

SEA TURTLE REPORT

Hot Summer Temps Produce More Female Sea Turtles

By Maria Lamb

It was an unusually hot and dry summer across South Florida, according to the National Weather Service, with several cities setting new records for summer heat! Labor Day weekend marks the unofficial end of the summer season and are we finally going to see a break in the hot and steamy temperatures?



How do you know the nest hatched? By observing the presence of a noticeable depression or sinking of the sand on top of the nest.

What does higher temperature mean to sea turtle eggs? Based on research from NOAA Fisheries, rising temperatures are turning major sea turtle populations female! When a mother sea turtle comes ashore and digs a nest on our beach, the sex of the embryo is yet to be determined. Unlike humans, where sex is determined by genetics, the sex of a baby sea turtle is determined by the temperature of the nest during critical stages of development. This biological term is called “temperature dependent sex determination” (TSD). Warmer sands generally produce more females; cooler sands more males! With Mother Nature cranking up the heat this summer, warming the nests, many sea turtle eggs hatched in Marco will tend to favor more female babies. Just remember the common adage, “hot chicks and cool dudes.” Might be good news for male sea turtles – they may have more access to female partners. When you see a sea turtle hatchling scrambling towards the water’s edge – we can assume it’s a girl!



Photo by Tonya Long, FWC

Based on research, rising temperatures are turning major sea turtle populations into females! The sex of a baby sea turtle is determined by the temperature of the nest during critical stages of development. Warmer sand generally produces more females; cooler sand - more males! Hot chicks and cool dudes!

Sea Turtle Activity August 31-September 8, 2026

Beach	Nests		False Crawls		Hatched Nests		
	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	Disoriented
Barefoot	247	300	257	280	179	248	12
Delnor Wiggins	61	65	63	99	54	61	2
Vanderbilt	204	274	228	205	147	233	25
Parkshore	240	217	184	272	178	182	42
City of Naples	316	268	291	224	215	225	28
Keewaydin Is.	636	556	802	736	439	433	0
Sea Oat Island	37	19	36	24	23	11	0
Marco Island	170	118	251	310	112	77	16
Kice and Cape Romano	183	188	305	216	128	62	0
10,000 Islands	138	155	165	171	93	109	0
Collier County Totals	1931	2160	2335	2537	1336	1641	81

To report dead, injured or disoriented sea turtles on Marco call 239-289-9736 or 239-289-9687



Collier Clerk Alerts Public After Fake \$20 Bill Received at Main Office

The Collier County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller is advising residents and local businesses to carefully inspect cash payments prior to acceptance after the Clerk’s Office received two fake \$20 bills that appear real at first glance but are absurdly fake. The bill was identified by Clerk staff on Friday, September 4, 2026. Although it resembled United States currency, the bill contained the words “Motion Picture Purposes” across the top. We want to use this opportunity to bring this to the public’s attention as a reminder for residents and businesses to carefully examine cash. Motion-picture and novelty bills may resemble genuine currency but are intended for entertainment purposes and have no monetary value. Attempting to use these bills as legitimate cur-

rency may result in financial loss and could carry criminal consequences. Check for wording such as “For Motion Picture Purposes.” Genuine \$20 bills also contain several security features, including a portrait watermark, an embedded security thread, and color-shifting ink on the numeral 20. Information about identifying genuine United States currency is available at USCurrency.gov. As we approach our busy season, residents and businesses should remain alert, particularly when accepting cash. Anyone who believes they have received suspected counterfeit currency should avoid attempting to spend or return the bill and contact local law enforcement or a financial institution for assistance. For more information, visit the clerk’s website www.CollierClerk.com.



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**Offers are valid from Monday – Friday, until October 31, 2026 for select services. Services are subject to availability and must be booked in advance. Gratuity and tax are not included. Can't be combined with any other discount, offer, or promotion.*

