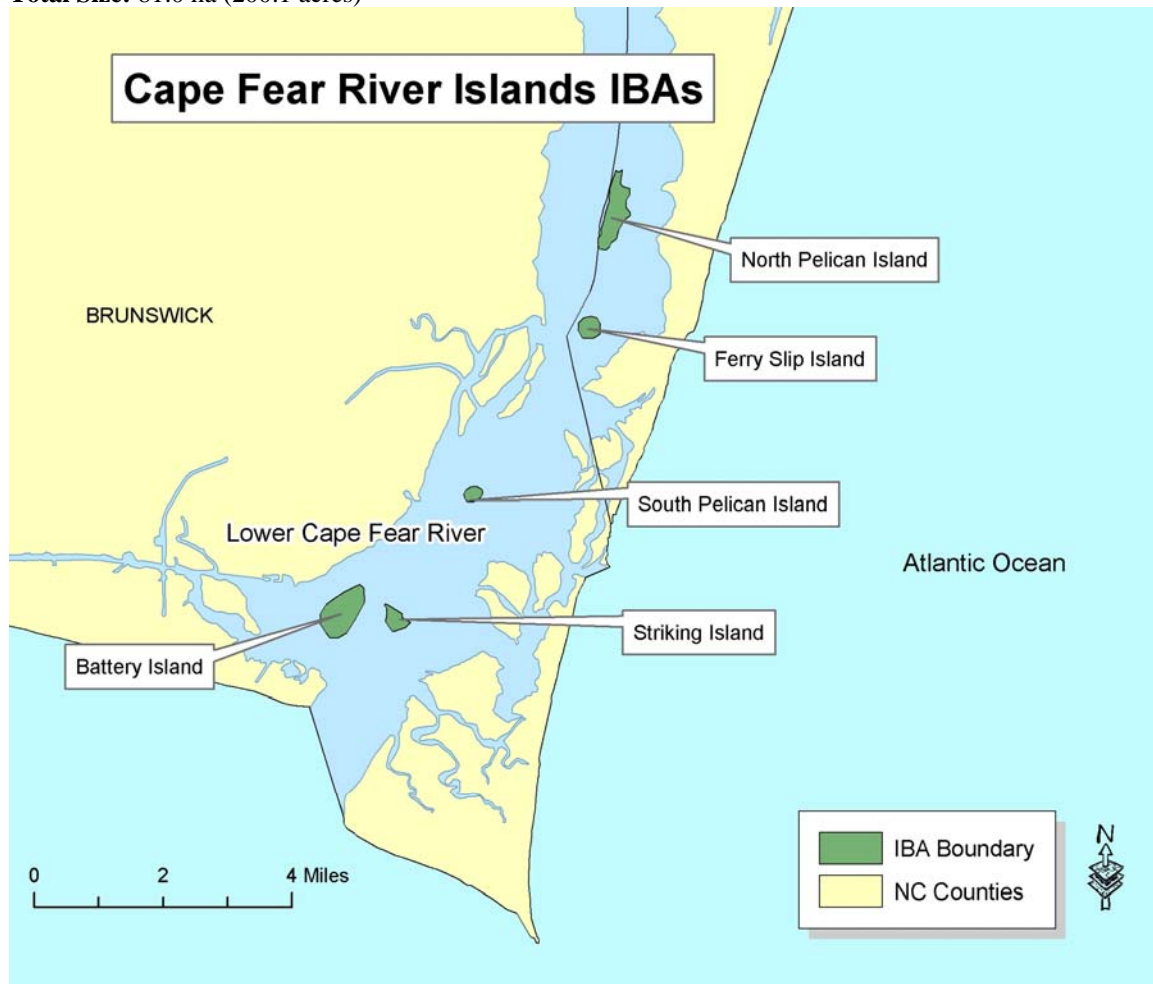


North Pelican Island

Location: New Hanover County

Total Size: 81.0 ha (200.1 acres)



Site Description: North Pelican Island is comprised of several islands located in the lower Cape Fear River, south of Wilmington. The island is located along the Cape Fear River channel and has received deposits of dredged sand in the distant past. No recent deposit of dredged sand has occurred, which has resulted in the formation of shrub thickets on the uplands. These shrub thickets have supported nesting wading birds for many years. The site is posted and patrolled, and is off-limits to all visitors.

Habitats: saltmarsh, shrub/scrub

Land Use: wildlife conservation

Primary Threats: disturbance to nesting birds

Protection Status: The site is protected and managed by the National Audubon Society and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

Conservation Issues: The island is posted, patrolled and is entirely off-limits to visitors during the nesting season from 1 April to 1 September. Human disturbance is a significant concern, because disturbances can result in egg or chick loss, nest abandonment and colony abandonment.

Birds: The North Pelican Island complex consists of several small, upland islands that support nesting wading birds, Brown Pelicans and Laughing Gulls. Nine species of wading birds nest on the site. The uplands are surrounded by contiguous high and low saltmarsh forming one island. Marsh Wrens nest in the

marsh, along with Clapper Rails. Several pairs of Willets and American Oystercatchers also breed on the site.

Key Bird Species

Criteria		Season	Number	Year	% '01	'97-'01	% '97-'01
2a	Brown Pelican	B	583 prs.	2001	12.8 %	276 prs.	6.1 %
3a	Great Egret	B	93 prs.	2001	2.5 %	73 prs.	2.1 %
2a	Snowy Egret	B	63 prs.	2001	18.1 %	80 prs.	18.6 %
2a	Tricolored Heron	B	108 prs.	2001	8.9 %	76 prs.	7.2 %
2a	Little Blue Heron	B	16 prs.	2001	1.2 %	33 prs.	3.3 %
3a	Black-crowned Night-Heron	B	30 prs.	2001	11.5 %	13 prs.	5.7 %
3a	Cattle Egret	B	18 prs.	2001	5.3 %	77 prs.	5.4 %
2a	Glossy Ibis	B	29 prs.	2001	4.8 %	19 prs.	2.1 %
3ei	Waterbirds	B	940 prs.	2001			

B=Breeding FM=Fall Migration SM=Spring Migration W=Winter