

## **Progress Report to Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust**

### **Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Contract # 098**

**Report Period:** 1 May – 31 May, 2025

We continued to monitor our previously monitored nesting American Oystercatchers and continued discussions with volunteers for next year's breeding season. We have now have added interest from other non-profit organizations including Galveston Bay Foundation, as well as potential new volunteers including former USFWS employees, current TPWD employees, and employees from other non-profit organizations.

GCBO staff are currently monitoring five breeding pairs in East Matagorda Bay, 26 pairs in the Galveston Bay area, and one pair on Sargent Beach, all of which have had 37 nesting attempts that we currently know of. To date (this year), we have observed seventeen chicks fledge, and have banded thirteen chicks and two adults. Volunteers and partners found and monitored several nests throughout the region, ranging from Dickinson/Trinity Bays down through the south end of Matagorda Bay (on top of the nests previously reported). Multiple reports from volunteers indicate that chicks are fledging around the coast.

Our partners are continuing to monitor and scout for breeding American Oystercatchers, in preparation for next year's trapping. Partners have found multiple pairs in other areas of Matagorda Bay, as well as in southern Texas. We have continued to collected feather and blood samples for the incoming graduate student's project. This breeding season will start winding down in a month or two, which means less field monitoring but additional preparation will start to take place for next season, including the ordering of the transmitters.