

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary for May 14 – May 20, 2009
(Bodie Island, Hatteras and Ocracoke Districts)

Piping Plover (PIPL):

Observations	Thurs 5/14	Fri 5/15	Sat 5/16	Sun 5/17	Mon 5/18	Tues 5/19	Weds 5/20
Oregon Inlet	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Cape Point	9	5	6	6	2	3	7
South Beach	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hatteras Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Hatteras Overwash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Ocracoke	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
S. Ocracoke	4	3	2	3	2	1	2

PIPL Update:

Bodie Island:

Very minimal PIPL activity; very high NE winds at the end of the week. On the dates observed, a PIPL was always foraging in the sand flats E of the large posts lining the Bait Pond. Bodie Island has the potential for one breeding PIPL pair.

Hatteras Island:

Currently there are five active nests (5 pairs) on Cape Point and one unpaired male. Two lone males have been observed on South Beach and scrapes have located in what appears to be their territories.

Ocracoke Island:

At South Point, PIPL scrapes were found at the main duneline tip on Sat 5/16 but have not been observed since that date due to high winds. Ocracoke Island currently has two breeding pairs on South Point and no obvious additional pairs. There has been a single PIPL observed on North Ocracoke.

Nests/Expected hatch dates:

Nest 1 – Four-egg nest at Cape Point continues to be incubated. Expected hatch date - 6/2.

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

Nest 3 – A single-egg nest was probably lost to high winds and blowing sand on 5/6, although predation cannot be ruled out. A three-egg nest, Nest 6 was discovered on 5/12 and may be a clutch continuation of this nest, so the nest/pair designation for Nest 6 may change to Nest 3/Pair 3 depending on the hatch date.

Nest 4 – Four-egg nest on South Point (Ocracoke) continues to be incubated. Expected hatch date – 6/1.

Nest 5 – Four-egg nest at Cape Point continues to be incubated. Expected hatch date - on or before 6/3, hatch window begins 5/24.

Nest 6 – Three-egg nest found on 5/12 at Cape Point continues to be incubated. Expected hatch date – on or before 6/7.

Nest 7 – Two-egg nest found on Sat 5/16 on South Point (Ocracoke). It was a three-egg nest on 5/17. Expected hatch date – 6/12.

Nest 8 – A two-egg nest found on 5/17 at Cape Point. It was a three-egg nest on 5/18 and was exclosed on 5/19. Expected hatch date - 6/18

Due to high winds no nest checks have been possible since Sun 5/17 but birds have been observed from a distance incubating each day on Nest 2, Nest 4 and Nest 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.

22 total nests to date; 16 active nests; 5 nests lost; 1 nest hatched

3 total chicks hatched; 3 unfledged chicks; 0 chicks lost; 0 fledged chick

Green Island: 1 active nest/1 hatched nest/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/0 nests lost

Hatteras District: 8 active nests/0 hatched nests/2 nests lost

Ocracoke District: 2 active nests/0 hatched nests/2 nests lost

Colonial Waterbirds (CWB):

Green Island:

5/15 – One two-egg COTE nest found at the colony on Green Island.

Bodie District (Ramp 1 to Bodie Spit):

5/20 – There were 50 LETE nests (18 one-egg, 23 two-egg, and 9 three-egg) and 35 scrapes observed at the Bodie Spit colony. Two COTEs were also observed and one two-egg COTE nest was discovered.

Bodie/Hatteras District (Rodanthe to Ramp 30):

5/14 - ~126 LETEs were observed as well as three one-egg nests and 351 scrapes at a colony 0.1 mi S of Ramp 27.

5/16 - ~ 43 scrapes were observed at a colony 1.0 mi N of Ramp 27. Also, two one-egg LETE nests were documented. Closure was modified to the required buffer.

5/16 - ~45 LETEs were observed at a colony 1.8 mi S of Ramp 23. There were nine one-egg, five two-egg, and one three-egg nests observed. Closure was modified to the required buffer.

