Colonial Waterbirds on the Lower Texas Coast –2011

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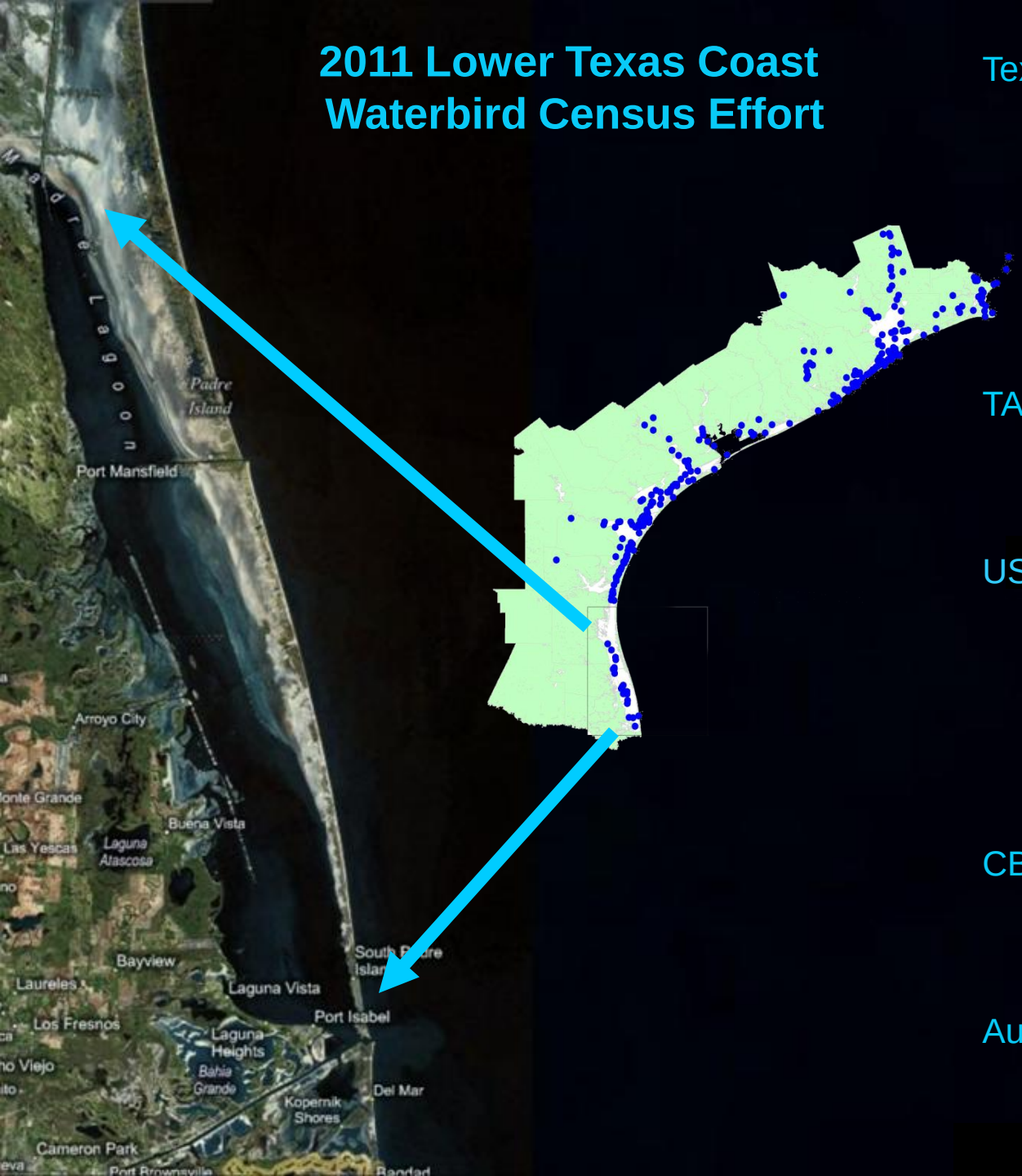
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

United States Fish & Wildlife Service

2011 Lower Texas Coast Waterbird Census Effort



Texas General Land Office
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- Jesse Solis
- Amy Nunez
- Rene Garcia
- Joe Torres
- Kathryn Tunnell

TAMU-Kingsville
- Dr. Bart Ballard
- Daniel Reed

USFWS
- Beau Hardegree
- Robyn Cobb
- Jonathan Moczygemba
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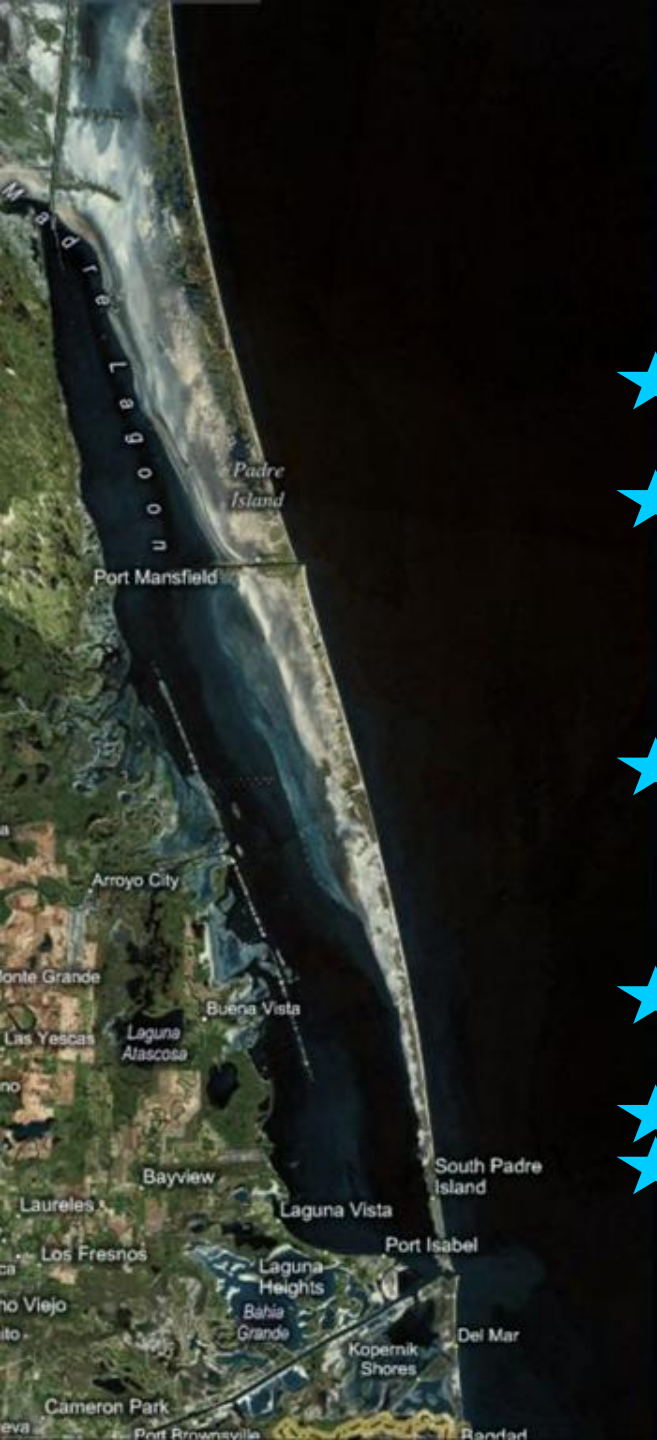
Audubon
- Iliana Pena



