

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary; June 12– June 18, 2008
(Bodie Island, Hatteras, and Ocracoke Districts)

Piping Plover:

Observations	Thurs 6/12	Fri 6/13	Sat 6/14	Sun 6/15	Mon 6/16	Tues 6/17	Weds 6/18
Oregon Inlet	2	1	1	1	2	2	1
Cape Point	8	7	6	3	2	2	1
South Beach	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Overwash Fans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatteras Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Ocracoke	0	1	0	2	0	2	1
S. Ocracoke	3	4	6	6	6	6	5

PIPL Update:

Bodie Island:

Nest 6 continues to be incubated. As of 6/18 there were still 2 eggs in the nest. Twice-daily monitoring begins 6/20 in anticipation of the expected 6/24 hatch date.

Hatteras Island:

Cape Point area - The two chicks from Brood 4 continue to forage in the area of the Salt Pond drainage. The 25 day fledge date for Brood 4 is 6/27. Nest 5 (three-egg nest) hatched three chicks on 6/16, but one chick was missing on the evening of 6/18. Nest 10 was discovered on South Beach as a four-egg clutch on 6/12 and was exclosed that day. A fourth pair at Cape Point has been observed copulating and scraping.

Ocracoke Island:

Up to two PIPL have been foraging in the pre-nesting closure at the north end, but no breeding activity has been observed.

On South Point, the three chicks from Brood 2 have stayed on the soundside and the 25 day fledge date is 6/30. Nest 3 hatched one chick from a two-egg clutch on 6/13. The 25 day fledge date for Brood 3 is 7/7.

Nest 11 was found with 1 egg on 6/13, and is located near where Nest 7 was lost. That nest was exclosed with three eggs on 6/16 and was a four-egg clutch on 6/18.

There have been observations of PIPL foraging along the ocean shoreline within the southern foraging closure.

Nests/Brood data:

PIPL Nest 1 (Cape Point) was lost due to storm.

PIPL Nest 2 (Ocracoke) hatched 6/6. The three chicks were 13 days old on 6/18.

PIPL Nest 3 (Ocracoke) hatched on 6/13. The chick was six days old on 6/18.

PIPL Nest 4 (Cape Point) hatched three chicks on 6/3. The two remaining chicks were 16 days old on 6/18.

PIPL Nest 5 (Cape Point) hatched three chicks on 6/16. On 6/18 only two chicks were observed at three days old.
PIPL Nest 6 (Bodie Island) is expected to hatch on or around 6/24.
PIPL Nest 7 (Ocracoke) was lost due to a storm.
PIPL Nest 8 (Ocracoke) was abandoned after two eggs were predated.
PIPL Nest 9 (Cape Point) is expected to hatch on or around 7/5.
PIPL Nest 10 (South Beach) was found as a four-egg clutch on 6/12 and has an unknown hatch date, but will hatch prior to 7/7.
PIPL Nest 11 (Ocracoke) is expected to hatch on or around 7/13.

Nine breeding pair (one on Bodie, five on Hatteras, three on Ocracoke) of PIPLs have been confirmed on the Seashore thus far for 2008.

Am. Oystercatchers Update:

AMOY Update: (active = # of nests w/eggs (not hatched); hatched= # of nests w/ chicks)

**33 total nests to date; 11 active nests; 15 nests lost; 7 nests hatched
17 total chicks hatched; 12 unfledged chicks; 5* chicks lost; 0 fledged chicks**

*One killed by sibling, four unknown.

Bodie Island:

2 active nest/0 hatched nests/3 nests lost

Green Island: 2 active nests/0 hatched nests/3 nests lost

Hatteras Island:

Bodie/Hatteras District (south of Pea Island NWR- Ramp 30), 2 active nests/2 hatched nests/2 nests lost

Hatteras District (Ramp 30 – Hatteras Inlet), 4 active nests/4 hatched nests/5 nests lost

Ocracoke Island:

1 active nests/1 hatched nest/2 nests lost

We have a total of 23 breeding pairs (including pairs that have lost nests). Although we documented 10 other possible pairs in territories it is becoming less likely that they will nest this breeding season.

Colonial waterbirds:

Bodie Island:

LETE colony established one mile south of Ramp 4. Many nesting attempts after the overwash event of 6/2 are being lost to fox predation.

