

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

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

**Report Period:** 1 June – 30 June, 2025

We continued to monitor our previously monitored nesting American Oystercatchers and continued discussions with volunteers for next year's breeding season. We learned of a new location to check next year – Decros Island in Matagorda Bay. Not easily accessible by beach goers, the island had several oystercatchers on it earlier this season, as reported by Audubon Texas staff.

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 39 nesting attempts that we currently know of. To date (this year), we have observed twenty-three chicks fledge, and have banded sixteen 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). We have not received the June summary from our volunteers further down the coast yet, but we suspect their chicks have mostly fledged at this time.

Our partners are continuing to monitor and scout for breeding American Oystercatchers, in preparation for next year's trapping. Several of our partners and volunteers took us out on their boats in June as our boat trailer broke early in the month and needed to be replaced. Volunteers have spent at least 175 hours on our boat monitoring with us, in addition to the numerous hours volunteers in other areas have spent monitoring oystercatchers this season. We have continued to collect feather and blood samples for the incoming graduate student's project. This monitoring season is wrapping up, with only one known pair actively brooding chicks at this time.