



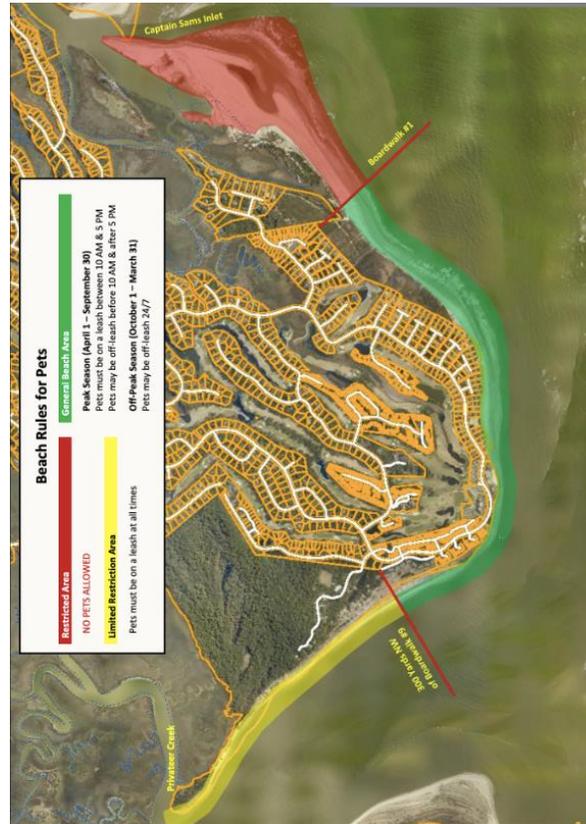
American Oystercatcher, North Beach



Black Skimmer, North Beach

Seabrook Island North Beach is an important beach for shorebirds in SC, and a migration habitat for Federally protected Piping Plover & Red Knot. SC Threatened Wilson's Plover & Least Tern nest, and numerous shorebirds migrate or are permanent throughout the year.

Beach Rules for Dogs/Pets



Wilson's Plover, North Beach



Least Tern, North Beach

Respect Seabrook Island shorebirds & habitat!



Seabrook Island Birders

watching
learning
protecting



Give the birds space: Resting and feeding are critical to survival of migratory and wintering birds. If birds run or fly, you are too close!

Keep out of posted areas & dunes: Birds can be nesting, disturbance causes egg & chick loss.

Be a Bird Friendly Dog Owner: Keep dogs on leash when near bird flocks. Don't allow dogs to chase, it stresses the birds & saps their energy for migration. Please follow Seabrook's dog rules.



Human disturbance harms shorebirds ...their survival depends on you!

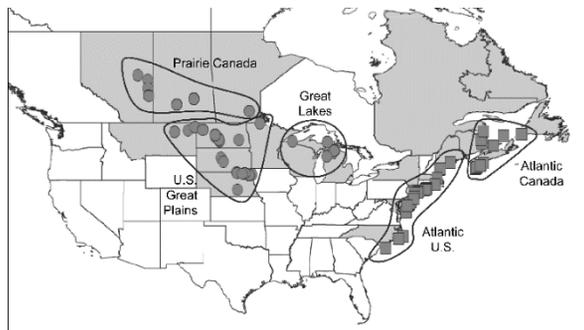


Piping Plover



Piping Plover, Orange band - Great Lakes

Piping Plovers breed at Great Lakes, Atlantic, and Great Plains areas from April to July. In late July they migrate to southern coasts and Caribbean to winter until next spring. Seabrook is an important wintering & migratory site. Quality foraging & roosting habitat on winter beaches is key for adults to survive and return to breeding sites.



Populations and breeding habitats have drastically declined. Development, people, dogs, predators, weather, and environment are serious threats. Great Lakes area Piping Plovers are “Federally Endangered” with less than 70 breeding pairs remaining. Atlantic area are “Federally Threatened”.



Piping Plover, Green band – Atlantic

Banding & Tracking



SC DNR Red Knot banding on Seabrook, Orange band – Argentina, Green band - SC

Banding tracks an individual bird to study the entire life-cycle - where they go, how long they live, what resources are needed for survival. During Red Knot migration on Seabrook, SC DNR teams apply new and identify existing bands, and place/retrieve geolocators and nanotags which provide data on movement.



SC DNR placing nanotag for tracking

Piping Plover bands are placed in various configurations on upper and lower legs. Flag/band colors define breeding area, and/or where bird was banded. Wintering Seabrook Piping Plovers are mostly spotted from Great Lakes, Atlantic US & Canada breeding areas.



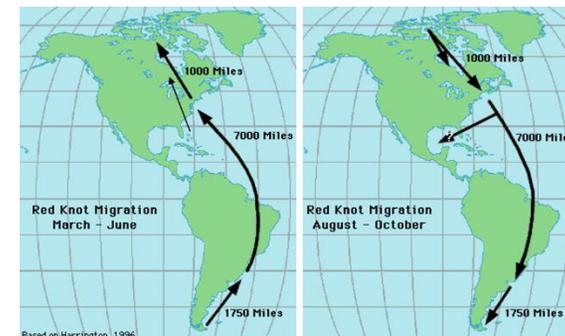
Pink band – Bahamas, Black band – Atlantic Canada
Photos taken on Seabrook North Beach by Ed Konrad

Red Knot



Red Knot, North Beach

Red Knots have one of the longest migrations of any bird, 18,000 miles round trip from the tip of South America to the Arctic where they breed. From March to early May, Seabrook Island is an important stopping point for them to feed and rest on their long journey north to breed.



Based on Harrington, 1996.

Seabrook Island has one of the largest single flocks of Red Knots in US, with thousands seen at a time during peak in Apr-May. Knot population on East Coast has declined 85% since 1980. Knots are “Federally Threatened” under the US Endangered Species Act.



Red Knot with geolocator, North Beach