

Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary for June 25 – July 1, 2009
(Bodie Island, Hatteras and Ocracoke Districts)

Piping Plover (PIPL) Observations:

| Observations | Thurs | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | Tues | Weds |
|-------------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 6/25 | 6/26 | 6/27 | 6/28 | 6/29 | 6/30 | 7/1 |
| Oregon Inlet | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cape Point | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| South Beach | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Hatteras Inlet | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hatteras Overwash | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| N. Ocracoke | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| S. Ocracoke | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |

Numbers in above table represent maximum number of PIPLs (not associated with a brood or nest) observed at one time.

PIPL Summary:

| Total Nests to Date | Total Pairs to Date | Active Nests | Total Nests Hatched | Total Nests Lost | Total Eggs Hatched | Unfledged Chicks | Lost Chicks | Fledged Chicks |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| 10 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 5 | 13 | 1 |

Bodie Island:

No PIPL activity observed this week.

Hatteras Island:

Broods are being monitored twice daily. The two older broods have been observed taking short flights, but not of the distance required (i.e. 15 m sustained flight) to be considered fledged. One pair has also been observed scraping on the west side of Cape Point.

Ocracoke Island:

Brood 7 and Nest 9 are being monitored twice daily. No other breeding activity has been observed.

Nests/Expected hatch dates:

- Nest/Brood 1 – Cape Point. Hatched on 6/2. This brood has one 30-day-old chick.
- Nest/Brood 2 – Cape Point. Hatched on 5/30. One chick fledged on 6/24. The fledgling has been observed foraging on South Beach W of R45 with two adults.
- Nest 3 – Single-egg nest lost.
- Nest 4 – Abandoned.
- Nest/Brood 5 – Cape Point. Hatched on 6/2. This brood has one 30-day-old chick.
- Nest/Brood 6 – Cape Point. Hatched on 6/7. All three chicks lost by 6/23.
- Nest/Brood 7 – South Point (Ocracoke). Hatched on 6/11. This brood has two 21-day-old chicks.
- Nest/Brood 8 – Cape Point. Hatched on 6/15. This brood has one 17-day-old chick.
- Nest 9 – A two-egg nest at South Point (Ocracoke). This nest is still being incubated after its expected hatch date of 6/21.
- Nest 10 – A four-egg nest at South Point (Ocracoke) was lost to over-wash on 6/23.

WIPL Update

Bodie Island

No WIPL activity.

Hatteras Island

No WIPL activity.

Ocracoke Island

WIPL Nest 1 – Two of the three eggs hatched 7/1, but only one chick was observed. The nest continues to be incubated.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY):

Resightings: Several paired and unpaired birds (both banded and unbanded) with no breeding histories continue to be observed.

| Location | Total Nests to Date | Active Nests | Nests Hatched | Nests Lost | Total Chicks Hatched | Unfledged Chicks | Chicks Lost | Fledged Chicks |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Green Island | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Bodie District | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Bodie/Hatteras District | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 0 |
| Hatteras District | 13 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 7 | 5 | 0 |
| Ocracoke District | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| CAHA TOTALS | 31 | 4 | 13 | 14 | 28 | 13 | 13 | 2 |

Colonial Waterbirds (CWB):

Green Island:

6/27 - One BLSK nest was observed. There was no sign of the other BLSK or COTE adults, nests or possible chicks.

Bodie District (Ramp 1 to Bodie Spit):

6/28 - 81 LETE nests and five chicks were observed. Also, on 6/29 eight chicks were observed that were nearly fledged, one was fledged. In addition, 10 COTE nests and three BLSK nests were also observed along with many new BLSK scrapes.

Bodie/Hatteras District (Rodanthe to Ramp 30):

6/26 - 0.1 mi N of Ramp 27. No LETE nests and two chicks were observed.

6/28 - S side of Ramp 23. 13 LETE nests and five chicks were observed.

6/27 - 0.3 miles S of Ramp 27. 19 LETE nests and 33 chicks were observed

6/30 - 1.1 mi N of Ramp 27. 2 LETE nests and five chicks were observed.

Hatteras District:

6/25 - West South Beach. 23 LETE nests and 12 LETE were observed. On 7/1, 27 chicks of which 15 were fledged were also observed from the perimeter of the colony.

7/1 - West Cape Point. One LETE chick and six nests were observed.

6/29 - 1.4 mi South of Ramp 38. 57 LETE nests and seven chicks were observed.

7/1 - Ramp 45 to W of Drain. Two nests and two chicks were observed.