Species	39 Year Average 1973 - 2011	5 Year Average 2006-2010	Nesting Pairs 2011	Percent Change From 5 Year Average
★ Black Skimmer	1612	533	464	-13%
Brown Pelican	1	7	3	-58%
★ Caspian Tern	284	486	353	-27%
Cattle Egret	69	13	0	-100%
Forster's Tern	71	61	209	240%
Great Blue Heron	157	275	266	-3%
Great Egret	114	252	153	-39%
★ Gull-billed Tern	654	486	607	25%
Laughing Gull	8892	6456	6586	2%
Least Tern	66	2	0	-100%
Little Blue Heron	88	46	63	36%
★ Reddish Egret	593	867	351	-60%
Roseate Spoonbill	211	342	457	34%
★ Royal Tern	3284	1799	1094	-39%
★ Sandwich Tern	2233	877	756	-14%
Snowy Egret	610	308	235	-24%
Sooty Tern	7	15	0	-100%
Tricolored Heron	1177	643	404	-37%

Common Name	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Black Skimmer	476	440	464	732	471	559
Caspian Tern	430	279	508	331	420	191
Gull-billed Tern	607	630	943	778	28	52
Reddish Egret	394	1432	304	684	1160	755
Royal Tern	1384	1222	1469	1438	2149	2514
Sandwich Tern	944	820	1168	1082	728	585

LLM – Long-term trend – Comparing 39-yr avg to 2011

Black Skimmers: Down

Caspian Terns: Stable

Gull-billed Terns: Stable

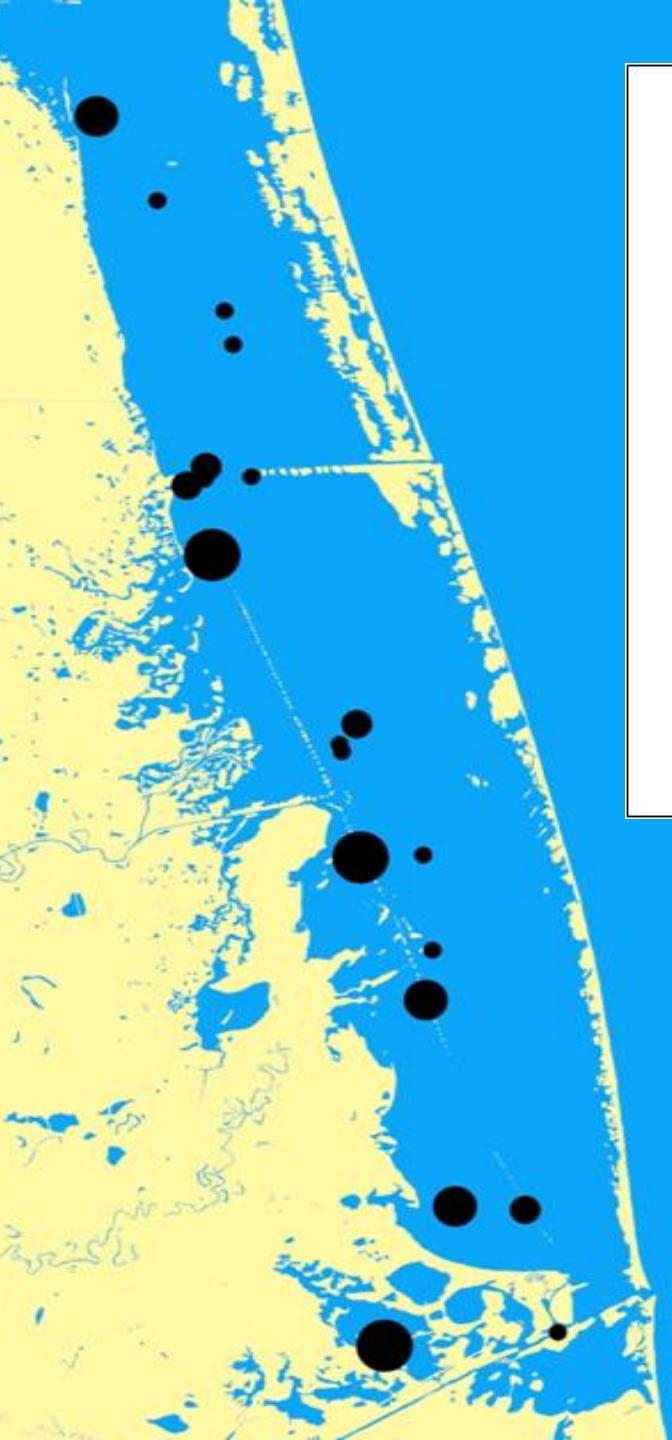
Reddish Egrets: Down (by 60%)

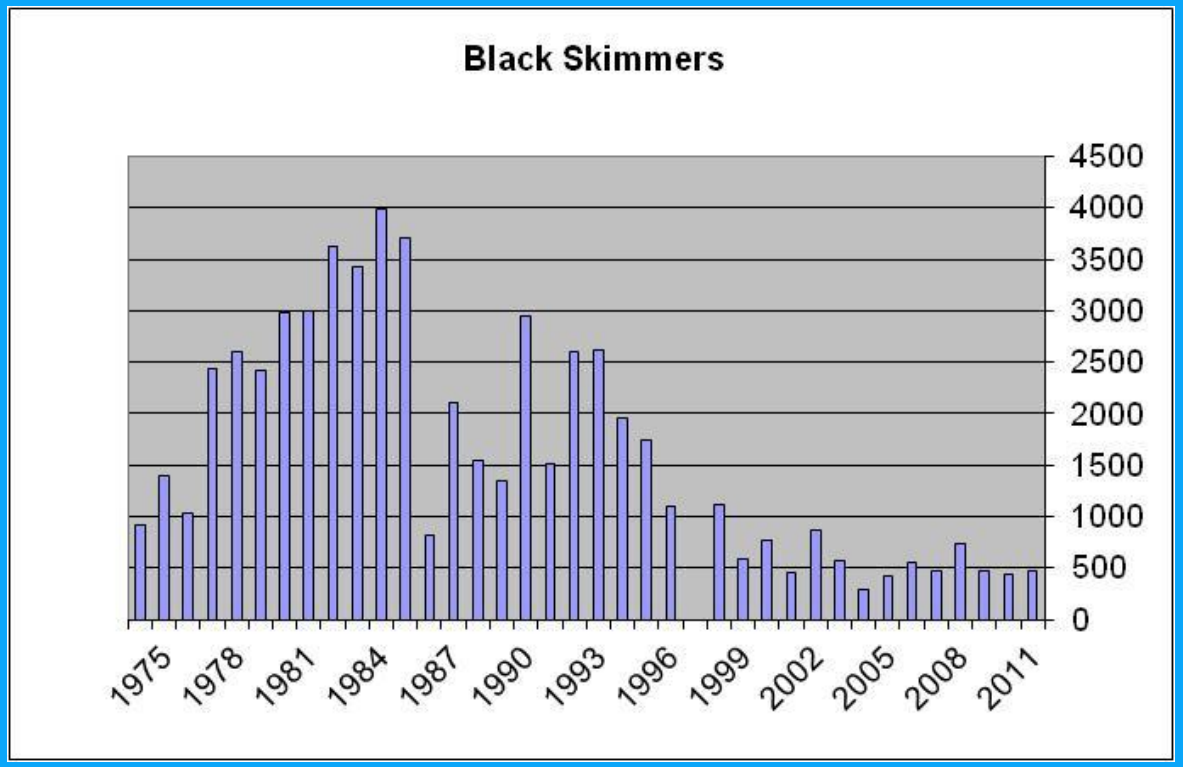
Royal Terns: Down (by 38%)

