



Your Speed Matters!



Shorebird chicks are not able to fly away from oncoming traffic.

Shorebirds on the Road

Each spring, shorebirds like least terns, fly thousands of miles from South America to nest and raise their young on the beaches of Gulf Islands National Seashore. Some of these shorebirds, like the Snowy Plover, are threatened or endangered. Snowy Plover adults and chicks frequent the road and shoulders to feed on insects. Least Terns have been hit while flying low over the road while attempting to defend their nests.



By the Numbers

Gulf Islands National Seashore biologists study the survival rates of shorebirds in the park. In 2016, Snowy Plovers laid 70 nests in the Fort Pickens and Santa Rosa Areas of the park. These nests produced 78 chicks, but only 9 survived long enough to fly away from the park. Of the 69 chicks killed, 11 were hit by vehicles traveling on the road.

Observe Your Speed, Observe the Shorebirds

By slowing down visitors can help shorebirds survive. At speeds, 25 mph or less, it is easier to see the birds and avoid hitting them. Enjoy the scenery and nature around the park and try to spot three of the shorebirds that call Gulf Islands National Seashore home every year.

☐ Snowy Plover



☐ Least Tern



☐ Black Skimmer



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