Ocracoke District:

6/28 - 0.6 mi N of Ramp 59. Only one nest and several scrapes were observed.

6/29 - Ocracoke Spit sub-colony B. 15 LETE nests, one COTE nest and 13 BLSK nests were observed.

6/30 - Ocracoke Spit sub-colony C. 54 LETE nests were observed.

Sea turtle nests:

Nests this week on CAHA: 17

6/25 - Loggerhead nest 1.9 mi N of Ramp 67 (Ocracoke)

6/26 - Loggerhead nest 4.4 mi N of Ramp 67 (Ocracoke)

6/26 - Loggerhead nest 5.4 mi N of Ramp 67 (Ocracoke)

6/26 - Loggerhead nest 1.2 mi S of Rodanthe Pier (Hatteras)

6/26 - Loggerhead nest 1.7 mi S of Ramp 38 (Hatteras)

6/27 - Loggerhead nest 0.1 mi N of Ramp 44 (Hatteras)

6/27 - Loggerhead nest 1.5 mi NE of Ramp 49 (Hatteras)

6/27 - Loggerhead nest 3.0 mi S of Ramp 38 (Hatteras)

6/28 - Loggerhead nest 0.2 mi SW of Ramp 49 (Hatteras)

6/28 - Loggerhead nest 2.1 mi S of Ramp 38 (Hatteras)

6/28 - Leatherback nest 1.0 mi S of Frisco Pier (Hatteras)

6/29 - Loggerhead nest 0.2 mi E of Salt Pond Rd (Hatteras)

6/29 - Loggerhead nest 1.6 mi S of Ramp 27 (Hatteras)

6/30 - Loggerhead nest 1.0 mi S of Rodanthe Pier (Hatteras)

6/30 - Loggerhead nest 0.9 mi N of Ramp 70 (Ocracoke)

- 7/1 – Loggerhead nest 1.0 mi S of Ramp 72 (Ocracoke)
- 7/1 – Loggerhead nest 0.5 mi SE of Salt Pond Rd (Hatteras)

False Crawls this week on CAHA: 17

- 6/25 – Loggerhead false crawl 0.9 mi N of Ramp 67 (Ocracoke)
- 6/25 – Loggerhead false crawl 1.2 mi N of Ramp 67 (Ocracoke)
- 6/25 – Loggerhead false crawl 1.6 mi N of Ramp 67 (Ocracoke)
- 6/25 – Loggerhead false crawl 1.8 mi N of Ramp 67 (Ocracoke)
- 6/27 – Loggerhead false crawl 1.4 mi N of Ramp 27 (Hatteras)
- 6/27 – Loggerhead false crawl 4.1 mi NE of Ramp 67 (Ocracoke)
- 6/27 – Loggerhead false crawl 2.1 mi SW of Ramp 59 (Ocracoke)
- 6/28 – Loggerhead false crawl 3.1 mi S of Ramp 38 (Hatteras)
- 6/28 – Loggerhead false crawl 3.1 mi S of Ramp 38 (Hatteras)
- 6/29 – Loggerhead false crawl 0.4 mi NE of Ramp 49 (Hatteras)
- 6/29 – Loggerhead false crawl 0.8 mi NE of Ramp 49 (Hatteras)
- 6/30 – Loggerhead false crawl 0.1 mi SW of Ramp 72 (Ocracoke)
- 6/30 – Loggerhead false crawl 1.1 mi SW of Ramp 72 (Ocracoke)
- 6/30 – Loggerhead false crawl 0.1 mi NE of Ramp 72 (Ocracoke)
- 6/30 – Loggerhead false crawl 0.4 mi NE of Ramp 72 (Ocracoke)
- 7/1 – Loggerhead false crawl 0.9 mi S of Ramp 72 (Ocracoke)
- 7/1 – Loggerhead false crawl 0.5 mi N of Ramp 72 (Ocracoke)

Total Nests at CAHA: 49 (35 Hatteras Island, 14 Ocracoke Island, 0 Bodie Island).

