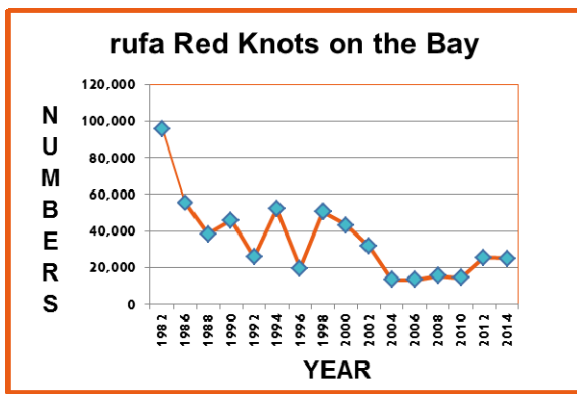


May on the Bay

Every May, the Delaware Bay hosts the largest spawning population of horseshoe crabs on the Atlantic Coast and **up to half a million** shorebirds of various species descend on the Delaware Bay to restore energy reserves lost after long flights from the Southern Hemisphere.

But this Story has Changed.

Overharvesting of horseshoe crabs in the 1990s, has drastically reduced the number of eggs available for shorebirds.



Red knot population estimates were collected from aerial counts. No aerial counts were conducted during the years 1984, 1985, or 2009; the value for 2009 is a peak ground count. Values for 2012-2013 are derived from the baywide aerial count and simultaneous ground counts for areas including Mispillion Harbor, DE, and Egg Island, NJ.



The Players



Red Knot



Ruddy Turnstone



Semipalmated Sandpiper



Short-billed Dowitcher



Sanderling

Photos by Jan van de Kam

By The Numbers:

Each female horseshoe crab lays **80,000** eggs

80% decline in shorebird population in 1990s

Shorebirds travel as much as **9,000 Miles**

Shorebirds need to put on **2X** their weight

53% of rufa Red Knots left the Bay in good condition in 2014

Take Action to Help Delaware Bay Shorebirds:

Visit www.CelebrateDEBay.org

