



### **Reddish Egret Threatened (S)**

The rarest heron in North America, Reddish Egrets are strictly coastal. They chase small fish on open flats. They nest in small numbers on estuary islands, usually in colonies with other nesting wading birds. This mid-sized heron is mostly gray with rust-colored head, though some birds are solid white.



### **Florida Sandhill Crane Threatened (S)**

This crane subspecies is resident year-round in Florida, and defends a nesting territory that is adjacent to open upland foraging habitat. Nesting in shallow ponds, adults defend their eggs or chicks from predators including coyote or bobcat.



### **Whooping Crane Endangered (F)**

With its historic range reduced, an experimental flock has been introduced into central Florida. Large birds are all white with black wing-tips. Whooping Cranes are wetland foragers and nesters, using habitats similar to Sandhill Cranes.



### **Roseate Spoonbill Threatened (S)**

Using spatulala-shaped bills to feel prey in shallow ponds, streams, or coastal waters, Roseate Spoonbills nest in trees along the coast and inland. Having barely recovered from hunting eradication, these birds now face extirpation from climate change and sea-level rise.



### **Wood Stork Threatened (F)**

This large wading bird is the only stork in the Americas. Breeding areas have shifted from south Florida and the Everglades northward. Wood Storks must have abundant prey concentrated in shallow wetlands in order to feed their young. Prey items include fish, crayfish, and snakes.



## **Imperiled Coastal Birds of Florida and the State Laws that Protect Them**



### **Florida Statutes and Rules**

**68A-27.003** Designation and management of the state-listed species and coordination with federal government for federally-listed species

**68A-19.005** General Regulations relating to state-designated Critical Wildlife Areas

**68A-4.001** Controls harvest of wildlife only under permitted conditions; also forbids attacking “varmits”, and feeding pelicans if local populations are affected, and feeding bears and Sandhill Cranes

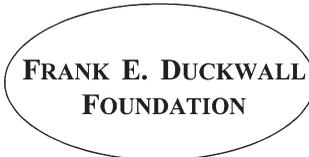
**68A-16.001** State-assumption of responsibility for federal Statutes and Regulations relating to the International Migratory Bird Protection Act

**68A 19.002 and 68A 19.004** Establishment and regulations regarding Bird Sanctuaries

**16 U.S. Code § 668** Bald and Golden Eagles Protection Act

**Note: this guide includes State-listed (S) and Federally-listed (F) species.**

**This brochure was produced by Audubon Florida with funding from:**



For more information, contact Audubon's Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries, 813/623-6826 [fl.audubon.org](http://fl.audubon.org)

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- American Oystercatcher - Jim Gray
- Black Skimmer - Mary Lundeburg
- Least Tern & Roseate Tern - Jean Hall
- Snowy Plover - Lou Newman
- Sandhill Crane - Nancy Zeglin/Audubon Photography Awards
- Little Blue Heron - Kurt Wecker/Audubon Photography Awards
- Whooping Crane - Charles Lee
- Wood Stork - Lee Martin



### **Red Knot Threatened (F)**

Winter and migratory visitors to Florida, Red Knots feed mostly on coquinas and horseshoe crab eggs along the coast. Long-distance migrants, Red Knots nest in the Arctic and some spend winters as far south as the southern tip of South America.



### **Piping Plover Threatened (F)**

Nesting on sand bars and beaches in northern North America, Piping Plovers arrive in Florida in July for the winter. Note the yellow legs. Some birds are banded to allow individual identification for population studies.



### **Snowy Plover Threatened (S)**

One of Florida's rarest species, Snowy Plovers nest on white sandy beaches on the Gulf Coast. Well-camouflaged eggs and young make nests difficult to spot. They eat tiger beetles and other insects from the seaweed and algae in the wrack line.



### **American Oystercatcher Threatened (S)**

Oystercatchers defend territories on beaches and coastal islands and on gravel beach-like rooftops. They lay speckled, light-tan eggs. Feeding mostly along oyster bars, they eat oysters and other invertebrate animals.



### **Black Skimmer Threatened (S)**

Unusual feeding technique entails flying with their longer lower bill slicing through calm waters until they feel a fish, then scooping it up. They nest in colonies on Florida's coastal beaches and sometimes on rooftops.



### **Least Tern Threatened (S)**

America's smallest tern species, Least Terns winter in South America and return to nest in Florida in April, selecting beach or roof sites as a colony. They actively chase predators away from the colony to protect their eggs or young.



### **Roseate Tern Threatened (F)**

These medium-sized seabirds have deeply forked tails and underparts that develop a pink "blush" during courtship. In Florida, Roseate Terns nest from Marathon to the Dry Tortugas on isolated islands and gravel rooftops. They forage on small schooling fish.



### **Little Blue Heron Threatened (S)**

This smallish wading bird is dark blue with light grayish legs and a bi-colored beak with a dark tip. Yearling birds are white, growing their blue plumage at one year old. Little Blue Herons eat small fish, insects, frogs, and other small, wetland animals.



### **Tricolored Heron Threatened (S)**

These small wading birds inhabit wetlands and coastal areas. They sometimes nest in trees in colonies with other wading birds. Active visual hunters, Tricolored Herons generally forage for prey in open water areas, actively chasing fish, tadpoles, small snakes, and other wetland animals.