

**Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary for April 30 – May 6, 2009
(Bodie Island, Hatteras and Ocracoke Districts)**

Piping Plover (PIPL):

Observations	Thurs 4/30	Fri 5/1	Sat 5/2	Sun 5/3	Mon 5/4	Tues 5/5	Weds 5/6
Oregon Inlet	0	0	4	2	0	1	4
Cape Point	3	4	4	6	3	6	7
South Beach	0	1	0	1	0	0	1
Hatteras Inlet	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Hatteras Overwash	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
N. Ocracoke	2	2	0	0	0	1	0
S. Ocracoke	3	3	0	5	0	2	2

PIPL Update:

Bodie Island:

All PIPL activity is still limited to foraging. On 5/6, a single case of a low-gliding run was observed.

Other:

On 5/3, two WIPLs were flushed from roosting along the vegetation line between the dunes and the Bait Pond. They were alarmed, calling, and appeared reluctant to leave the area, so a walkthrough was conducted with no results. On 5/6, a possible WIPL scrape was observed in the fore dunes at the S end of the Bait Pond.

Hatteras Island:

On 5/2 the seashore's first PIPL nest of the season was discovered at Cape Point. It contained one egg and as of 5/6 it contained two eggs. On 5/3 Nest 2 and Nest 3 were discovered at Cape Point. Nest 2 contained three eggs on 5/4 and was exclosed. As of 5/6 Nest 2 has four eggs and is being incubated. Nest 3 contained one egg and is thought to have been buried and lost by blowing sand on 5/5 as it could not be located on 5/6. Predation could also be possible, but because of the blowing sand and rain there were no signs of predators visible. There still appears to be three additional scrape territories at Cape Point. A single pair continues to scrape on South Beach.

Ocracoke Island:

On 5/4 Nest 4 was found on South Point. It contained two eggs when found, and three eggs on 5/6 when it was exclosed. PIPL scrapes are still being found in South Point shell beds in the 2008 nest locations. Scraping activity had also been observed early in the week on the sound side of South Point, but no scrapes were found during the most recent walkthroughs of the areas.

Nests/Expected hatch dates:

Nest 1: Not incubating

Nest 2: 5/30

Nest 3: N/A Loss undetermined

Nest 4: 6/1

American Oystercatchers (AMOY):

Resightings: All known breeding pairs have been observed on the Seashore. Several unpaired (banded and unbanded) birds with no breeding histories have also been observed.

15 total nests to date; 12 active nests; 3 nests lost; 0 nests hatched

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

Green Island: 2 active nest/0 hatched nests/0 nest lost

Bodie District (Ramp 1 to Bodie Spit): 1 active nest/0 hatched nests/1 nest lost*

**An unbanded nesting AMOY was found dead near the nest on 5/3. The death was most likely due to predation by peregrine falcon. The incubating bird, also unbanded, abandoned the nest and the eggs were seen being predated by a grackle while the nesting bird stood by on 5/5. That bird was observed scraping after pairing up with another unbanded bird on 5/6.*

Bodie/Hatteras District (Rodanthe to Ramp 30): 3 active nests/0 hatched nests/1 nest lost

Hatteras District: 5 active nest/0 hatched nests/1 nest lost

Ocracoke District: 1 active nests/0 hatched nests/0 nest lost

Colonial Waterbirds (CWB):

Green Island:

No activity during last visit.

Bodie District (Ramp 1 to Bodie Spit):

5/6/2009 – The seashore's first colony has been formed at Bodie Spit. A 1-egg nest was found along with 30 scrapes and more than 50 LETE were observed. A possible BLSK scrape was found amongst the LETE scrapes.

Bodie/Hatteras District (Rodanthe to Ramp 30):

5/3/2009 - Five LETE's were observed roosting and fish-flashing inside the AMOY closure, but no

scrapes were found.

Hatteras District:

5/5/2009 - LETE's were observed scraping, roosting and fish-flashing in PIPL closure at Ramp 45.

5/5/2009 – LETE scrapes were observed in the South Beach pre-nesting closure.

Ocracoke District:

No activity observed.

Sea turtle nests: N/A

Marine Mammals:

5/2 - A common dolphin was found dead .2 mi E of R45.

Sea Turtle Strandings:

5/2 - A loggerhead sea turtle was found dead N of Buxton.

5/2 – A loggerhead sea turtle was found dead near R34.

Closures - additions/modifications/removals:

4/29/09 – Ramp 44 was closed for an AMOY scrape just south of the ramp.

4/30/09 - A closure was installed 2.9 mi s R38 for AMOY scrapes.

5/02/09 - The closure 0.1 mi S of R27 was expanded 150 meters south to accommodate an AMOY nest.

5/04/09 - The closure 0.7 mi SW of R59 was modified for AMOY scrapes.

5/05/09 - The AMOY closure on Bodie Spit by the bridge was modified (reduced) due to the AMOY pair nesting elsewhere. The pre-nesting closure boundary was re-established.

5/05/09 - The AMOY closure 3 mi SW of R59 was removed because of inactivity. The pair is actively scraping in another location.

Closure intrusions

Bodie Island:

None observed.

Hatteras Island:

None observed.

Ocracoke Island:

None observed.