

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary; July 3 to July 9, 2008
(Bodie Island, Hatteras, and Ocracoke Districts)

Piping Plover:

Observations	Thurs 7/3	Fri 7/4	Sat 7/5	Sun 7/6	Mon 7/7	Tues 7/8	Weds 7/9
Oregon Inlet	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
Cape Point	5	8	7	9	7	6	4
South Beach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overwash Fans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatteras Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Ocracoke	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
S. Ocracoke	16	12	6	0	5	0	3

PIPL Update:

Eleven breeding pair (one on Bodie, six on Hatteras, four on Ocracoke) of PIPLs have been confirmed on the Seashore for 2008. A total of five chicks have fledged. Three nests continue to be incubated (although one is most likely infertile), three nests were lost and/or abandoned, and seven nests have hatched.

Bodie Island:

Nest 6 continues to incubate as of 7/9 and has been incubating for 43 days. The longest documented successful incubation is 38 days. The nest suffered a clutch reduction from two eggs to one egg on 7/4.

Hatteras Island:

The chicks from Brood 10 have not been seen since 7/3. Brood searches were conducted on 7/4 and 7/5, but no chicks were found. The adults believed to be from this nest were observed without chicks at the Salt Pond on 7/6. Nest 13, previously a four-egg nest, lost three eggs last week, most likely to ghost crab predation. Nests 9 and 12 hatched three chicks each on 7/2 and both broods moved to the small Salt Pond. On 7/4 the broods partially merged into a brood of 4 chicks and a brood of a single chick and one chick was presumed lost. The broods were reduced to two and one on 7/6 and one and one the morning of 7/8 and then just one the afternoon of 7/8 after a monitor observed predation by a herring gull. The remaining chick from the two broods was lost on the afternoon of 7/9 after a monitor observed it being taken by a fish crow.

Ocracoke Island:

On 7/5, no PIPLs or scrapes were observed near Nest 3, where previous activity had been found. On the same day, 5 adult PIPLs were seen exhibiting territorial behavior (horizontal threat display, aerial flight display) near Nest 2. On 7/7, two adult PIPLs were seen near Nest 8 area. The male was observed scraping.

Up to 16 migrating PIPLs have been seen foraging on the flats of South Point.

Nest/Brood data:

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

PIPL Nest/Brood 2 (Ocracoke) fledged three chicks on 7/4. They were observed flying distances greater than 15 meters.

PIPL Nest/Brood 3 (Ocracoke) was determined lost on 6/20.

PIPL Nest/Brood 4 (Cape Point) fledged two chicks on 7/1.

PIPL Nest/Brood 5 (Cape Point) consists of two chicks which should fledge ~7/20.

PIPL Nest 6 (Bodie Island) has most likely failed.

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

PIPL Nest 8 (Ocracoke) was abandoned on 6/4 after two of the three eggs were predated.

PIPL Nest/Brood 9 (Cape Point) was lost on 7/9.

PIPL Nest/Brood 10 (South Beach) was lost on 7/4.

PIPL Nest 11 (Ocracoke) is continuing to incubate four eggs. The estimated hatch date is 7/13.

Nest/Brood 12 (Cape Point) was lost on 7/9.

Nest 13 (Cape Point) continues to be incubated as single-egg nest and the estimated hatch date is 7/21.

Am. Oystercatchers Update:

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

**32 total nests to date; 0 active nests; 19 nests lost; 13 nests hatched
26 total chicks hatched; 12 unfledged chicks; 8 chicks lost; 6 fledged chicks**

Bodie Island:

0 active nest/2 hatched nests/3 nests lost

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

(Chicks should fledge on or around 8/9 and 8/11.)

Green Island: 0 active nests/1 hatched nests/3 nests lost

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

(Chicks should fledge on or around 7/25)

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; 3 unfledged chicks; 5 chicks lost; 1 fledged chick

(Chicks should fledge on or around 7/25.)

Hatteras District (Ramp 30 – Hatteras Inlet), 0 active nests/5 hatched nests/6 nests lost

11 total chicks hatched; 3 unfledged chicks; 3 chicks lost; 5 fledged chicks

(Chicks should fledge within the next week, two and one by 7/20.)

Ocracoke Island: 0 active nests/1 hatched nest/3 nests lost; 2 total chicks hatched; 2 unfledged chicks; 0 chicks lost; 0 fledged chicks (Chicks should fledge within the next week.)

Colonial Waterbird Update:

Bodie Island:

A LETE colony established 1 mile south of Ramp 4 has more than a dozen LETE nests. On 7/8, 152 LETE and four COTE were observed in the area.

Hatteras Island:

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

A LETE colony 2.1 miles south of Ramp 23 has three two-egg nests and 20 chicks.

A LETE colony 0.9 miles north of Ramp 27 has approximately 25 birds; a mixture of adults and fledged chicks (~5). There are also a one-egg nest and one two-egg nest.

A LETE colony, 0.1 miles south of Ramp 27 has five LETE flying around, no chicks or nests.

A LETE colony, 0.3 miles south of Ramp 27 has seven one-egg nests, two two-egg nests, 29 chicks and about 60 adults.

A Black Skimmer/Common Tern colony on the north end of Green Island has three BLSK and three COTE incubating with multiple COTE roosting near the water's edge. No BLSK or COTE chicks observed.

Hatteras District (Ramp 30 – Hatteras Inlet):

A LETE colony north of Ramp 34 has seven one-egg and 34 two-egg nests. There are 35 chicks of various ages.

A LETE colony at South Beach, 1.5 miles west of Ramp 45 has 17 incubating pairs and 16 chicks ranging from five to 15 days old.

A LETE colony at Cape Point Center has two chicks and two nests.

A LETE colony at Ramp 45 has two chicks and two one-egg and five two-egg nests.

Ocracoke Island:

The main LETE colony on the ocean beach on South Point has seven incubating nests and three pairs with chicks.

A LETE subcolony in the central portion of the big flats has one visible chick.

A LETE subcolony on the South Point spit has three incubating pairs and two pairs with chicks.

Sea Turtle Nests:

Nests this Week on CAHA: 10

Total Nests at CAHA: 61* (1 Bodie Island; 44 Hatteras Island; 16 Ocracoke Island)

Total False Crawls on CAHA: 62

*2 Green nests; 59 Loggerhead nests

Turtle Closure Expansions For the Upcoming Week

On 7/16/2008 a turtle nest enclosure 1.2 miles north of Ramp 34 will be expanded to a full beach closure. This will close off another 0.9 mile to ORVs.

Marine Mammals (this week only):

None.

Sea turtle Strandings (this week only):

One sea turtle stranding occurred on 7/8/2008. It was a juvenile green on the South Point of Ocracoke.

Closures - additions/modifications/removals:

Closure #	Location	Species	Date Installed
Bodie Spit			
BI08-002-C	0.3 mi S of Ramp 4	AMOY	7/5/2008
Hatteras Island			
HI08-008-A-R	0.5 mi N of Ramp 34	AMOY	7/4/2008 (removed)
Ocracoke			
OI08-002-B	North end of Ocracoke	AMOY	7/7/2008

Closure intrusions since last report:

Violation type	Bodie Island			Hatteras			Ocracoke		
	ORV	Ped.	Other	ORV	Ped.	Other	ORV	Ped.	Other
Bird closure	1	7	1 ^a	0	7	1 ^a	0	5	1 ^a
Turtle closure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	7	1	0	7	1	0	5	1

^a Dog(s) in closures.