

# ROOFTOP NESTING IN FLORIDA

Information for contractors working on rooftops in Florida

Florida is home to unique shorebirds and seabirds that normally nest on undisturbed, open areas of beaches. As Florida's beaches become more crowded, less space is available for these birds to nest on the ground. For this reason, birds are increasingly using gravel rooftops to nest and raise chicks.

**Most shorebirds and seabirds that nest on rooftops are State-threatened species.**

Any harassment or harm, even unintentional, is considered "take" under State Rule 68A-27.003, Florida Administrative Code, and is therefore unlawful. Roseate terns have protections under the federal Endangered Species Act and harassment or harm would require a federal permit.

## Non-breeding season in Florida

October 1 - March 31

The recommended time to conduct routine rooftop maintenance and non-emergency repairs.



## Rooftop breeding season in Florida

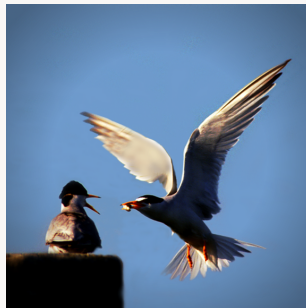
April 1 - September 30

If birds, eggs, or chicks are present, do not go on the roof. Call the FWC before conducting work.

## Shorebirds and seabirds found on Florida rooftops

- American oystercatcher\*
- Black skimmer\*
- Gull-billed tern
- Killdeer
- Least tern\*
- Roseate tern+

\*state threatened  
+federally threatened



## How to recognize rooftops with nesting birds

Shorebirds and seabirds can often be seen flying to and from rooftops. Seabirds also nest in large groups and make a lot of noise to announce their presence.

## Rooftop nesting sign examples

Many building owners place signs on their building to highlight rooftop nesting. If you work on a building and would like a sign, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).



MyFWC.com/shorebirds  
flshorebirdalliance.org  
For general inquiries: rooftopnesting@myfwc.com



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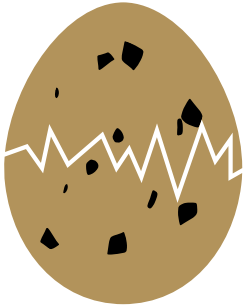
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## Rooftop visits during the breeding season can be catastrophic



Shorebird and seabird eggs and chicks are camouflaged and can be difficult to see. Visits to the rooftop can cause adults to flush from their eggs and chicks, leaving them vulnerable to predators, extreme heat, and dehydration in the sun. When frightened, chicks may run off the roof edges or fall into open drains and gutters. *If you encounter birds, eggs, or chicks on a rooftop, leave as quickly as possible and contact an FWC Regional Shorebird Biologist.*

## Removing eggs has fatal consequences



Removing eggs from a rooftop nest is illegal and most often fatal. Eggs are sensitive to heat stress and the embryos inside will die if they are not kept at the correct temperature through incubation. Moving eggs may also cause permanent damage by breaking the membrane inside that supports the developing chick. Shorebirds and seabirds are also unlikely to incubate eggs that are returned to a rooftop nest. If you see eggs or chicks on a rooftop, do not touch or remove them.

## Before accessing rooftops that have nesting



If you require access to a rooftop where shorebirds and seabirds are present, a biologist is available to assist you in getting the work accomplished while protecting the nesting birds. Please contact an FWC Regional Shorebird Biologist for assistance. In these urgent situations, FWC staff will assist you in identifying the best course of action consistent with state regulations.



MyFWC.com/shorebirds  
flshorebirdalliance.org  
For general inquiries: rooftopnesting@myfwc.com



# Regional Shorebird Contacts

## Northwest Region

Counties – Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Jefferson, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton

**Nick Vitale**

[Nick.Vitale@MyFWC.com](mailto:Nick.Vitale@MyFWC.com)

[850-630-3480](tel:850-630-3480)

3911 Highway 2321  
Panama City, FL 32409

## Southwest Region

Counties – Charlotte, Hernando, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Sarasota

**Monica McKenzie**

[Monica.McKenzie@MyFWC.com](mailto:Monica.McKenzie@MyFWC.com)

[863-648-3828](tel:863-648-3828)

3900 Drane Field Road  
Lakeland, FL 33811

## North Central Region

Counties – Citrus, Dixie, Duval, Levy, Nassau, Taylor

**Hailey Dedmon**

[Hailey.Dedmon@MyFWC.com](mailto:Hailey.Dedmon@MyFWC.com)

[352-644-3539](tel:352-644-3539)

9741 Ocean Shore Blvd.  
St. Augustine, FL 32080

## South Region

Counties – Broward, Collier, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, St. Lucie

**Ricardo Zambrano**

[Ricardo.Zambrano@MyFWC.com](mailto:Ricardo.Zambrano@MyFWC.com)

[561-625-5122](tel:561-625-5122)

8535 Northlake Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33412

## Northeast Region

Counties – Brevard, Flagler, Indian River, St. Johns, Volusia

**Hailey Dedmon**

[Hailey.Dedmon@MyFWC.com](mailto:Hailey.Dedmon@MyFWC.com)

[352-644-3539](tel:352-644-3539)

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St Augustine, FL 32080