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Date: April 4, 2026

Re: March Progress Report

Contract #098 – Managing for Gulf American Oystercatchers: Monitoring the Gulf Coast Populations and Investigating Wintering and Foraging Behaviors

GCBO team members wrapped up the last month of non-breeding shorebird surveys, targeted at documenting the location of multiple shorebird species of concern. We revisited a few final eBird sites looking for previously identified and new oystercatchers. Six oystercatchers were documented, including one previously banded oystercatcher. One pair was observed on a nest on a small island in Matagorda Bay at Oyster Lake. Two oystercatchers were found during our standard non-breeding shorebird surveys, both of which were banded as breeding adults last year.

With our research team, volunteers, and our colleagues at San Antonio Bay Partnership, we were able to deploy an additional eight transmitters, bringing our total deployed to nineteen. Five of the captured individuals were males, two were females, and one remains unconfirmed. Three were captured and banded previously – two were males originally banded as chicks in 2022 and one was a male originally banded as a non-breeding juvenile in 2021. All of the captured birds were breeding adults, and several were already found to be incubating eggs.

We continued our annual monitoring surveys in multiple bay systems. Currently, we are monitoring 25 active nests, seven of which now have hatched chicks. Volunteers now assisting with the monitoring as well, and volunteers including staff from the American Bird Conservancy continue to assist with the surveys.



All birds captured, handled, and banded under a federally authorized Bird Banding Permit issued by the USGS and a Scientific Research Permit issued by TPWD.