**Houston Audubon | Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary**

**Talking Points**

*This is a script volunteers can use when speaking to the community about the negative impacts of the Sanderling housing development on the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary.*

* Hello, My name is [Name], and I’m a volunteer with the Houston Audubon Society.
* Do you have a few minutes to learn about the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary and how it is at risk from a nearby housing development?
* This globally important bird area is a critical habitat for the federally protected Black Rail, Piping Plover and Red Knot among many other species.
* It is not just a sanctuary; it is a haven for thousands of birds, playing a pivotal role in their wintering, migrating and breeding cycles. Birders from around the world visit the area, drawn by its unique and vibrant birdlife.
* The housing development will:
* Alter the natural hydrological cycles of the area
* Contaminate the water with harmful chemicals and stormwater runoff
* Harm wildlife with increased development, artificial lighting, traffic and noise
* Deter birds from wintering, migrating, and breeding
* Reducing bird populations will also negatively impact our local economy, which is heavily influenced by tourism.
* Our goal is to express our dismay with the Sanderling housing development to our local elected officials and educate them about the harmful impacts coastal developments can have on birds and other wildlife. We also request a more thorough review of coastal development applications in the future.
* You can visit [houstonaudubon.org/sanctuaries/bolivar-flats](http://houstonaudubon.org/sanctuaries/bolivar-flats) to learn how to take action. You can download our social media toolkit and repost the graphics on your accounts, get a yard sign or sticker decal, access templates and scripts to call and email your local elected officials, and sign up for email updates.
* Thank you for your time!