Hatteras District:

5/17 - Thirty LETE nests were found during a walkthrough; three three-egg, twenty two-egg, and seven one-egg nests at the Ramp 45 colony.

5/17 - Three LETE nests were found during a walkthrough; one three-egg and two one-egg nests at the Ramp 34 colony.

5/19 - A profile survey for incubating birds on W South Beach resulted in ~60 potential nests. The colony wasn't walked during the week due to the high winds. Two GBTE were observed copulating in the colony near the western edge on 5/17 and the closure was modified to the required buffer.

5/19 - Two LETE nests were observed being incubated on the E side of Cape Point.

5/19 - LETEs were observed near the location of a known nest at Hatteras Inlet, but no walk-through was performed.

5/20- A two-egg LETE nest was found and the required buffer was installed on the oceanside just north of Haulover.

Ocracoke District:

5/17 - There was one 1-egg nest and eight to ten LETE were observed at the colony 0.6 mi N of Ramp 59

5/18-5/20 - Part of the colony at South Point was overwashed with heavy winds and rain. No scrapes or eggs were observed on 5/20 but several LETE were present. Profile surveys were done from outside the pre-nest closure for the other parts of the colony and 16 LETEs were observed, four of which seemed to be on nests. A walkthrough survey was not performed due to high winds.

Sea turtle nests: N/A

Marine Mammals: None

Sea Turtle Strandings:

5/14 - Loggerhead turtle found dead 3.4 mi N of Ramp 23, near Rodanthe Pier.

5/15 - Loggerhead turtle found dead 4.0 mi N of Ramp 23.

5/16 - Loggerhead turtle found dead 0.4 mi S of Ramp 4.

5/16 - Loggerhead turtle found dead at Cape Point.

5/17 - Loggerhead turtle found dead at Cape Point.

5/19 - Green turtle found alive 0.5 mi N of Ramp 23; taken to North Carolina Aquarium at Roanoke Island Rehabilitation Center.

5/19 - Loggerhead turtle found dead at Ramp 34.

5/20 - Kemp's Ridley turtle was found dead at Ramp 34.

5/20 - Loggerhead turtle was found dead at Ramp 34.

Closures - additions/modifications/removals:

Bodie Island District: None

Hatteras District:

5/16 – The AMOY closure at Ramp 27 was extended S by 75 meters, now at 1.0 mi N of Ramp 27.

5/16 – The S boundary of the AMOY closure at Ramp 27 was extended by 170 m and the N boundary was extended by 30 m.

Hatteras District:

5/14 – A closure 2.7 mi S of Ramp 38 was modified after an AMOY nest was found.

5/16 – The closure at Ramp 34 was modified after LETE scrapes were found outside of the boundary.

5/17 – The closure 1.5 miles S of Ramp 30 was installed after AMOY scrapes were found.

5/18 – The West end of the South Beach closure was modified after GBTE were seen copulating outside of the boundary.

5/20 - A closure was installed on the Oceanside just north of Haulover after a two-egg LETE nest was found.

Ocracoke District: None

Closure intrusions

Bodie Island:

5/16- One ORV entered the LETE closure 1.8 mi S of R23 and made a U-turn shortly thereafter.

Hatteras Island:

5/17 – Pedestrian tracks were observed inside the closure where it closes the beach at the Hook.

5/19 - Large dog tracks were observed going throughout both the small and large overwash fans.

5/19 - Three sets of pedestrian tracks were observed inside the Cape Point pre-nesting closure. The tracks traversed through the center of the closure, appearing to come from the area of the by-pass road and ending toward the Hook. The bare footprints passed within 30 m of a nesting American oystercatcher.

5/19 – One set of bare foot prints on the west side of the Cape Point closure traveling through the dunes E towards the small Salt Pond.

Ocracoke Island:

None observed.