Sandwich Terns: Down

Trend from 2006 to 2011 for the six key species on the lower coast:

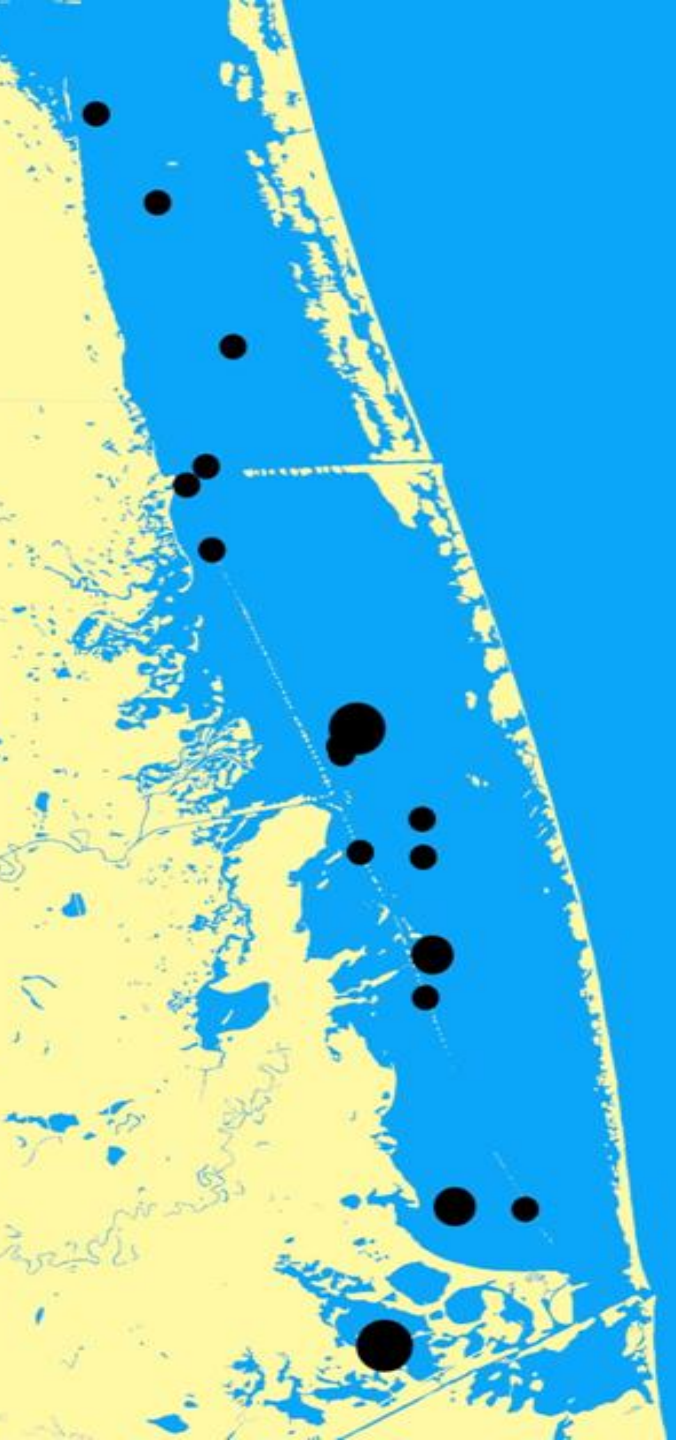
Black Skimmers: Stable
Caspian Terns: Fluctuating
Gull-billed Terns: Up
Reddish Egrets: Fluctuating
Royal Terns: Down
Sandwich Terns: Stable