Total False Crawls to date on CAHA: 45 (20 Hatteras Island, 24 Ocracoke Island, 1 Bodie Island)

Sea Turtle Strandings:

- 6/26 – Green sea turtle found dead 0.6 mi S of Ramp 72 (Ocracoke)
- 6/27 – Green sea turtle found dead 1.9 mi N of Ramp 70 (Ocracoke)
- 6/28 – Green sea turtle found dead 1.0 mi S of Ramp 72 (Ocracoke)
- 6/30 – Loggerhead sea turtle found dead 0.4 mi N of Buxton (Hatteras)

Marine Mammals:

None this week

Closures – additions/modifications/removals:

| Closure # | Location | Species | Date Installed/Removed |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|
| Bodie Island | | | |
| NONE | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Bodie-Hatteras | | | |
| BH09-008-D | Ramp 23 | LETE | 6/29/2009 |
| BH09-009-C | Directly N of Ramp 27 | AMOY, LETE | 6/29/2009 |
| Hatteras Island | | | |
| HI09-016-E | 1.7 mi S Ramp 38 | LETE | 6/29/2009 |
| Ocracoke Island | | | |
| OI09-002-I | Ocracoke Inlet | AMOY | 7/1/2009 |

Deliberate Violations

Hatteras Island:

6/27 - The barricades at the entrance to Ramp 23 were dismantled and thrown into the grass. One ORV sign was stripped from the larger barricade. Further down the ramp where the resource closure starts, one bird sign was pulled out of the ground and tossed aside. Two sets of pedestrian tracks were observed beginning at the bird sign and extended into the bird closure to the high tide line.

6/27 - An ORV violated two closures at Ramp 27. The ORV drove over one sign and reversed into another sign at the LETE closure just north of Ramp 27. The ORV also drove over three signs of the AMOY closure south of Ramp 27.

Closure intrusions

Bodie Island:

6/25 - Four adults observed shelling in AMOY and LETE closure S of Ramp 27.

6/25 - Six sets of pedestrian tracks observed at Ramp 23 going in to and out of the closure.

6/26 - Two sets of pedestrian tracks observed inside the AMOY closure 0.4 mi S of Ramp 4.

6/27 - Four pedestrians observed walking in AMOY closure at 0.4 mi S of Ramp.

6/27 - An ORV drove over a broken sign at the closure just S of Ramp 27 and ORV tracks from the above deliberate violation. The ORV then proceeded halfway into the closure above the high tide line. The ORV did a U-turn, stopped and the driver exited the vehicle, walked around inside of the closure, and then re-entered the vehicle and drove out of the closure. The vehicle drove above the high tide line and was approximately ten feet from the tern colony and AMOY chick locations.

6/27 - A set of adult tracks and child-sized tracks were found entering and exiting the closure just S of Ramp 27.

6/27 - Three sets of pedestrian tracks and dog tracks were observed in the closure on the N side of Ramp 27.

6/28 - Two sets of pedestrian tracks entered closure just S of Ramp 27 and continued for about sixty meters then turned and exited.

6/28 - Six sets of pedestrian tracks observed entering and exiting the closure at Ramp 23. During those observations at the same location, a child was found shelling in the closure on the S side.

6/28 - Tracks from two pedestrians and drag marks from debris were observed in the Ramp 23 closure from the ramp to N boundary of closure along the dunes.

6/28 - An ORV drove from Ramp 27 to Ramp 30.

6/28 - An ORV entered the closure S of Ramp 27, did a doughnut and then continued to the next closure and walked from the surf to the foredunes, they then continued to the N boundary of the closure, 0.8 mi N of Ramp 30, and turned around leaving large ruts and went back to Ramp 27 through the closures.

6/28 - After the aforementioned violation, another ORV entered the closure S of Ramp 27 and proceeded to drive recklessly, causing large ruts midbeach near the LETE colony boundary and AMOY chick location. This incident was also witnessed by law enforcement and the individual was cited.

7/1 - At N end of R23 closure, a pedestrian was observed in violation of the closure.

Hatteras Island:

- 6/26 - Two people were seen walking waterline out of pedestrian corridor S to Cape Point .
- 6/26 - Two pedestrians were intercepted walking through the South Beach closure.
- 6/27 - Four sets of barefoot pedestrian tracks were found in sand near waterline in PIPL buffer closure at Cape Point.
- 6/30 - One set of barefoot tracks were seen going into LETE closure S of Ramp 34 from N about 100 ft and then back out.
- 7/1 – There were five sets of pedestrian tracks and one set of dog tracks in the South Beach LETE closure.
- 7/1 – Seventy-five feet of rope connecting the carsonite sign was stolen from the W end of the South Beach LETE closure.

Ocracoke Island:

- 6/25 - One pedestrian observed walking S along pre-nesting closure on North Ocracoke, and on several occasions they entered to collect shells from inside closure.
- 6/26 - Bike tracks were observed going through closure 2.7 mi S of Ramp 59.
- 6/27 – A boat was observed anchored 30 feet offshore in the sound near the main duneline at South Point and pedestrians were observed walking the sound shoreline near where PIPL Brood 7 has been located.