

Operations Update

JC Griffin, Wildlife Biologist
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services



Priority Animal Species

- **Priority Animals**
 - Sacred ibis
 - Feral hogs
 - Spiny-tailed Iguanas



Invasive Species Programs

Sacred Ibis

- History
- Objective
 - Eradication of sacred ibis from south Florida to protect native species
 - GPS tracking collars
- Partners
 - FWC, FAU, NWRC
- Start/End Dates
 - June 16, 2008
- Status
 - Currently ongoing
- Annual Summary
 - 8 sacred ibis removed to date
 - Carcasses submitted to FAU for research purposes
 - Measurements, diet, physiological condition (lipid reserves)



Invasive Species Programs

Feral hogs

- Description
 - Lethal removal through a variety of methods
- Objective
 - Eradicate hogs from barrier islands
 - Cayo Costa State Park
 - Keewaydin Island
 - Enhance sea turtle and least tern nesting success
- Partners
 - Florida Park Service, FLDEP, FL Nature Conservancy
- Start/End Dates
 - May 7, 2007 – August 18, 2007 (Cayo Costa)
 - February 26, 2008 – June 2, 2008 (Cayo Costa)
 - May 15, 2008 – June 14, 2008 (Keewaydin Island)
- Annual Summary
 - 2007 -- 144 feral hogs removed from Cayo Costa & 9 from Punta Blanca
 - 2008 – 22 feral hogs removed from Cayo Costa, 39 from Keewaydin







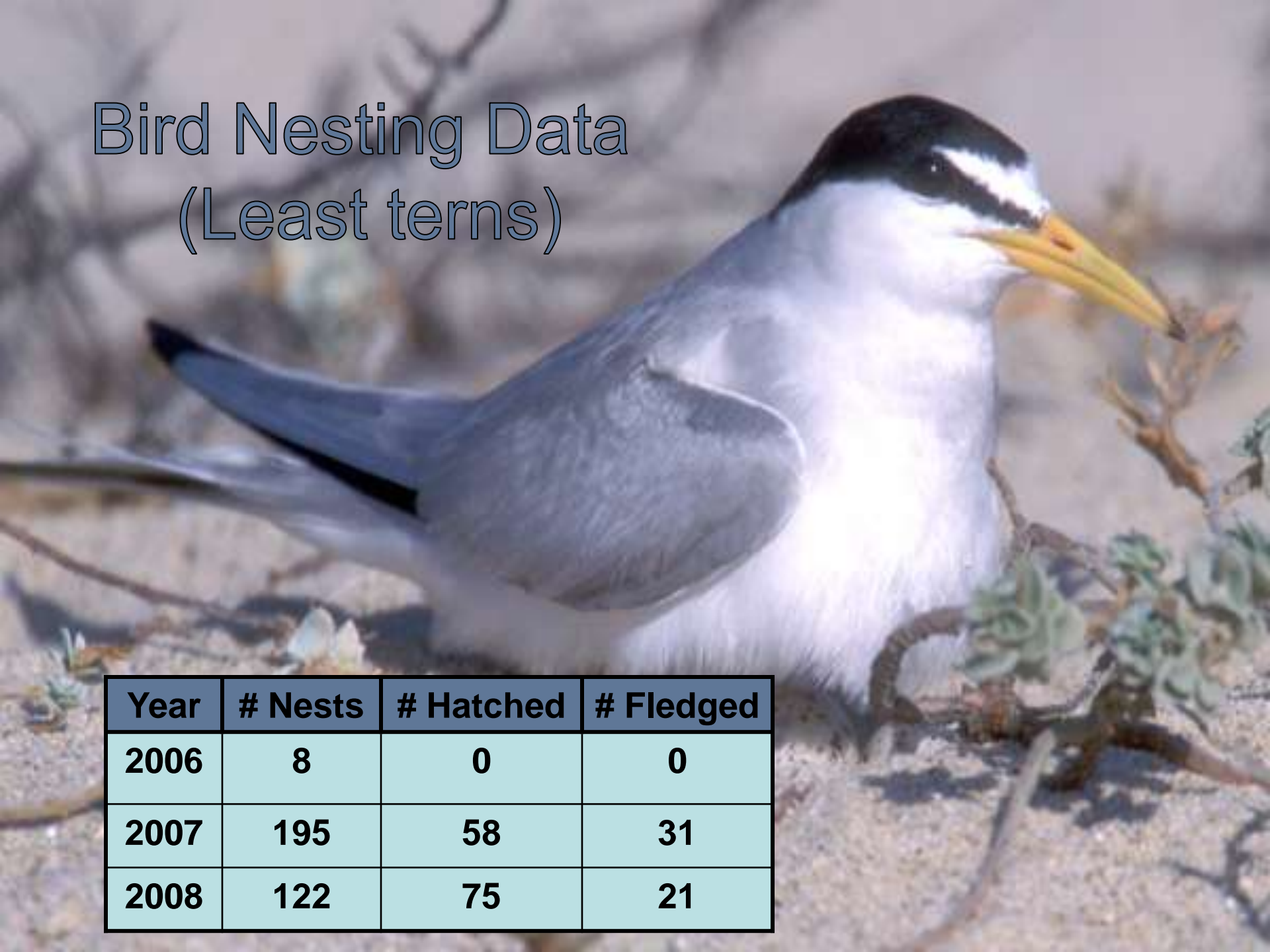
04/04/2007



Sea Turtle Nesting Data (Cayo Costa)

Year	Nests	# Predated	Predation %
2004	84	67	80%
2005	81	60	74%
2006	57	42	74%
2007	76	12	16%
2008	99	2	2%

Bird Nesting Data (Least terns)

A photograph of a Least Tern bird standing on a sandy beach. The bird has a black cap, a white forehead, and a long, yellow beak. It is facing right. The background shows some sparse, low-lying vegetation and a sandy ground.

Year	# Nests	# Hatched	# Fledged
2006	8	0	0
2007	195	58	31
2008	122	75	21



Sea Turtle Nesting Data (Keewaydin Island)

Year	Nests	# Predated	Predation %
2007	129	43	33%
2008	~ 170	0	0%





Invasive Species Programs

Spiny-tailed iguanas

- Description
 - Removal using trapping and shooting methods on Gasparillo Island
- Objective
 - Eradication is the ultimate goal
- Partners
 - NWRC
 - Toxicant research
 - Stomach contents analysis
- Start/End Dates
 - Began February 2008
- Status
 - Ongoing
- Funding
 - Tax
- Annual Summary
 - Over 1800 taken since February