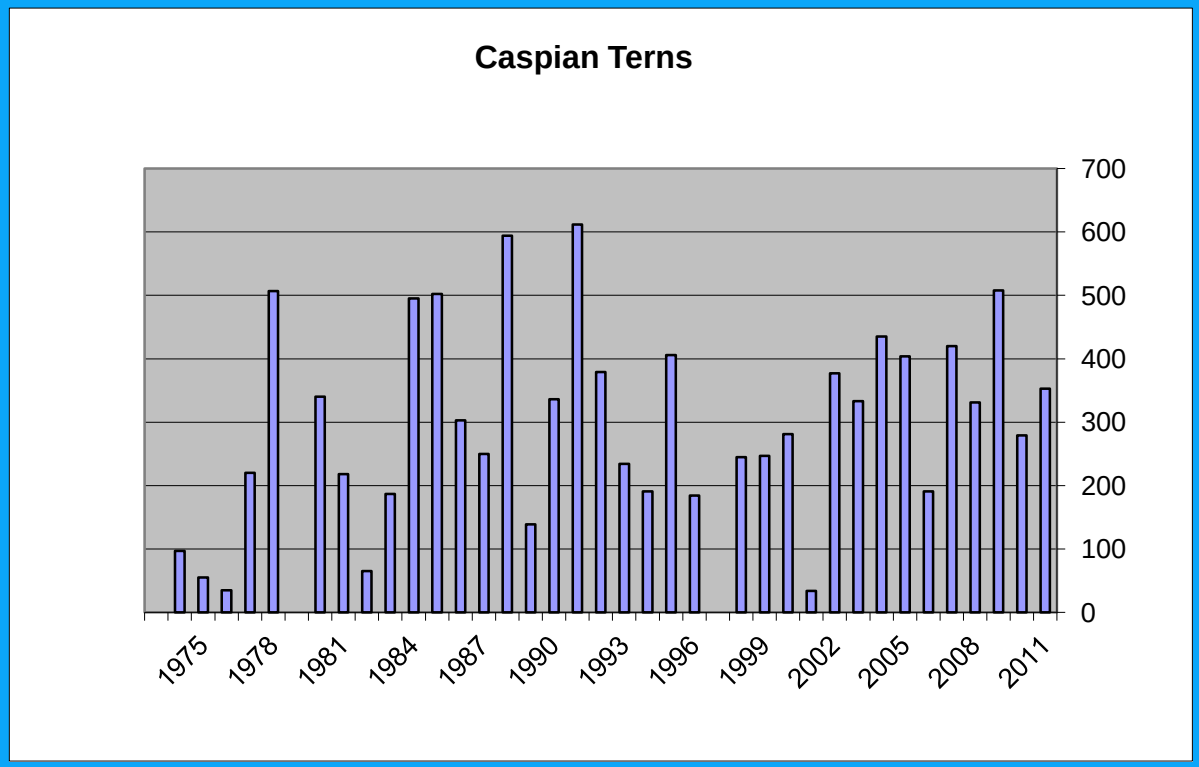




Black Skimmers
Primary Nesting Islands
Average of Nesting Pairs

0 – 50
51 - 100
101- 250
251 - 500



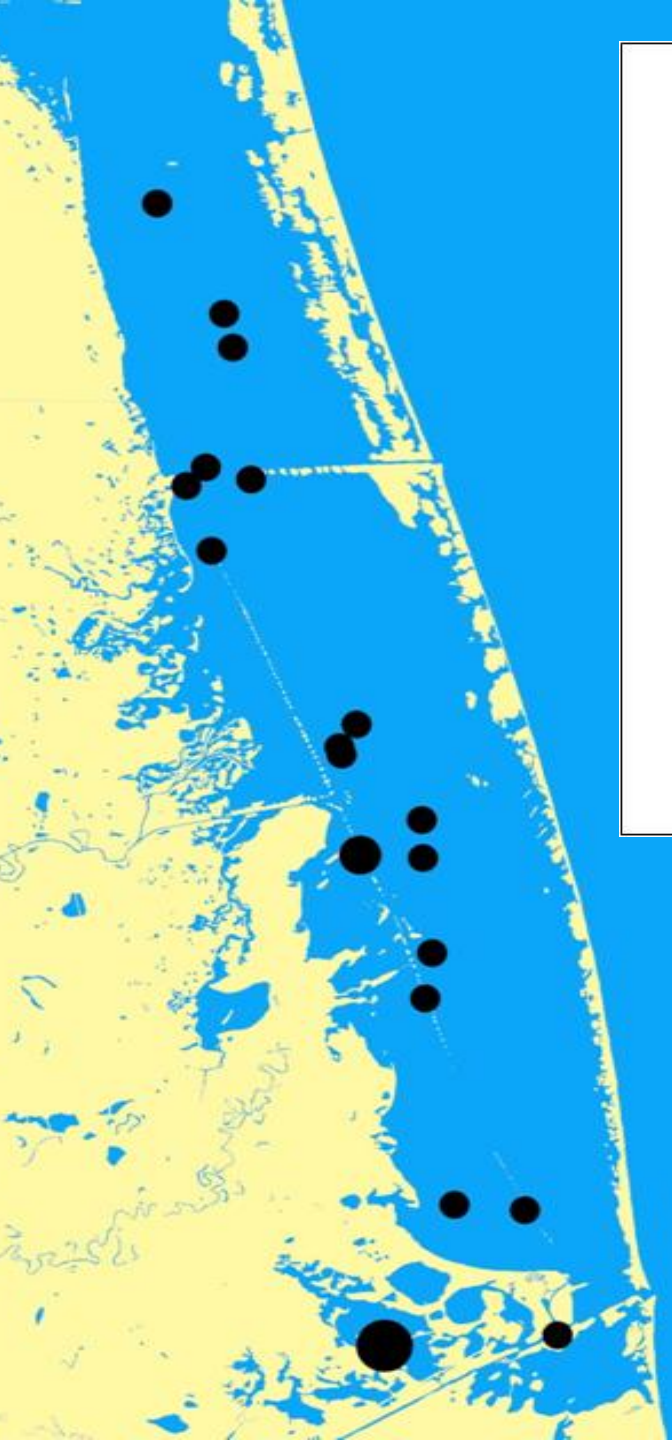


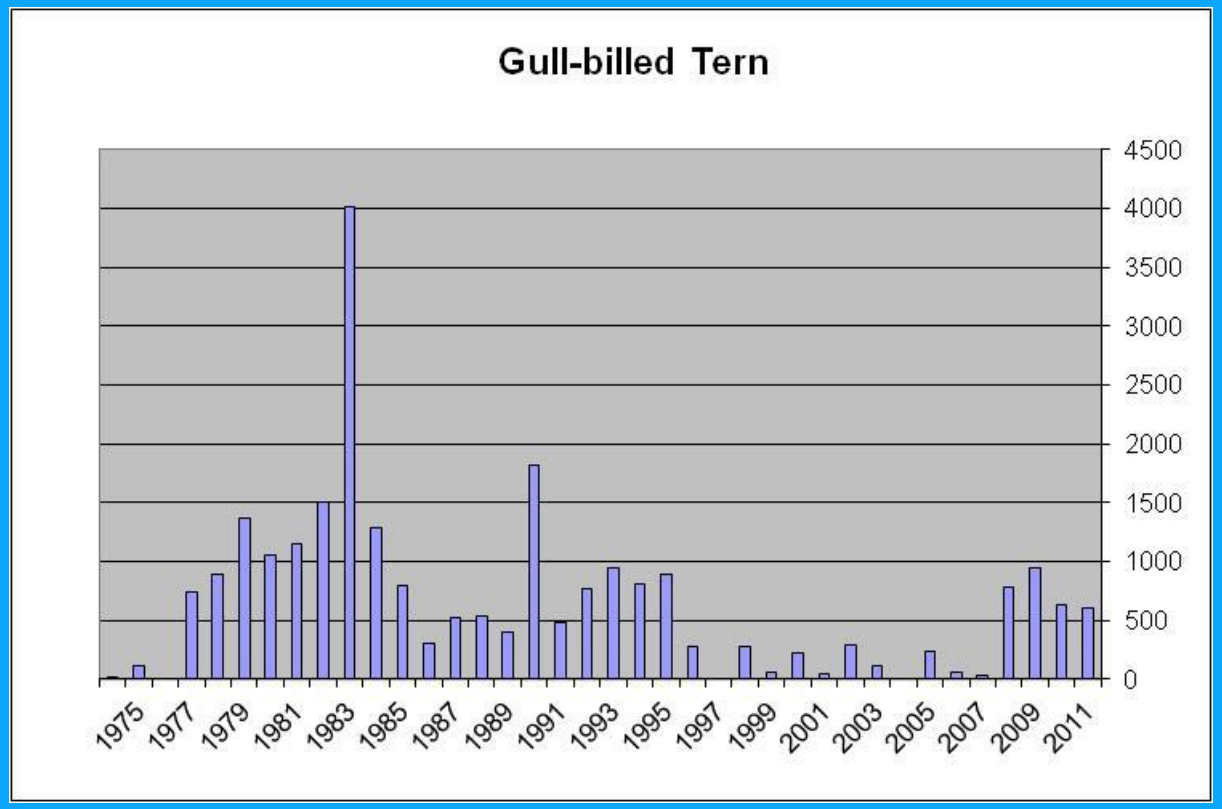
Caspian Terns
Primary Nesting Islands
Average of Nesting Pairs

