

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary for May 21 – May 27, 2009
(Bodie Island, Hatteras and Ocracoke Districts)

Piping Plover (PIPL):

Observations	Thurs 5/21	Fri 5/22	Sat 5/23	Sun 5/24	Mon 5/25	Tues 5/26	Weds 5/27
Oregon Inlet	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cape Point	5	5	5	5	5	6	5
South Beach	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Hatteras Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatteras Overwash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Ocracoke	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
S. Ocracoke	2	2	2	2	3	2	2

PIPL Update:

Bodie Island:

Very minimal PIPL activity observed this week. No territorial or breeding behavior documented.

Hatteras Island:

Nests are being monitored at dawn and dusk for signs of hatching. There continues to be at least three unpaired male PIPLs on territories.

Ocracoke Island:

The last incubation of Nest 4, a four-egg nest, was observed on 5/20. On 5/22 a female PIPL was observed at the nest chasing away a male PIPL. As of 5/27 there were new scrapes in that territory.

Nests/Expected hatch dates:

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

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

Nest 3 – Lost.

Nest 4 – Abandoned.

Nest 5 – Four-egg nest at Cape Point. Expected hatch date – on or before 6/3.

Nest 6 – Three-egg nest at Cape Point. Expected hatch date – on or before 6/7.

Nest 7 – Four-egg nest at South Point (Ocracoke). Expected hatch date – 6/12.

Nest 8 – A four-egg nest at Cape Point. Expected hatch date - 6/18.

Nest 9 – A two-egg nest found at South Point (Ocracoke) on 5/22. The enclosure was installed on 5/26 since incubation was observed, even though it remained a two-egg nest. Expected hatch date - 6/22.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY):

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

22 total nests to date; 13 active nests; 6 nests lost; 3 nest hatched

8 total chicks hatched; 7 unfledged chicks; 1 chick 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): 3 active nests/1 hatched nest/0 nests lost

Hatteras District: 6 active nests/1 hatched nest/3 nests lost

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

Colonial Waterbirds (CWB):

Green Island:

5/22 – Green Island. 27 COTE nests and six BLSK nests.

Bodie District (Ramp 1 to Bodie Spit):

5/25 –Bodie Spit. 76 LETE nests and one COTE nest.

Bodie/Hatteras District (Rodanthe to Ramp 30):

5/24 - 1.8 mi S of Ramp 23. There was no LETE activity and no nests were observed. While the area is full of countless ghost crab holes, no definitive cause of loss could be determined. None of the 15 nests from last week could be located.

5/25 - 0.3 mi S of Ramp 27. 31 LETE nests.

5/25 – 1.1 mi N of Ramp 27. 17 LETE nests.

Hatteras District:

5/21 – Ramp 34. 29 LETE nests.

5/25 - East Cape Point. Two LETE nests.

5/25- West Cape Point. COTE and LETE in incubating posture during profile survey.

5/25 - Hatteras Inlet. Two LETE nests.

5/27 - 1.4 mi S of Ramp 38. No active nests or scrapes.

5/27 – Ramp 45. 55 LETE nests.

5/27 – West South Beach. 53 LETE nests.

Ocracoke District:

5/26 – 0.6 mi N of Ramp 59. Five LETE nests.

5/24 –Ocracoke Spit-sub-colony A. There was one possible LETE scrape observed (the sub-colony had previously been lost to inundation).

5/25- Ocracoke Spit-sub-colony C. Two LETE nests and one BLSK scrape.

5/27-Ocracoke Spit-sub-colony B. Nine LETE nests, one COTE nest, and three BLSK nests.

Sea turtle nests:

Nests this week on CAHA: 3

5/22 – Loggerhead sea turtle nest, 0.4 mi S of Ramp 49.

5/23 – Loggerhead sea turtle nest, 1.4 mi N of Ramp 67 (Ocracoke Island).

5/27 – Loggerhead sea turtle nest, 2.3 mi S of Ramp 38 (Turtle was observed leaving nest site by turtle patrol early in the morning).

Total Nests at CAHA: 3 (2 Hatteras Island, 1 Ocracoke Island, 0 Bodie Island).

Total False Crawls to date on CAHA: Two.

5/27 – Two Loggerhead turtle false crawls, Ocracoke Island.

Marine Mammals: None.

Sea Turtle Strandings:

5/25 – Green turtle found dead at Ramp 72 on Ocracoke Island.

Closures – additions/modifications/removals:

Bodie Island District: None.

Bodie/Hatteras District:

5/21 – The AMOY closure 0.8 mi S of Ramp 27 was expanded to protect recently hatched chicks (two closures were combined).

5/25 – The N boundary of the CWB closure 1.0 mi N of Ramp 27 was expanded to accommodate three LETE nests outside of colony closure boundary .

5/27 – The AMOY closure 0.6 mi N of Ramp 30 was expanded to protect recently hatched chicks.

Hatteras District:

5/26 – The AMOY closure at Sandy Bay was expanded to protect recently hatched chicks.

5/27 – The AMOY closure at Sandy Bay was modified after the chicks moved N of the existing closure boundary.

5/27 – The LETE closure at Ramp 34 was modified after LETE nests were found outside of the existing closure boundary.

Ocracoke District:

5/25 – The South Point pre-nesting closure was modified to provide the required buffers for BLSK and LETEs .

Closure intrusions

Bodie Island:

5/21 - One set of ORV tracks entered AMOY closure 0.3 mi S of Ramp 4, and did a U-turn shortly after. String broken and documented by LE.

5/23 - One set of pedestrian tracks with dog entered first closure S of Ramp 27 about ten feet, then turned and exited.

5/24 - Two sets of pedestrian tracks and one set of dog tracks coming out from the center of the tern closure 1.1 mi N of Ramp 27 and then exited at the S end of the closure.

Hatteras Island:

5/21 - Two sets of pedestrian footprints and two sets of dog tracks were seen entering and exiting the closure at Ramp 34.

5/22 - A pedestrian was observed walking through the Hatteras Inlet closure on the soundside.

5/23 - Two sets of footprints were seen inside the AMOY closure between Ramp 43/44.

5/23 - Several sets of footprints were seen inside the Cape Point closure at Ramp 44.

5/23 - Two pedestrians were seen walking through the AMOY closure N of Buxton.

5/24 - Two pedestrians were seen walking through the AMOY closure between Ramps 43/44.

5/24 - Several sets of footprints and dog tracks were seen inside the pre-nesting closure at the Hatteras Inlet Overwash fans.

5/24 - Three sets of footprints were seen walking through the CWB closure at Cape Point.

5/24 - Two pedestrians and one jogger were observed in the AMOY closure at Ramp 43/44.

5/25 - Several pedestrians were observed going through the AMOY closure between Ramp 43/44 throughout the day.

5/25 - Several sets of footprints were seen going through the CWB closure at Cape Point.

5/25 - Several sets of footprints were seen going through the pre-nesting closure at the Hatteras Inlet Overwash fans.

5/26 - Two pedestrians were seen inside the closure at Ramp 34.

5/26 - Two adults and one child were seen inside the Sandy Bay closure.

5/26 - Two pedestrians were seen inside the closure at Ramp 34.

Ocracoke Island: None