



The Institute for  
Regional Conservation

## August 2016 Newsletter



### Breeding Bird Surveys in the Florida Keys



IRC's Florida Keys Field  
Biologist, Trevor Watts

Since spring, IRC biologists have been conducting breeding bird surveys on Boca Chica, Fleming, and Saddlebunch Keys in the lower Florida Keys. During this time, biologists were able to detect, either by site or sound, several rare birds. Some of these species included Antillean nighthawks, Least terns, Mangrove cuckoos, Cuban yellow warblers, White-crowned pigeon, and Reddish egrets, among others. On one occasion, as field biologists were kayaking through the mangrove forest, they turned a corner and discovered 18 roseate spoonbills foraging on the mudflats. While recording observations, a distant call could be heard from deep inside the mangrove forest - "aaaahrr ahrr ahrr ahrr ahrr" - meaning only one thing, the elusive mangrove cuckoo. Mangrove cuckoos only call during the breeding season, making their detections unusual and extraordinary.

Using ArcGIS software, we are able to map the species that breed in different habitat types. We are also comparing this data to previous studies in order to look at trends in species abundance. These data inform managers about resident populations of rare species that breed on these properties, and provides information about habitat associations for each species. Through collaborative efforts between land managers and IRC staff, and with help from State and Federal agencies, we can conserve and protect imperiled bird species in the Florida Keys.



**Antillean Nighthawk**  
(*Chordeiles gundlachii*)



**Least Tern**  
(*Sternula antillarum*)



**Red Egret**  
(*Egretta rufescens*)



### IRC Creates AmazonSmile Account

Looking for an easy way to support IRC? Start using our

AmazonSmile account. Whenever you go to purchase something on Amazon, simply click on the link below and then carry on with your shopping like you normally do. A small portion of each purchase will be donated to IRC and will be put directly towards funding our online resources, educational programs and volunteer days.

Thank you in advance for your support!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2336458>



Volunteers participating at our recent beach restoration event in Delray Beach.



## New Natives For Your Neighborhood Sponsors

We are excited to announce that the **Broward Chapter** of the Florida Native Plant Society has come on board as our first Chapter to **sponsor** Natives For Your Neighborhood.



We would also like to thank All Native Garden Center, Nursery and Landscapes, Inc. for renewing their annual sponsorship. We are so pleased to have this Lee County **nursery** as a continued supporter of IRC and Natives For Your Neighborhood.



## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, August 10th 4:20 pm

IRC's CEO, Craig van der Heiden, will be giving a talk titled, "Vegetation communities shift in response to climate change: National Key Deer Refuge 1990-2013" at the Ecological Society of America (ESA) 2016 meeting in Ft. Lauderdale. A link to the abstract of his talk can be found [here](#).

### Tuesday, August 16th 6:30 pm

IRC's CEO, Craig van der Heiden, will be speaking about IRC's work with rare plants and butterflies at the monthly meeting of the Broward County Butterfly Chapter ( **BCBC**)of the North American Butterfly Association (NABA). The meeting will be held in the Education Conference Room of the UF-IFAS Broward County Extension Office located in Davie.

### Sunday, August 21st 2 pm

IRC's Education and Outreach Coordinator, Cara Abbott, will be a guest speaker for Manatee Lagoon's weekly lecture series. The presentation titled "Slithering Snakes and Reptiles" will cover the identification and conservation of snakes and lizards in Palm Beach County. **Manatee Lagoon** is an FPL Eco-Discovery Center located in West Palm Beach.