0 - 50

51- 100

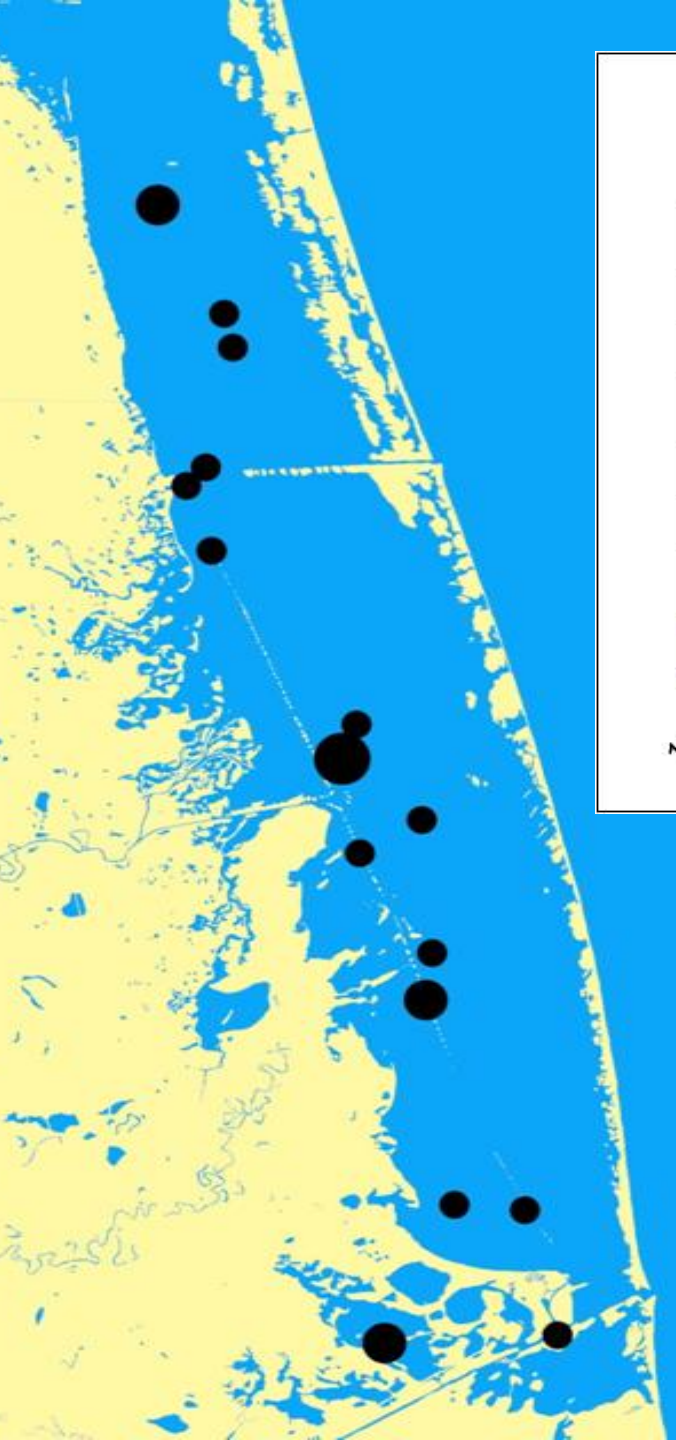
101 - 150

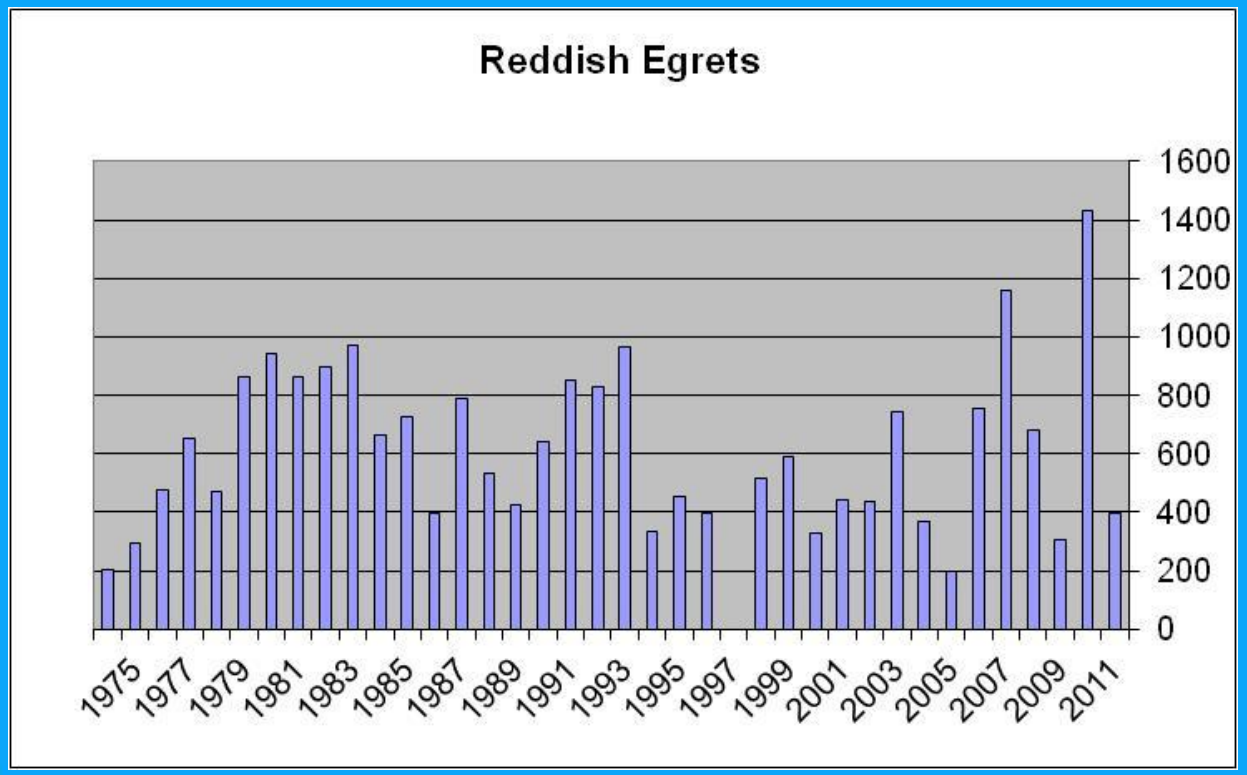




Gull-billed Terns
Primary Nesting Islands
Average of Nesting Pairs

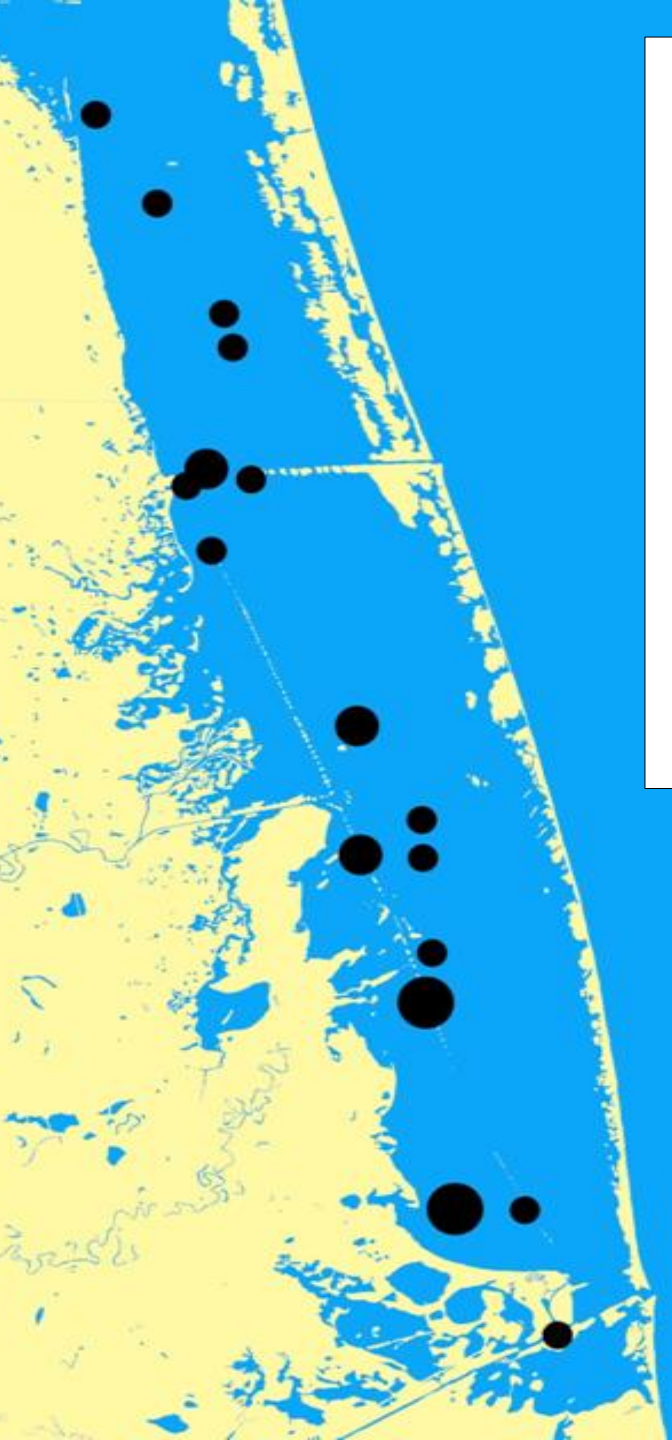
0 - 100
101- 250
