



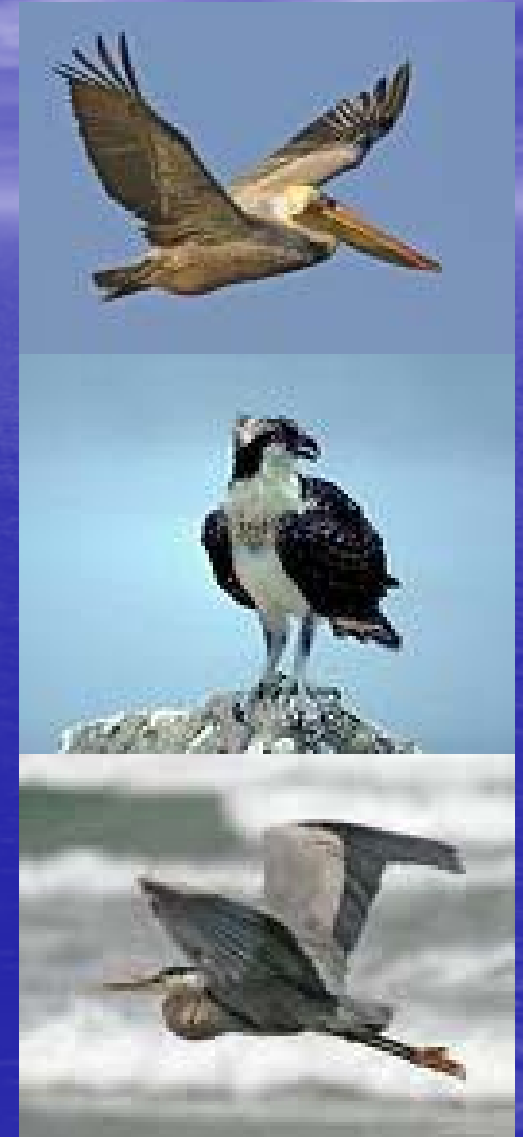
A Report on the Shorebird Survey Conducted by  
the Choctawhatchee Audubon Society (3 Jul-9  
Oct 2010)

Donald Ware, Chapter Bird Count Coordinator  
Gary Parsons, Chapter President

# Objective

- Provide Database on Shorebird Populations to Assess Impact of Oil Spill
- Locate Birds Contaminated with Oil
- Place Competent Observers at Crime Scene
- Are Non-avian fauna impacted?
- Where is the oil?

# Shorebirds and Some Not so Shorebirds



# Gulls and Terns at East Jetty



# Booms Everywhere



# Oil Cleaning Station



# BP Staging Henderson Beach



# Method

- Surveyed 28 miles of beach, exclusive of Eglin, from Navarre to Grayton Beach State Park
- Surveyed from sunrise to no later than 2 hours after sunrise every Saturday 3 Jul to 9 Oct
- Simultaneous survey helps reduce double counting
- Assigned 1-4 mile segments with access/observation points to each volunteer
- Counted all identifiable species on beach visible with binoculars or spotting scopes
- No attempt to smooth data or fill in for missing observations, compliance was 87%

