

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary for March 26 – April 1, 2009
(Bodie Island, Hatteras and Ocracoke Districts)

Piping Plover (PIPL):

Observations	Thurs 3/26	Fri 3/27	Sat 3/28	Sun 3/29	Mon 3/30	Tues 3/31	Weds 4/1
Oregon Inlet	6	14	8	7	6	15	5
Cape Point	0	2	4	3	0	6	6
South Beach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatteras Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatteras Overwash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Ocracoke	1	2	3	5	5	5	1
S. Ocracoke	0	0	7	0	5	7	2

PIPL Update:

Bodie Island:

At Bodie Island Spit, walkthroughs of the habitat were conducted on March 27th and March 30th. No scrapes were found on either day. Migrating PIPLs are consistently observed in the area.

Hatteras Island:

At Cape Point, at least three pairs of PIPL were observed.

Ocracoke Island:

The two PIPLs observed at South Point on 4/1/09 were scraping in a location near one of the 2008 nest locations (Nest 2).

American Oystercatchers (AMOY):

Resightings:

During the last week of March, four birds which fledged from CAHA ('05-'08) were still being observed in Florida. As of April 1, 17 of the 23 nesting pairs have been observed on or near last year's nesting location(s).

Green Island: A known breeding pair was present on March 27. Two scrapes were identified; one on the north end in the vicinity of where the birds were roosting and one on the west end.

Bodie Island: One pair observed scraping northwest of the Bait Pond by the bridge on 4/1. The closure will be modified on 4/2 as soon as low tide enables access. Another pair was observed roosting 0.6 mi south of Ramp 4 on March 27th, not far from the area they nested last season.

A banded/unbanded pair was observed copulating at the northeast end of the Bait Pond on 4/1. It was observed that the banded bird is the male.

Bodie/Hatteras: A banded bird was present with an unbanded bird 0.8 mi north of Ramp 27 on March 28. The AMOYs north of Ramp 30 continue to scrape.

Hatteras Island: All but four individual breeding AMOYs from 2008 (of 26) have returned to the Hatteras District. On 4/1 three AMOY scrapes were discovered north of Buxton in a known pair's territory. A closure was installed on 4/2/2009.

Ocracoke Island: Two of the three 2008 breeding pairs have been observed but no breeding activity or scrapes observed. An additional unbanded, potential pair has been observed.

Colonial Waterbirds (CWB): N/A

Sea turtle nests: N/A

Marine Mammals:

3/26/2009 – A male Risso's dolphin was found dead 2.2 mi S of Ramp 59, samples were taken.

3/27/2009 - A female Risso's dolphin washed up on the beach 0.7 mi S of Ramp 45. A full necropsy was conducted onsite.

(Evidence of fisheries interaction was found on both specimens.)

Sea Turtle Strandings:

3/27/2009 - A green sea turtle was found dead at Hatteras Inlet

Closures - additions/modifications/removals:

3/28/2009 - The AMOY closure N of R30 was modified due to a scrape located 34 meters from the southern boundary of the closure. The southern end of the closure was expanded to meet the requirements of the 150 meter buffer. The north boundary was left intact.

3/30/2009 - The Hatteras Inlet pre-nesting closure was expanded by 50 m on after 17 signs were broken on 3/28/2009.

3/31/2009 - The South Beach AMOY closure was expanded 50 m to the west on after sign vandalism and theft of rope was documented on 3/28/2009.

Closure intrusions

Bodie Island:

3/27/2009 - Two pedestrians entered the PIPL closure on Bodie Spit. No damage to closure was observed.

3/31/2009 – An Army Corps of Engineers survey party passed through the PIPL closure at Bodie Island Spit. They were directed to park headquarters for a permit to coordinate their access needs with NPS Resources Management staff.

Hatteras Island:

3/28/2009 - 17 signs were broken at the Hatteras Inlet pre-nesting closure.

3/28/2009 - Two sets of horse tracks were observed in both the South Beach full beach closure and

the Cape Point pre-nesting closure.

3/28/2009 - A single horseback rider passed through the South Beach full beach closure.

3/28/2009 – Sign vandalism and theft of rope was observed at the west end of the South Beach AMOY closure.

4/1/2009 – Bare footprints were observed in the Hatteras Inlet pre-nesting closure.

4/1/2009 – At least four individual sets of footprints were observed leading into the Cape Point pre-nesting closure between Ramp 44 and the bypass.

Ocracoke Island:

None.