

**Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary; June 19 – June 25, 2008
(Bodie Island, Hatteras, and Ocracoke Districts)**

Piping Plover:

Observations	Thurs 6/19	Fri 6/20	Sat 6/21	Sun 6/22	Mon 6/23	Tues 6/24	Weds 6/25
Oregon Inlet	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Cape Point	6	5	7	10	7	6	10
South Beach	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
Overwash Fans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatteras Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Ocracoke	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
S. Ocracoke	7	7	6	7	4	6	6

PIPL Update:

Bodie Island:

As of 6/25, PIPL Nest 6 is showing no signs of hatching. Normal incubation and switches are still occurring. The nest enclosure was checked on 6/25 and it still contains two eggs.

Hatteras Island:

A total of six PIPL pairs have been identified in the Cape Point/South Beach area of Hatteras District. Broods 4 and 5 have two chicks each and continue to do well. Nest 9 is being checked weekly until it reaches its hatch window and Nest 10 is being monitored daily for hatching.

Two new nests were found this week at Cape Point. Nest 12 was found on 6/21 as a four-egg nest. Nest 13 was found as a two egg nest on 6/22 and on 6/24 was a four-egg nest. There appears to be two to four adult additional PIPLs not associated with nests at Cape Point.

Ocracoke Island:

A total of four PIPL pairs have been identified on Ocracoke Island. The chicks from Brood 2 continues to do well while the chick from Brood 3 was determined to be lost. The four eggs in Nest 11 continue to be incubated. PIPL pairs believed to be from Nest/Brood 3 and Nest 8 were observed scraping, shell tossing and high stepping and were also observed in territorial disputes on South Point in the mudflats on 6/20.

Nests/Brood data:

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

PIPL Nest/Brood 2 (Ocracoke) consists of three chicks and continues to do well. The 35 day fledge date is Monday 7/10.

PIPL Nest/Brood 3 (Ocracoke) hatched a single chick on 6/13 and the chick was determined to be lost on 6/20.

PIPL Nest/Brood 4 (Cape Point) consists of two chicks and the brood ranges from the mouth of the small Salt Pond to ~300 m to the west (near their nest site). They are

expected to fledge on 7/7.

PIPL Nest/Brood 5 (Cape Point) consists of two chicks and are foraging in the small Salt Pond. They are expected to fledge on 7/20.

PIPL Nest 6 (Bodie Island) consists of two eggs. The nest is in the hatch window and is being monitored daily.

PIPL Nest 7 (Ocracoke) was lost due to a storm.

PIPL Nest 8 (Ocracoke) was abandoned after clutch reduction by predation.

PIPL Nest 9 (Cape Point), consists of four eggs, is expected to hatch on 7/5.

PIPL Nest 10 (South Beach) consists of four eggs and has no estimated hatch date. The nest is being monitored daily for hatching.

PIPL Nest 11 (Ocracoke) consists of four eggs and has an expected hatch date of 7/15.

PIPL Nest 12 (Cape Point) was found and exclosed on 6/21 as a four-egg nest and has an expected hatch date of 7/17. The nest was located and misidentified on 6/18 due to the proximity to a LETE colony.

PIPL Nest 13 (Cape Point) was found and exclosed on 6/22 as a two-egg nest. As of 6/24 the nest was a four-egg clutch and has an expected hatch date of 7/19.

Eleven breeding pair (1 on Bodie, 6 on Hatteras, 4 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; 5 active nests; 16 nests lost; 11 nests hatched
24 total chicks hatched; 19 unfledged chicks; 5 chicks lost; 0 fledged chicks**

Bodie Island:

2 active nests/ 0 hatched nests/ 3 nests lost

0 total chicks hatched/ 0 unfledged chicks/ 0 chicks lost/ 0 fledged chicks

Green Island: 1 active nest/ 1 hatched nests/ 3 nests lost

2 total chicks hatched/ 2 unfledged chicks/ 0 chicks lost/ 0 fledged chicks

Hatteras Island:

Bodie/Hatteras District (south of Pea Island NWR – Ramp 30): 0 active nests/ 4 hatched nests/ 4 nests lost

9 total chicks hatched/ 6 unfledged chicks/ 3 chicks lost/ 0 fledged chicks

Hatteras District (Ramp 30- Hatteras Inlet): 2 active nests/ 5 hatched nests/ 3 nests lost

11 total chicks hatched/ 9 unfledged chicks/ 2 chicks lost/ 0 fledged chicks

Ocracoke Island: 0 active nests/ 1 hatched nest/ 3 nest lost

2 total chicks hatched/ 2 unfledged chicks/ 0 chicks lost/ 0 fledged chicks

We have a total of 23 breeding pairs (including pairs that have lost nests).