Green Island: Black Skimmer (BLSK)/Common Tern (COTE) colony spread out on the southeast and north ends of Green Island. On 6/13 the colony was comprised of five BLSK nests and 26 COTE nests.

Hatteras Island:

Bodie/Hatteras District (Pea Island - Ramp 30):

LETE colony 2.1 miles south of Ramp 23. About 78 LETE roosting, incubating, flying around the colony on 6/17.

LETE colony 1.1 miles north of Ramp 27. About 13 LETE with three 2-egg nests, two 1-egg nests, and 2 chicks inside a nest scrape were observed on 6/17.

LETE colony 0.1 miles south of Ramp 27. About 11 LETE with three 2-egg nests observed on 6/17.

LETE colony 0.1 miles south of Ramp 27. About 11 LETE with three 2-egg nests observed on 6/17.

LETE colony 0.3 miles south of Ramp 27. About 85 LETE roosting, incubating, flying around the colony on 6/17.

Hatteras District (Ramp 30 – Hatteras Inlet):

LETE colony just north of Ramp 34. About 30 birds appear to be incubating. Two LETE chicks were also observed on 6/18.

Cape Point pre-nesting closure. Raccoon(s) ate all the eggs from more than 28 nests, including the four eggs from the black-necked stilt nest some time between 6/13-6/15.

Many scrapes present suggest the birds are attempting to re-nest.

LETE colony at Ramp 45. There were two one-egg, and 13 two-egg LETE nests on 6/18. One nest was on the east side of Ramp 45.

LETE colony at 1.7 mi east of Ramp 49. There were 20 one-egg, and 43 two-egg LETE nests, 23 chicks, 2 predated eggs and 1 abandoned nest on 6/18. Chicks were primarily 1-2 days old but some may have been as old as 6-7 days.

Ocracoke Island:

There is one main colony on the ocean beach on South Point, with a subcolony in the central portion of the big flats, and a subcolony on the South Point spit. In the main colony 43 LETE nests and 2 broods with 4 chicks, were observed by scope on 6/15. In the big flats, one bird was observed incubating on 6/13. On South Point spit, 6 nests and 1 chick were counted on 6/15. A single pair of gull-billed terns were observed copulating in the main colony, but no scrapes or nests have been found.

Other :

On June 15, 2008, a snowy plover was observed interacting with the PIPL from Brood 3. The PIPL chased the SNPL a few times, from the ocean and from near the beach where the brood was foraging. Photographs were taken. As reported by Cape Lookout National Seashore resource staff, a SNPL has been observed foraging on Portsmouth Island.

Sea turtle nests:

Weekly Nest Total: 7 loggerhead nests

Total Nests to date at CAHA: 23 (7 Ocracoke Island, 16 Hatteras Island, 0 Bodie Island)

Total False Crawls to date at CAHA: 13

Marine Mammals:

No marine mammal strandings this week.

Sea turtle Strandings (this week only):

6/13 Loggerhead at South Point on Ocracoke; too decomposed to determine anything.

6/13 Loggerhead at Ramp 2; large female.

6/17 Large loggerhead found on South Beach inside of bird closure. Necropsy revealed that turtle was a nesting female. Death was most likely caused by boat strike.

Closures - additions/modifications/removals:

Closure #	Location	Species	Date Installed
Bodie Island			
BI08-001-F	Bodie Spit	AMOY	6/18/2008
Hatteras Island			
BH08-008-A	1.0 mi N of Ramp 27	LETE	6/18/2008
HI08-001-G	Cape Point	PIPL/AMOY	6/18/2008
HI08-010-C	Ramp 34	LETE	6/13/2008

Closure intrusions since last report:

Violation type	Bodie Island			Hatteras			Ocracoke		
	ORV	Ped.	Other	ORV	Ped.	Other	ORV	Ped.	Other
Bird closure	0	3	1	0	13	1	2	2	1
Turtle closure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	3 ^a	1 ^b	0	13	1 ^c	2	2	1 ^d

^a One set of pedestrian tracks on Green Island; two sets on other areas in the Bodie Island District.

^b Dog tracks in AMOY closure south of Ramp 4.

^c Pedestrian walked a dog through the closure at Ramp 34.

^d Staff observed a boat violation on sound-side of South Point, Ocracoke. Kayakers displaced PIPL Brood 2.