

Passing along a message from the Duval Audubon Society:

Huguenot Memorial Park has one of the largest breeding colonies of Royal Terns, Laughing Gulls, Least Terns and other shorebirds in the state. They nest in the dunes and once the chicks hatch, they come out onto the beach into a protected no-driving zone on the north end of the beach to mature until they become flight capable. Unfortunately, some of the flightless Royal Tern and Laughing Gull chicks are spilling out of the restricted driving zone and coming into conflict with beach drivers, often with fatal consequences for the chicks. Several were run over and killed by beach drivers just last weekend.

The best/most effective way you can help reduce this hazard to these fragile chicks is to send a comment to the Mayor of Jacksonville at her official COJ contact site: <https://www.jacksonville.gov/mayor/contact-us>

Suggested text:

"I have personally visited (or have been made aware by others who have visited) Huguenot Memorial Park recently and noticed there were a large number of slow moving flightless chicks on the beach outside/south of the no-driving zone at the north end of the beach. These chicks are in danger of being run over, especially during busy weekend days. In fact, I've learned that some already have been killed. I am asking the City of Jacksonville to temporarily enlarge the no-driving zone further south. It would be the humane thing to do and would only need to be in effect for a short time until the chicks fledge. There would be no cost to the City and minimal inconvenience. Shorebird and seabird populations have declined significantly over the past 50 years."

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The latest ecological disaster keeping me up at night is Artificial Intelligence. [The amount of energy](#) – and water – required to run the computers producing “generative AI,” like Chat GPT, is astronomical.

Google’s emissions are up 48% in 5 years. Microsoft’s are up 30% since 2020. Those soaring figures are being driven by mass investments in data centers to power AI tools.

And cryptocurrency mining is just as bad.

For all the efficiency and green energy investments and progress being made around the world reducing emissions, more and more demands for more and more power, largely from more advanced computing, is offsetting it all. By 2030, enormous data centers – think gigantic, Amazon.com distribution center scale buildings – housing powerful computers required to run AI and crypto mining could consume 8% of energy in the US. In 2022, their percentage was 3.

These data centers are also increasingly being linked to adverse human health impacts, like at [this Bitcoin mining town in Texas](#).

LINK: <https://disconnect.blog/generative-ai-is-a-climate-disaster/>

LINK: <https://time.com/6982015/bitcoin-mining-texas-health/>

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How Olympic organizers in Paris attempted to make these [the most “lean and green” Games](#) in modern history.

LINK: <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/article/2024/jul/15/french-revolution-can-paris-deliver-the-leanest-greenest-olympics-yet>

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[Recycling was a lie](#) — a big lie — to sell more plastic.

LINK: <https://www.cbc.ca/documentaries/the-passionate-eye/recycling-was-a-lie-a-big-lie-to-sell-more-plastic-industry-experts-say-1.5735618>

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A North Atlantic Right Whale, one of the most endangered mammals on earth, was seen off the coast of Ireland [for the first time in memory there](#). These are the whales that calf off the southeastern coast of the US, including north Florida.

LINK: <https://www.donegaldaily.com/2024/07/16/near-extinct-whale-makes-surprise-appearance-off-donegal-2/>