

NESTING BIRDS SHOULD NOT BE DISTURBED!

To protect this small nesting site, certain areas have been restricted for recreational use from May until August. This island is the only place in Maryland where black skimmers, royal terns, and common terns successfully breed. The closure acts as a small buffer so that the birds can nest and hatch safely during the busy summer months.

Boaters should be wary to closed off areas and make note of all regulatory signage to both protect the birds and yourself.



WARNING:

ENTERING RESTRICTED AREAS
IS A VIOLATION OF MARY-
LAND STATE LAW WHICH
CARRIES A FINE UP TO \$1,500
FOR FIRST OFFENSE AND
\$4,000 AND/OR ONE YEAR
FOR A SECOND OFFENSE

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ATTENTION!

Bird Islands: Natural Habitat for
Endangered Birds



STAY OFF BIRD ISLANDS!

These precious islands are located
in the Isle of Wight & Assawoman
Bays near the Route 50 Bridge.
They are closed to people and
pets from May - August.

Make a Difference, Help Preserve the Endangered Species



PROBLEM:

Boaters operating and landing their vessels in areas which serve as critical nesting and feeding habitats for endangered bird species such as Black Skimmers, Royal Terns and Common Terns.

Hiking or walking on the island may scare birds away from their nests, leaving the eggs unprotected and exposed to predation and the hot sun. The eggs are well camouflaged and difficult to spot even when you're looking for them.

Clamming or walking on the mud flats may disturb feeding practices of the adults and chicks.

On some occasions boaters allow their pets to roam which results in disturbed birds, trampled eggs and exposed chicks.

Coupled with the natural loss of habitat and predation, human disturbance can so severely stress the birds that nesting failure, malnutrition and starvation may occur.



SOLUTION:

Boaters should be wary of closed off areas and make note of all regulatory signage to both protect the birds and yourself.



THE EASIEST, SAFEST SOLUTION IS TO STAY CLEAR OF AND EXERCISE CAUTION AROUND BIRDS NESTING AND FEEDING IN THE COASTAL BAYS.

"To be able to have something like this around is special...You don't see that very often,"

-Senator Ben Cardin

Two of our many protected islands are pictured below. Please respect signage throughout the bays on the protected islands.