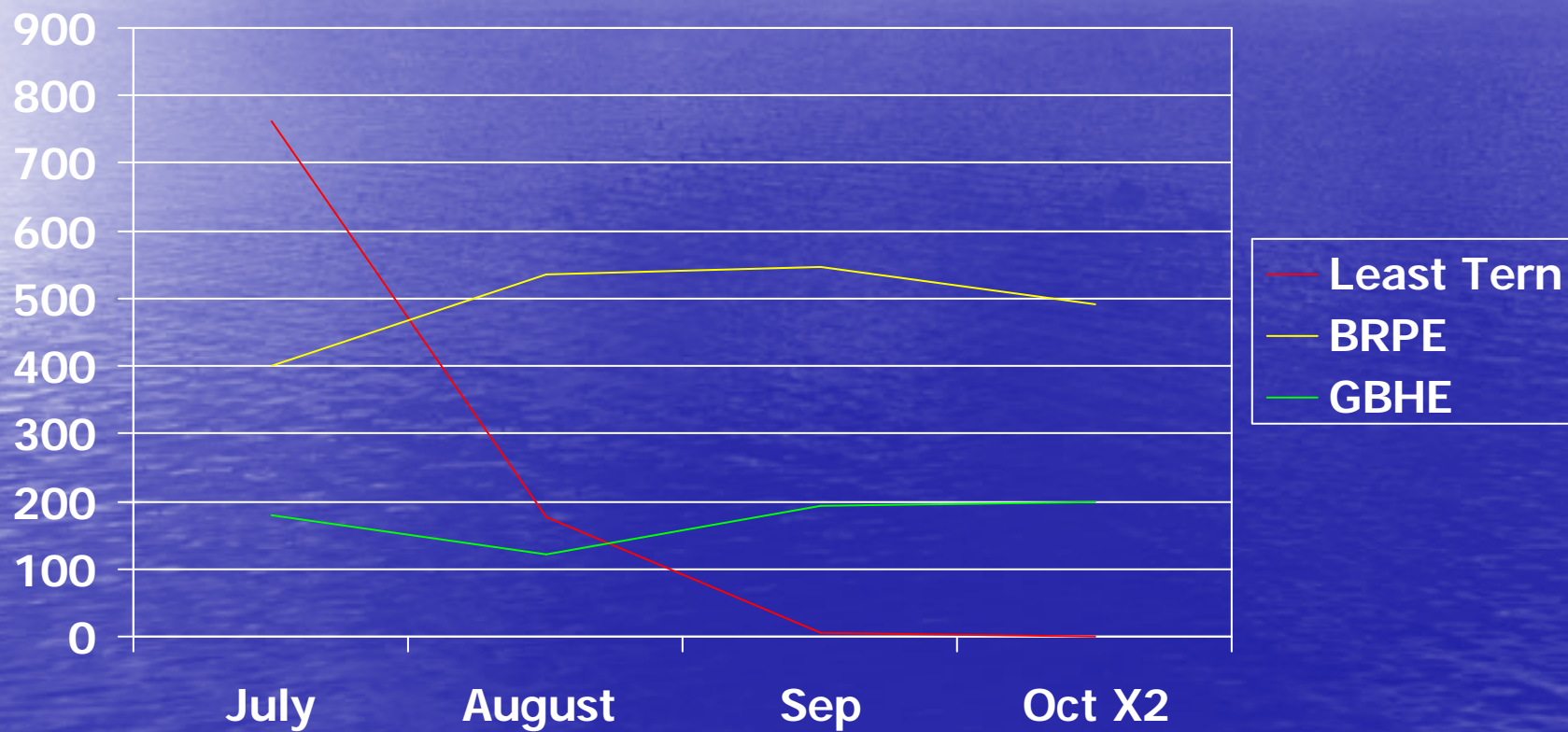
# Some of the Species Observed

Common residents	Less Common Residents	Common migrants	Occasional	Species of Special Concern
Brown Pelican	Willet	Black Tern	Gull Billed Tern	Reddish Egret
Great Blue Heron	Osprey	Common Tern	Great Egret	Snowy Egret
Laughing Gull	Green Heron	Herring Gull	Northern Gannet	Snowy Plover
Royal Tern	Black Bellied Plover	Sandwich Tern	Bald Eagle	Black Skimmer
Forester's Tern(F-W-S)	Piping Plover	Sanderling		Least Tern