251-1000

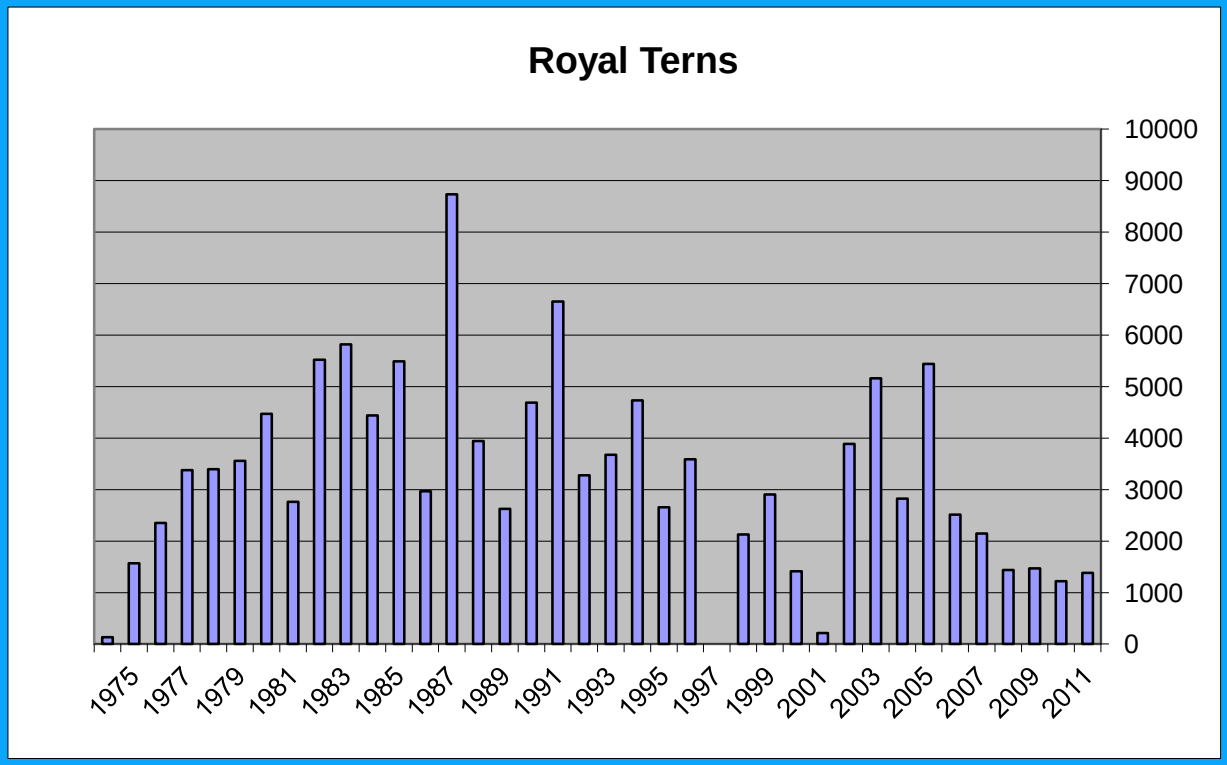




Reddish Egrets
Primary Nesting Islands
Average of Nesting Pairs

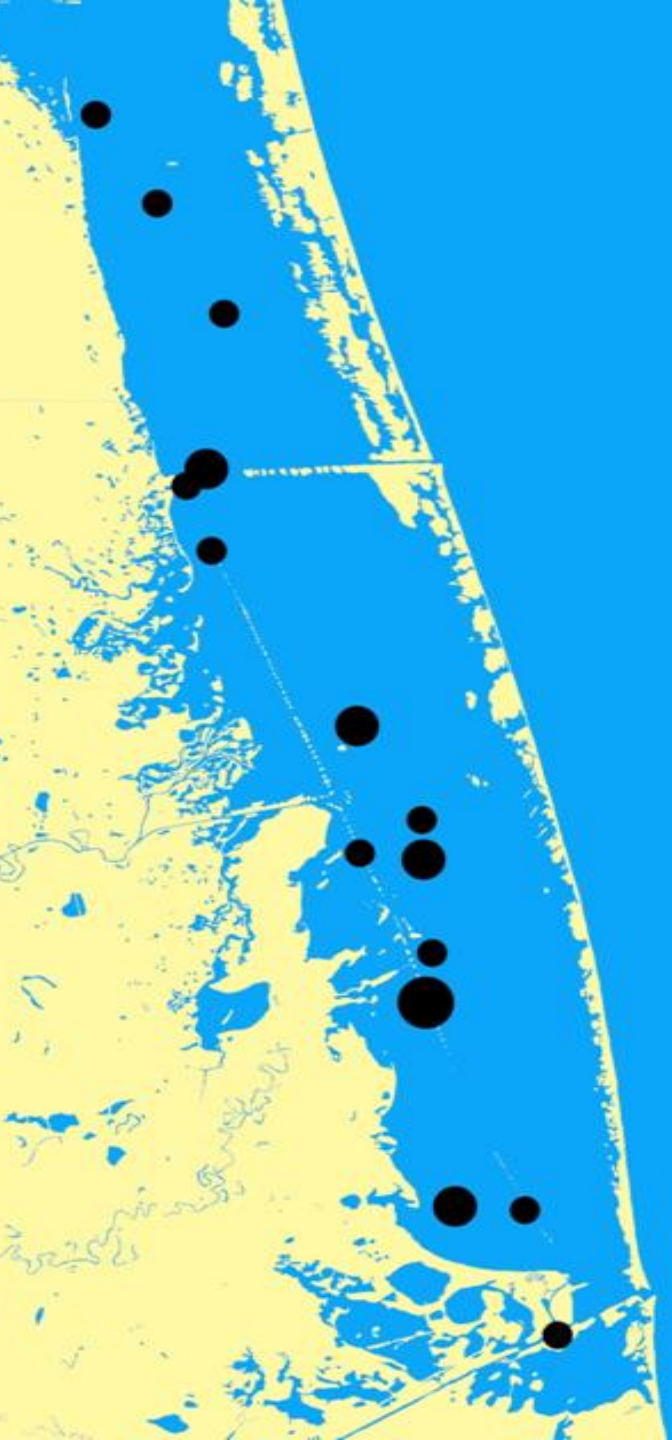
0 - 50
51 - 100
101 - 500

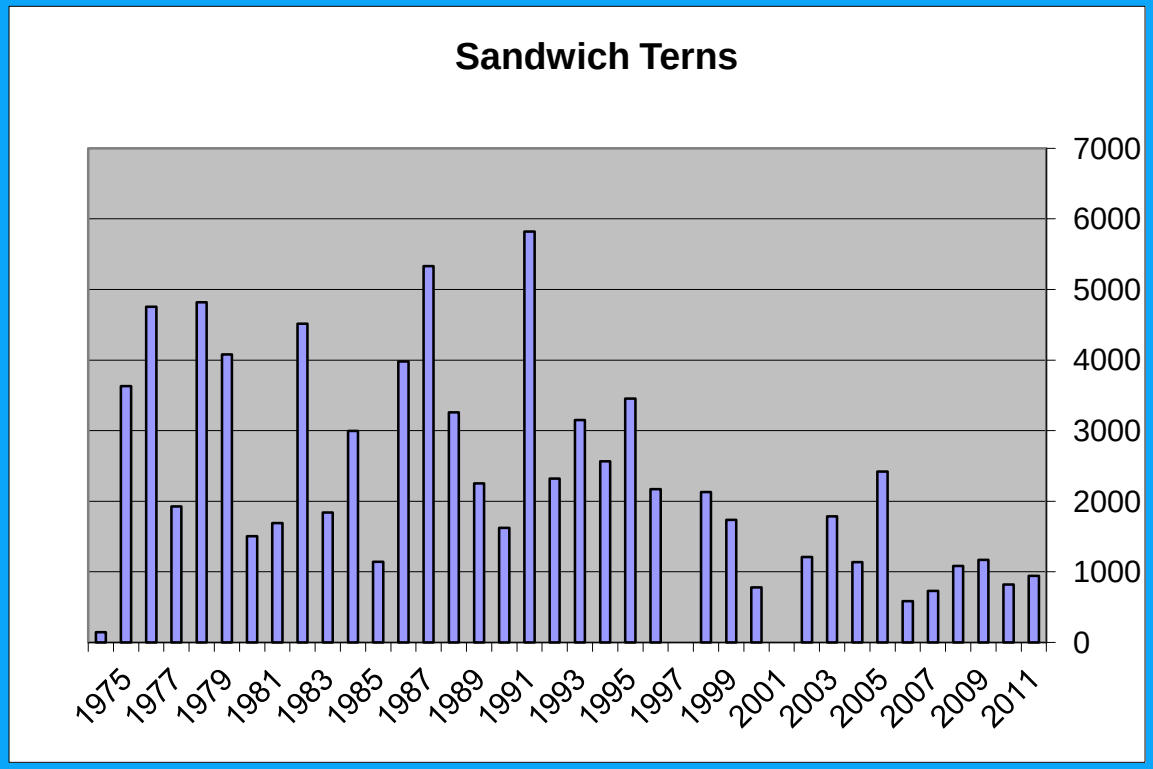




Royal Terns
