can Folks Help?

Protect coastal birds in the few natural areas that remain by:

Respect Closures	Clean up Trash	Keep Pets at Home	Drive Vehicles in Permitted Areas
Let birds nest, rest, forage, and raise young in peace.	Use receptables or practice carry-in carry-out.	Keep pets away from birds and nesting areas.	Follow speed limits and always brake for birds and their babies.