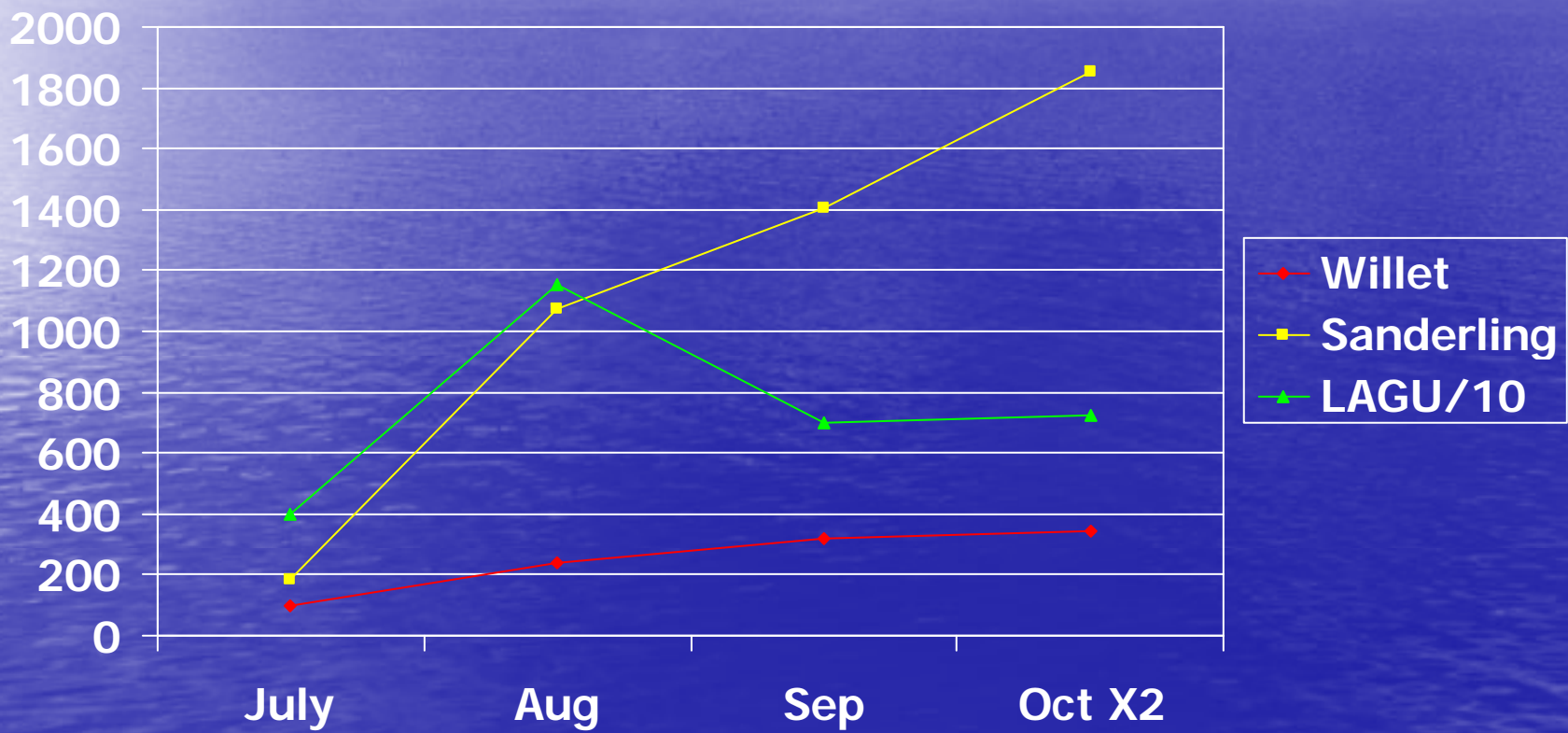
# Count Statistics

- Over 38,000 birds counted
- 6237 on one day (21 Aug)
- 70% Laughing Gulls (27,000)
- 44 Species
- Approximately 600 Volunteer Hours

