MISSISSIPPI

Coastal Bird Stewardship in Mississippi – Phase II

This project expands, in both scope and duration, an earlier GEBF-funded Mississippi Coastal Bird Stewardship project. This four-year initiative will continue to benefit beach nesting and wintering shorebirds and seabirds, will expand habitat improvements for shorebirds and other migratory species, as well as filling key information gaps to support marsh bird conservation. Monitoring efforts will improve our understanding of coastal bird population responses to ongoing restoration actions.

Posting, stewardship, and monitoring on beaches and barrier islands will benefit six focal species (American oystercatcher, black skimmer, least tern, Wilson’s plover, piping plover, and snowy plover). Assessments of abundance and distribution of focal marsh bird species (least bittern, clapper rail, marsh wren, Nelson’s sparrow, and seaside sparrow) will inform future habitat and marsh bird conservation efforts in the Gulf region. This effort will also support the conservation of significant wetland habitat, benefiting shorebirds and other migratory species through leveraged investment by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

Key species for this project include the clapper rail (left) and black skimmer (right).