

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary; July 17 to July 23, 2008
(Bodie Island, Hatteras, and Ocracoke Districts)

PIPL Update:

Bodie Island:

PIPL nest 6 was being incubated on 7/17 and 7/18, with regular nest switches occurring. But on 7/19, the nest appeared to be no longer active. No adults were observed near the nest and the egg was unattended and next to a ghost crab hole, approximately 1 meter away from the nest cup. The nest cup was also not maintained. On 7/20 the egg was gone and no adults were present.

Hatteras Island:

No breeding activity.

Ocracoke Island:

No breeding activity.

Nests/Brood data:

PIPL Nest 1 (Cape Point) was lost due to storm.
PIPL Nest/Brood 2 (Ocracoke) fledged three chicks on 7/4.
PIPL Nest/Brood 3 (Ocracoke) chick was determined lost on 6/20.
PIPL Nest/Brood 4 (Cape Point), fledged two chicks on 7/2.
PIPL Nest/Brood 5 (Cape Point) fledged two chicks 7/15.
PIPL Nest 6 (Bodie Island) failed 7/20.
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.

Eleven breeding pair (one on Bodie, six on Hatteras and four on Ocracoke) of PIPLs were confirmed on the Seashore for 2008. A total of seven chicks fledged, for a productivity of .64 chicks/pair.

Future weekly reports will not duplicate the above information on the 2008 nesting season since all chicks are fledged and no more breeding is anticipated. PIPL information in future reports will be restricted to migratory and wintering bird observations.

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; 7 unfledged chicks; 9 chicks lost; 10 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 chick

The three unfledged chicks were banded on 7/23.

Hatteras District (Ramp 30 – Hatteras Inlet):

2 active nests/5 hatched nests/4 nests lost

11 total chicks hatched; 0 unfledged chicks; 4 chicks lost; 7 fledged chicks (two fledglings lost)

Ocracoke Island:

0 active nests/1 hatched nest/3 nests lost

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

A banded AMOY fledgling from the brood north of Buxton was discovered with an injured wing on 7/17. The bird was transported for treatment. The diagnosis was the injury was caused by impact to some type of line, and the prognosis was a no chance of the recovery of flight. The banded fledgling with a broken wing discovered on 7/16 at Sandy Bay, died on 7/21. Necropsy results are pending.

Colonial Waterbirds:

Green Island:

Black Skimmer/Common Tern colony North end of Green Island. On 7/18, only ~10 COTE were present and flying around. One two-egg COTE nest. All BISK nests and adults were gone.

Bodie Island:

A LETE colony established 1 mile South of Ramp 4. On 7/23, there were no adults BLSK present and all nests had been predated. There were two two-egg LETE nests, and one one-egg LETE nest.

Hatteras Island:

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

A LETE colony 2.1 miles South of Ramp 23 has approximately 10 fledglings.

A LETE colony 0.9 miles North of Ramp 27 has approximately 11 fledglings.

A LETE colony, 0.3 miles South of Ramp 27 has approximately 11 fledglings.

Hatteras District (Ramp 30 – Hatteras Inlet):

A LETE colony north of Ramp 34 had Colony was walked through. There were three one-egg nests, six two-egg nests, 1 abandoned nest. Six chicks were found ranging in age from two to eight days old. There were 61 fledglings.

A LETE colony at South Beach, 1.5 miles west of Ramp 45 had three adults in incubating posture, three chicks and 19 fledglings.

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

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

Ocracoke Island:

There is one main colony on the ocean beach on South Point, with a subcolony on the South Point spit.

- In the main colony 1 one-egg nest and 3 scrapes were found on 7/23 south of the No Pet Sign.
- On South Point spit, 1 one-egg nest, 1 two-egg nest, a nest with 1 egg and 1 chick, and 4 chicks within 1-3 days old were observed on 7/21.

Fledglings and adults from all colonies are dispersing and the number of fledglings and adults present should continue to decrease.

Sea Turtle Nests:

Nests this Week on CAHA: 18

Total Nests at CAHA: 92 (1 Bodie Island; 69 Hatteras Island; 22 Ocracoke Island)

Total False Crawls on CAHA: 82

* 3 Green nest; 89 Loggerhead nests

No nests have hatched to date.

Sea Turtle Nest Expansions:

Five nests are currently expanded and 11 more will be expanded by 7/30.

Check the beach access report for expansion locations.

Marine Mammals (this week only):

None this week.

Sea turtle Strandings (this week only):

7/18 A severely decomposed loggerhead was found north of Avon Village.

7/19 A green was discovered on Ocracoke, South Point. It was recovered for necropsy.
 7/20 A dead mature male loggerhead was discovered north of Avon Village.

Closures - additions/modifications/removals:

Closure #	Location	Species	Date Modified	Date Removed
Hatteras Island				
BH08-002-A	0.6 mi N of Ramp 30	AMOY	7/20/2008	
BH08-003-A	0.1 mi S of Ramp 27	AMOY		7/19/2008
BH08-007-A	0.6 mi S of Ramp 27	AMOY		7/17/2008
HI08-001-I	Cape Point	PIPL/AMOY/LETE		
HI08-005-C	0.4 mi N of Buxton	AMOY		7/21/2008

Closure intrusions since last report:

Violation type	Bodie Island			Hatteras			Ocracoke		
	ORV	Ped.	Other	ORV	Ped.	Other	ORV	Ped.	Other
Bird closure	0	4	0	1	4	0	1	0	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	0	1	1	0	1	0	0