

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary for May 7 – May 13, 2009
(Bodie Island, Hatteras and Ocracoke Districts)

Piping Plover (PIPL):

Observations	Thurs 5/7	Fri 5/8	Sat 5/9	Sun 5/10	Mon 5/11	Tues 5/12	Weds 5/13
Oregon Inlet	2	3	2	1	0	1	1
Cape Point	4	5	6	4	3	4	5
South Beach	2	0	0	1	1	2	1
Hatteras Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatteras Overwash	0	0	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:

On 5/7, a low-gliding run was observed between the PIPLs on Bodie Spit. PIPL activity in the sand flats is increasing, may nest there. On 5/12, a PIPL in the sand flat was observed assuming the scraping position and kicked out with its legs 2-3 times.

Other:

Horizontal threats and low-gliding runs were observed between two WIPLs on May 9th at the Bait Pond at Bodie Spit.

Hatteras Island:

There are currently four nests being incubated at Cape Point; Nest 1, Nest 2, Nest 5 and the newest, Nest 6 (discovered on 5/12). Nest 6 was discovered as a three-egg nest and was exclosed the same day. It is suspected that the nest may contain the second through fourth egg of Nest 3/Pair 3 which was a single-egg nest believed to have been covered by blowing wind.

At least two more pairs are active at Cape Point, besides the four nesting pair. A PIPL continues to scrape on the east side of South Beach, but a second bird has not been viewed in weeks. PIPL scrapes from what is believed to be a lone male were also observed 0.3 miles west of Ramp 45.

Ocracoke Island:

Nest 4 continues to be incubated. There appears to be at least one more active pair on South Point.

Based on the current assessment of activity there appears to be eight breeding pair of PIPLs on the seashore, with the potential for at least two more pair.

Nests/Expected hatch dates:

Nest 1 - 4 egg nest at Cape Point continues to be incubated. Expected hatch date - 6/3

Nest 2 - 4 egg nest at Cape Point continues to be incubated. Expected hatch date - 5/30

Nest 3 – Nest 6 may be a continuation of this nest so the designation may change depending on the hatch date.

Nest 5 - 4 egg nest found on 5/9 at Cape Point. Expected hatch date - 5/24

Nest 6 - 3 egg nest found on 5/12 at Cape Point. Expected hatch date – 6/7

American Oystercatchers (AMOY):

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

23 total nests to date; 20 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

Bodie/Hatteras District (Rodanthe to Ramp 30): 4 active nests/0 hatched nests/1 nest lost

Hatteras District: 9 active nest/0 hatched nests/1 nest lost

Ocracoke District: 4 active nests/0 hatched nests/0 nest lost

Colonial Waterbirds (CWB): (LETE = Least Terns, BLSK = Black Skimmers, COTE = Common Terns, GBTE = Gull-billed Terns)

Green Island:

5/8 - ~ 20 BLSK were observed roosting and ~10 COTE were flying around with 2 scrapes observed.

Bodie District (Ramp 1 to Bodie Spit):

5/13 – At Bodie Spit, 394 LETE scrapes, 17 LETE 1-egg nests, and 8 LETE 2-egg nests were observed.

Bodie/Hatteras District (Rodanthe to Ramp 30):

5/7 - 55 terns were observed roosting and scraping on the sand flats and scarps 0.3 miles S of Ramp 27.

5/9 - LETE scrape was found on the S boundary of the AMOY closure 0.3 S of Ramp 27. This is the first colony for Bodie-Hatteras.

5/9 - Two LETE colonies were located 1.1 miles N of Ramp 27 and 2.5 miles N of Ramp 27.

Hatteras District:

5/7 – LETE scrapes were found at Ramp 34.

5/10 – A one-egg nest and ~dozen scrapes were found on the east side of Cape Point.

5/11 – On the west end of South Beach, two one-egg, six two-egg, and one three-egg nest were found.

5/12 - At Ramp 45, at least 40 pairs of LETE have been scraping in the area. Four nests were found during a 5/12 survey.

5/13 - A pair of GBTE was courting near the Ramp 45 LETE colony and three pair of GBTE were roosting and foraging near the LETE colony on west South Beach.

Ocracoke District:

5/12 - A LETE colony within the South Point closure was discovered with one 2-egg nest.

5/12 - LETE were observed scraping within the North Ocracoke pre-nesting closure.

Sea turtle nests: N/A

Marine Mammals:

5/7 – A severely decomposed bottlenose dolphin was found dead and severely decayed 1 mi. S of R55

Sea Turtle Strandings:

5/8 – A Kemp’s Ridley turtle was found dead on Green Island.

5/13 – A loggerhead turtle was found dead N of Avon.

5/13 – A loggerhead turtle was found dead 1 mi. N of R34.

5/13 – A loggerhead turtle was found dead 2 mi. N of R33.

Closures - additions/modifications/removals:**Bodie Island District:**

5/7 – The closure at Bodie Spit was modified for AMOY.

5/13 – The Bodie Spit closure was modified for AMOY.

5/13 – The closure 0.8 mi S of Ramp 4 was modified for LETE.

Bodie/Hatteras District:

5/8 – The AMOY closure 0.1 S of Ramp 27 was expanded farther N by 67m.

5/9 – A new LETE closure was installed 1.0 mi N of Ramp 27.

5/9 – A new LETE closure was installed 2.4 mi N of Ramp 27.

5/13 - AMOY closure installed on Bodie Spit 1.7 mi S of Ramp 4.

Hatteras District:

5/7 – Ramp 34 was closed for LETE.

5/7 – The closure at South Beach was modified for LETE.

5/7 – The closure 2.7 mi S of Ramp 38 was modified for AMOY

5/9 – A modification was made at Cape Point for PIPL.

5/11 – The closure at Cape Point was modified for LETE.

5/13 – The closure at Ramp 34 was modified for AMOY.

5/13 – An AMOY closure was removed N of Ramp 34.

5/13 – An AMOY closure was removed N of Buxton.

Ocracoke District:

5/7 – A closure 2.6 mi S of Ramp 59 was installed for AMOY.

5/8 - The North Ocracoke pre-nesting closure was modified resulting in a shoreline closure at 0.5 mi N of R59 for an AMOY nest.

5/11 – The closure at South Point was modified for LETE.

5/11 – The closure 0.8 mi S of Ramp 68 was modified for AMOY.

5/13 – The closure at N Ocracoke Spit was modified for AMOY.

Closure intrusions

Bodie Island:

5/11: Three sets of barefoot pedestrian tracks were observed just below the high tide line in the LETE closure on Bodie Island Spit.

Hatteras Island:

5/13- Pedestrian tracks and large and small dog tracks were observed in the AMOY closure N of Buxton. The dogs were running off leash based on the pedestrian tracks along the shoreline and the dog tracks at the toe of the dunes.

Ocracoke Island:

None observed.