

**Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary;
July 10 to July 16, 2008
(Bodie Island, Hatteras, and Ocracoke Districts)**

Piping Plover:

Observations	Thur 7/10	Fri 7/11	Sat 7/12	Sun 7/13	Mon 7/14	Tues 7/15	Weds 7/16
Oregon Inlet	2	3	2	2	2	1	0
Cape Point	4	4	4	4	4	4	0
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	1	0	0	0	0	0	6
S. Ocracoke	5	2	2	3	18	14	23

PIPL Update:

Bodie Island:

Nest 6 continues to incubate, with incubation switches being observed, even though the incubation period has lasted 50 days. At this point we suspect that the egg is infertile. The egg has not been removed from the nest on the chance that a re-nest by the pair was missed.

Hatteras Island:

The last egg in Nest 13 was discovered lost to ghost crab predation on 7/13. Brood 5 fledged on 7/15 after spending time moving east from the small Salt Pond to the ocean inter-tidal zone near the by-pass entrance/exit.

Ocracoke Island:

Migrating PIPLs continue to move through on South Point. Large groups of PIPLs, ten to 19, have been observed foraging on South Point spit. Six migratory PIPL were observed foraging on north end spit 7/16. One scrape was found 7/10 in Nest 3 area on south point. Scrape was not maintained and was blown in 7/15 and 7/16. Territorial scraping was observed 7/14 near Nest 8 site. Scrapes were not maintained and no scrapes were found on 7/15. Nest 11 hatched three chicks sometime between the PM on 7/10 and the AM on 7/11. The adults were still on the nest in PM of 7/12 and four chicks were seen in the morning of 7/12. On 7/13, only two chicks were present. Adults moved chicks south along the dunes, then west into heavy vegetation where they disappeared. Last observation of two chicks was 7/13 at 10:30am and Brood 11 is presumed lost to predation.

Nests/Brood data:

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

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

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

PIPL Nest/Brood 4 (Cape Point), consisting of two fledglings, continues to forage in flats on Cape Point.

PIPL Nest/Brood 5 (Cape Point) fledged 7/15.

PIPL Nest 6 (Bodie Island) continues to incubate their one egg, but the egg past its hatch window.

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

PIPL Nest 8 (Ocracoke) was abandoned after two eggs were predated.

PIPL Nest/Brood 9 (Cape Point) chicks lost to predation.

PIPL Nest/Brood 10 (South Beach) chicks lost to predation.

PIPL Nest/Brood 11 (Ocracoke) chicks lost to predation.

PIPL Nest/Brood 12 (Cape Point) chicks lost to predation.

Nest 13 (Cape Point) was lost to ghost crab predation.

11 breeding pair (one on Bodie, six on Hatteras and four on Ocracoke) of PIPLs have been confirmed on the Seashore for 2008. Seven chicks have fledged.

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; 17 nests lost; 15 nests hatched

26 total chicks hatched; 10 unfledged chicks; 8 chicks lost; 8 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

Green Island;

0 active nest/1 hatched nests/3 nest 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; 3 unfledged chicks; 5 chicks lost; 1 fledged chicks

Hatteras District (Ramp 30 – Hatteras Inlet);
2 active nests/5 hatched nests/4 nests lost
11 total chicks hatched; 1 unfledged chicks; 3 chicks lost; 7 fledged chicks

Ocracoke Island:

0 active nests/1 hatched nest/3 nests lost
2 total chicks hatched; 2 unfledged chicks; 0 chicks lost; 0 fledged chicks

A banded AMOY fledgling from the Sandy Bay brood was discovered with a broken wing on 7/16. The bird was transported for treatment. The diagnosis was the break was caused by impact trauma and the prognosis was a 20 percent chance of the recovery of flight.

Colonial Waterbirds:

Bodie Island:

A LETE colony established 1 mile South of Ramp 4. On 7/16, there were 38 BLSK adults with one 2-egg, three 1-egg, and one nest with three BLSK eggs and one COTE egg. There were LETE 30 adults on the South end of the colony with two 2-egg and two 1-egg nests.

Hatteras Island:

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

A LETE colony 2.1 miles South of Ramp 23 has about 42 adults, about seven fledged chicks and one unfledged chick.

A LETE colony 0.9 miles North of Ramp 27 has approximately 27 adults and eight fledged chicks.

A LETE colony 0.1 miles South of Ramp 27 was lost or abandoned by 7/15.

A LETE colony, 0.3 miles South of Ramp 27 has ~65 adults and ~24 fledged chicks.

A Black Skimmer/Common Tern colony on the North end of Green Island has nine BLSK nests and 9 COTE nests (and one abandoned egg).

Hatteras District (Ramp 30 – Hatteras Inlet):

A LETE colony north of Ramp 34 has four incubating adults, 10 chicks of various ages and at least 32 fledglings.

A LETE colony at South Beach, 1.5 miles west of Ramp 45 has three one-egg nests, five two-egg nests, six chicks and 22 fledglings.

A LETE colony at Cape Point Center has six fledglings, two chicks and one single-egg nest.

A LETE colony at Ramp 45 has seven fledglings and no visible nests.

Ocracoke Island:

On 7/10 a survey found that the main LETE colony on the ocean beach on South Point has no chicks or eggs. On 7/15 at the northern edge of the main colony one two-egg nests and five scrapes were found. A LETE subcolony on the South Point spit has five two-egg nests, five chicks and four fledgelings as of 7/10.

Sea Turtle Nests:

Nests this Week on CAHA: 15

Total Nests at CAHA: 76 (1 Bodie Island; 55 Hatteras Island; 20 Ocracoke Island)

Total False Crawls on CAHA: 68

* 2 Green nest; 74 Loggerhead nests

Upcoming Sea Turtle Nest Expansions:

7/21 Turtle nest in Avon Village south of the Pier. This nest will be a full beach closure. There will be no pedestrian access in the closure.

7/21 Turtle nest inside of the Pedestrian Corridor south of Ramp 44 will be expanded. This will result in the pedestrian corridor being shortened to .3 miles.

7/23 Turtle nest inside the Cape Point pre-nesting closure will be expanded. There is currently no access in the area.

Marine Mammals (this week only):

7/12- Neonate Bottlenose Dolphin stranded dead S. of Rodanthe Pier. The animal was frozen for later examination.

7/14 - Short-finned Pilot whale stranded alive ~2.0 miles North of Mirlo Beach on Pea Island. Animal was euthanized and transferred to NOAA on 7/15/08.

Sea turtle Strandings (this week only):

No turtle stranding this week.

Closures - additions/modifications/removals:

Closure #	Location	Species	Date Installed
Bodie Island			
BI08-001H	Bodie Island Spit	AMOY	7/10/08
Hatteras Island			
HI08-010D	Ramp 34		7/10/08
HI08-004R	Overwash Fans	AMOY, LETE, PIPL	7/15/08 (removed)

Ocracoke			
OI08-001C	South Point	PIPL	7/11/08
OI08-001D	South Point	PIPL	7/15/08
OI08-002R	North Ocracoke	AMOY, LETE, PIPL	7/15/08 (removed)

Closure intrusions since last report:

Violation type	Bodie Island			Hatteras			Ocracoke		
	ORV	Ped	Other	ORV	Ped	Other	ORV	Ped	Other
Bird closure	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	5	0
Turtle closure	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	5	0