

This spring, I will be participating in a program which utilizes fishing guides and other people who are on the water frequently as information gatherers about the state of affairs on spoil islands in the Upper Laguna Madre during the breeding season for local birds. The program, called *Eyes on the Islands*, is described in the pdf file associated with the picture of the laughing gull below the title of this blog on the previous page. Click on the picture to view the file. I am excited to play a small role in the ongoing efforts to preserve habitat for the shorebirds and wading birds who need nesting sites like these in order to generate more of their kind. Populations of some of these birds are in decline--the habitat they need is always under threat from mankind. On that note, please respect all posted signs related to birds and their nesting habits! Stay well away from spoil banks with such signs. It is NOT OKAY to walk around among screeching birds while throwing a cast net, or to set up a picnic on these islands. Such activities stress the birds out at the very least and may cause them to abandon their nests. In some cases, if they do abandon them, they won't have time to set up another site and successfully breed.