Primary Nesting Islands
Average of Nesting Pairs

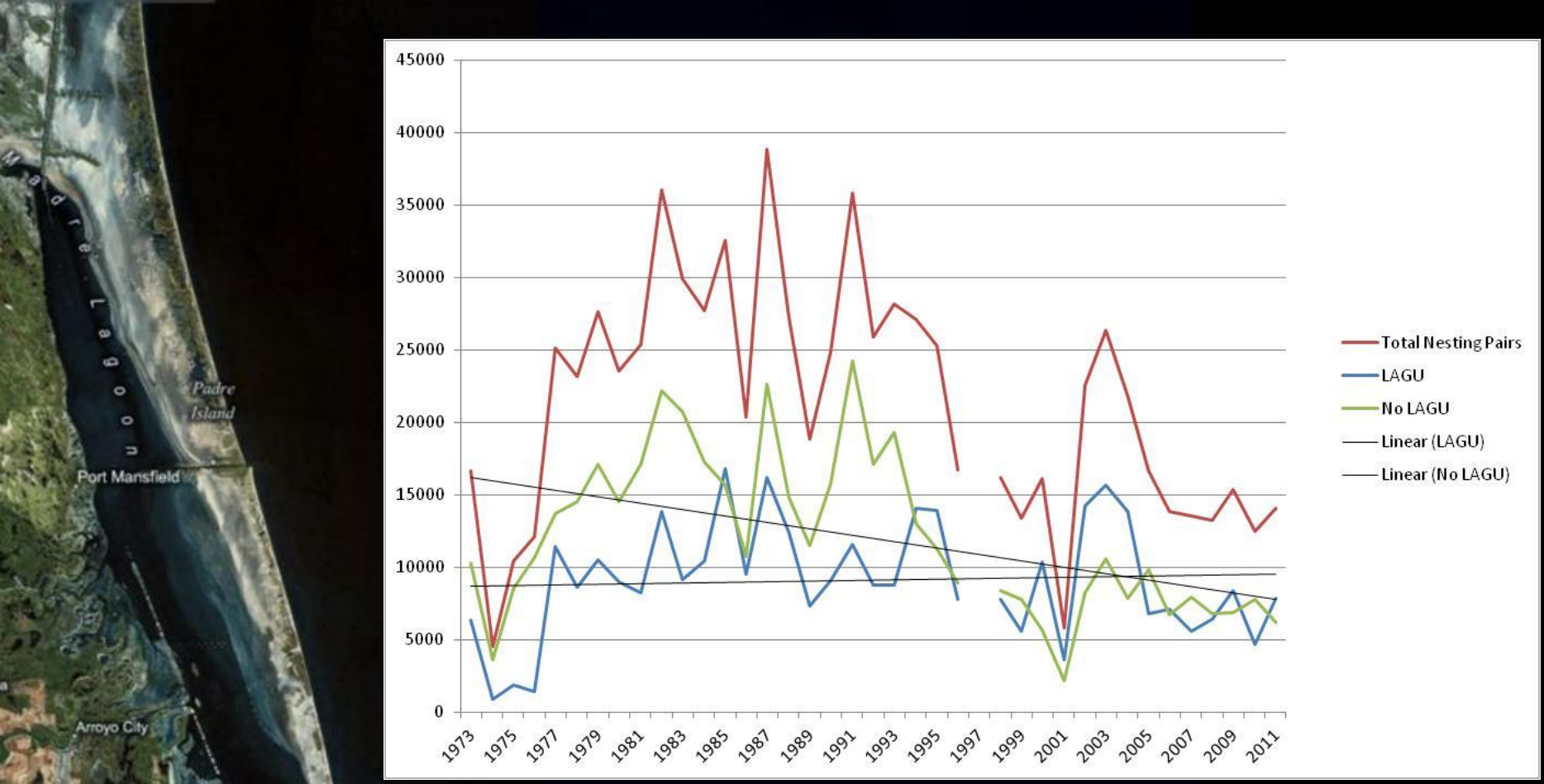
0 - 100
101 - 500
501 - 1500



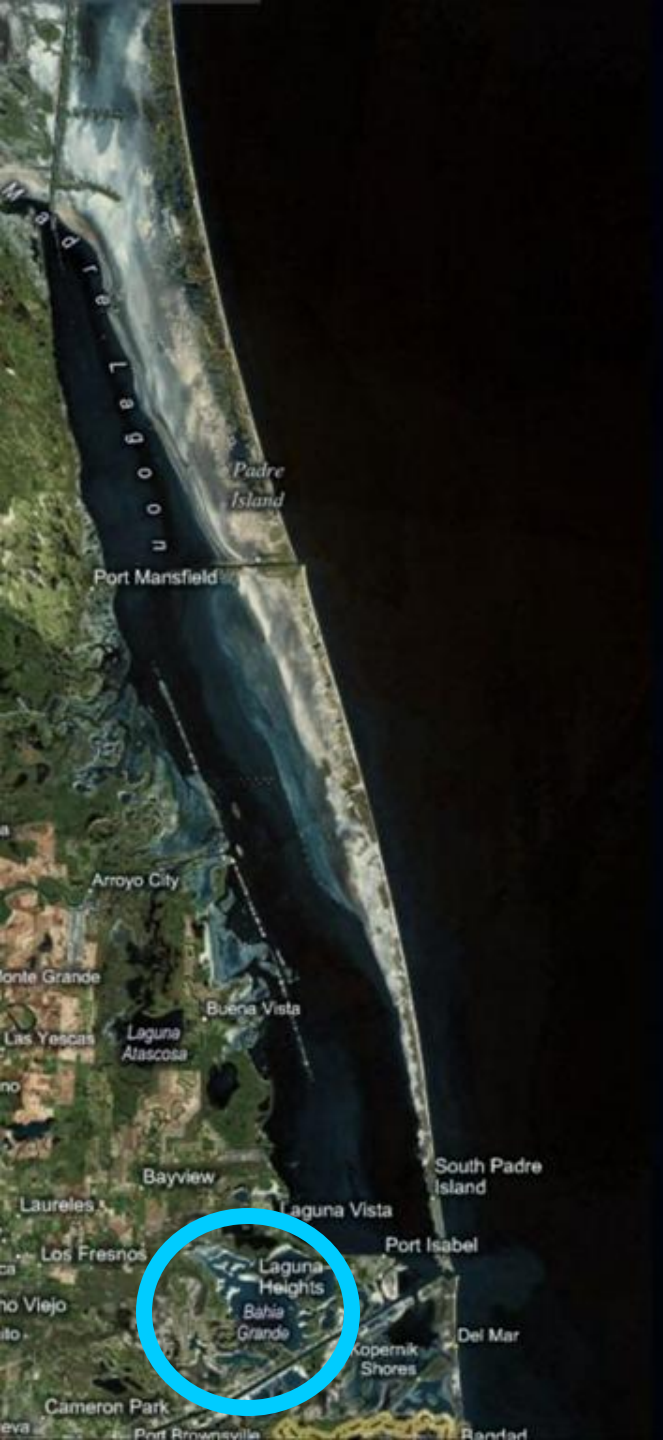


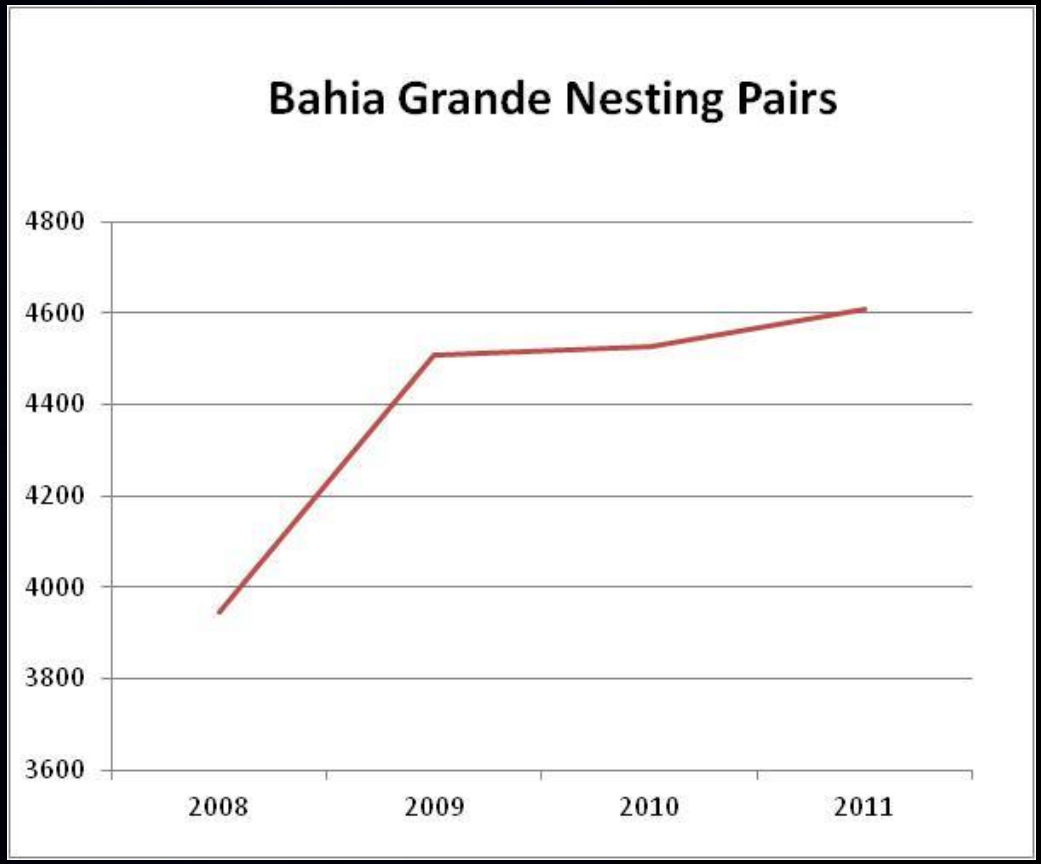
Sandwich Terns
Primary Nesting Islands
Average of Nesting Pairs

0 - 100
101 - 500
501 - 1500



Total Nesting Pairs
With and without LAGU





SPP	2011	2010	2009	2008
BLSK	266	205	204	512
GUTE	655	465	752	748
FOTE	175	128	100	0
REEG	71	106	50	29
TRHE	175	210	50	74

Questions?