

Progress Report to Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Contract # 098

Report Period: 1 October – 31 October, 2025

GCBO team members continued our non-breeding shorebird surveys, targeted at documenting the location of multiple shorebird species on concern. We continued to use eBird data to identify locations to survey beyond our traditional survey routes. Our team visited 37 different eBird locations, but only found 3 oystercatchers. However, we identified 42 oystercatchers during our routine shorebird surveys (including resights of the same banded individuals). Three of the banded individuals were resighted over multiple weeks but along different stretches of beach, likely indicating that these birds are using different resources at different times (possibly in response to environmental factors). Several target sites were not accessible due to road access issues or gated communities; we will continue contacting authorities and local communities to see if we can get access. Over the past 2 months, most birds found have been foraging, not loafing, flying, or interacting with other birds. Additional target areas are only accessible via boat (i.e., barrier islands), which will not be able to be surveyed at this time due to scheduling.

Two transmitters from PathTrack were sent for preliminary testing. Upon arrival, our team will test their service, connection, and battery life to confirm that they can be used appropriately for this study. Additionally, all project partners have been confirmed.