AMOY chick fatality:

On Sunday, June 22, 2008, during the routine banding of American oystercatcher (AMOY) chicks on Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the Park experienced a chick fatality. This incident is currently under review by management. Pending completion of the review, Superintendent Mike Murray has suspended further banding operations on the Seashore. An experienced bird bander from North Carolina State University, with the help of three NPS employees, was on the Seashore banding pre-fledgling AMOY chicks when the event occurred. One chick, a member of a brood of three, expired after a chase-and-capture of less than two minutes. The other chicks in the brood were banded and appeared to be unaffected upon release. Earlier the same day, five other AMOY chicks had been successfully banded at three other locations. American oystercatchers, both breeding adults and chicks close to fledging, are banded to aide in the monitoring of the species in their breeding range which can help determine survival and recruitment into the population. The fatality was the first documented in the banding of more than 207 chicks and 120 adults at both Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout. The chick will be sent off for a necropsy to see if the cause of death can be determined.

Colonial waterbirds:

Bodie Island:

LETE/COTE colony established 1 mile south of Ramp 4. On 6/25, there were ~80-100 LETEs observed with six two-egg nests and one chick. There was also ~10 COTES observed with three two-egg nests and one one-egg nest. Fox depredation continues to decimate the colony but re-nesting continues.

There is a BLSK/COTE colony on the north end of Green Island. On 6/20 six BLSK nests and 23 COTE nests were observed.

Hatteras Island:

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

There is a LETE colony 2.1 miles south of Ramp 23 with 14 one egg nests, 25 two-egg nests, three three-egg nest, 31 chicks on 6/24.

There is a LETE colony 0.9 miles north of Ramp 27 with two one-egg nests, four two-egg nests, and six chicks on 6/24.

There is a LETE colony 0.1 miles north of Ramp 27 with four two-egg nests, and two chicks on 6/24.

There is a LETE colony 0.3 miles north of Ramp 27 with 11 one-egg nests, 35 two-egg nests, two three-egg nests, and 12 chicks on 6/19.

Hatteras District (Ramp 30 – Hatteras Inlet):

There is a LETE colony at Ramp 34 with 15 chicks and 25-30 birds incubating.

At Cape Point the LETE colony contains at least three chicks which have hatched since the majority of the colony was predated on 6/15.

There is a LETE colony at Ramp 45 with two one-egg, and 13 two-egg nests.

The LETE colony 1.5 miles west Ramp 45 contains 20 one-egg and 43 two-egg nests, 23 chicks, two predated eggs and one abandoned nest. The chicks range in age from a week to two weeks old.

While BLSKs have been seen at Cape Point, no nests have been found.

Ocracoke Island:

The main LETE colony on the ocean beach on South Point has 22 birds incubating and at least 12 chicks of varying ages.

A LETE subcolony in the big flats has two chicks. Another subcolony on the South Point spit has six nests and one chick.

Sea turtle nests:

Nests this Week on CAHA: 17

Total Nests* at CAHA: 40 (1 Bodie Island, 28 Hatteras Island, 11 Ocracoke Island)

Total False Crawls on CAHA: 34

*All nests are currently loggerhead nests

Turtle Stranding:

6/22 A loggerhead which had stranded in Buxton on 1/17/08 was successfully released at Lighthouse Beach.

6/22 Loggerhead; found dead near Ramp 45 in bird closure, Hatteras.

6/22 Green; found dead at South Point, Ocracoke.

Marine Mammal Stranding:

No marine mammals were stranded this week

Closures - additions/modifications/removals:

Closure #	Location	Species	Date Modified	Date Removed
BH08-002-A	0.6 mi N of Ramp 30	AMOY	6/21/2008	
BH08-005-D	1.7 mi S of Ramp 23	LETE	6/20/2008	
BH08-008-B	0.9 mi N of Ramp 27	LETE	6/20/2008	
HI08-008-A	0.4 mi N Ramp 34	AMOY	6/19/2008	
OI08-004-R	0.8 mi S of Ramp 59	AMOY		6/19/2008
OI08-007-R	Dredge Spoil	AMOY		6/19/2008

Closure intrusions since last report:

Violation type	Bodie Island			Hatteras			Ocracoke		
	ORV	Ped.	Other	ORV	Ped.	Other	ORV	Ped.	Other
Bird closure	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
Turtle closure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	0

Deliberate violations:

A deliberate violation was documented on 6/22 at three resource closures starting 0.2 miles south of Ramp 4 and extending south toward Oregon Inlet. Resource management staff and LE staff documented multiple ORV tracks through the closures as well as sign damage.

National Park Service Beach Access Report [Update for June 27, 2008](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **June 27, 2008**

CONTACT: 252-473-2111, ext. 148

On Friday, June 27, 2008, a resource protection area 1.2 south of Ramp 55 was removed after no American Oystercatcher breeding activity had been observed in two weeks. The removal reopens 1 mile of ocean shoreline for ORV and pedestrian access and reopens the Pole Road to Cable Crossing and to the Spur Road for ORV and pedestrian access to the limited soundside shoreline. Hatteras Inlet is experiencing high erosion on the shorelines and beaches in this area are very narrow. Visitors may also access the soundside shoreline by boat. There currently is no ORV or pedestrian access to “the Rip” due to the prenesting area. The protection area is clearly marked with signs and posts.