# Count Trends for Least Tern, Brown Pelican and Great Blue Heron



# Count Trends for Willets, Sanderlings and Laughing Gulls



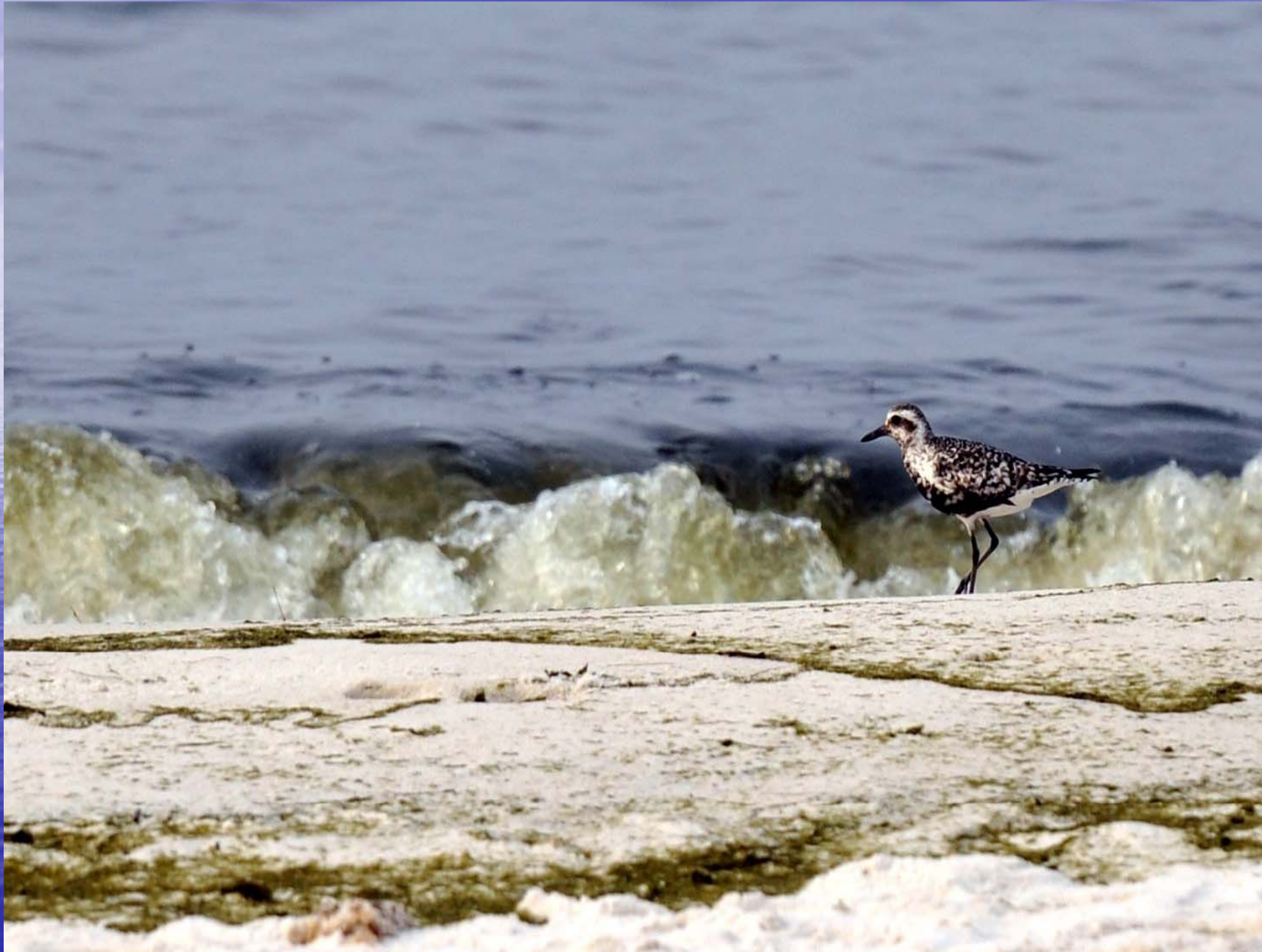
# Other Observations

- Massive Algal Bloom in Sep-Oct
- Sampled and FEDEXed to Red Tide Monitoring Contact at FWRI
- Identified as Cladorphora—Genus name for filamenticious Green Algae
- Locally called June Grass

# Willet with Mole Crab



# Black Bellied Plover



# Summary

- Volunteers have collected a large database of Panhandle Shorebirds numbers
- Data is available for further analysis and integration with other agencies collection efforts
- No evidence found for oil contact or direct mortality
- Oil contamination in surf zone could impact food supply and future reproductive success
- Plan to continue survey next July
- Massive bloom of Cladophora plastered Panhandle beaches---oil related?

# Thanks to our Volunteers!!!!!!

Elizabeth Bittner

Sylvia Cowen

Phyllis Cheney

Lenny Fenimore

Susan Forsyth

Norene Gideon

Heather Giddings

Shelly Langshaw

Christina Larson

Anita Page

April Rieveschi

Kathleen Root

Charlie Saleeby

Nelda Seever

Cynthia Turner and Daughter Ali

Karen Wagoner