

**Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Field Summary for April 15 – April 21, 2010
(Bodie, Hatteras and Ocracoke Districts)**

Piping Plover (PIPL) Observations:

Observations	Thurs 4/15	Fri 4/16	Sat 4/17	Sun 4/18	Mon 4/19	Tues 4/20	Weds 4/21
Oregon Inlet	5	2	2	0	0	4	1
Cape Point	4	8	6	2	7	5	5
South Beach	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Hatteras Inlet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatteras Overwash	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Ocracoke	5	3	3	2	0	7	2
S. Ocracoke	2	2	10	5	2	5	7

Bodie District:

Bodie Island: Up to five PIPLs have been observed. All have been observed foraging near the Bait Pond within the Bodie Island pre-nesting closure. No breeding activity was observed.

Hatteras District:

Cape Point: Up to eight PIPLs have been observed at one time. Two pairs have nests. Based on observations, nesting by two more pairs may be imminent. In addition, there appears to be two other pairs at Cape Point.

South Beach: A PIPL and PIPL scrapes were documented on 4/20, but it appears to be a lone male.

Hatteras Overwash/Hatteras Inlet: No PIPLs have been observed.

Other Beaches: On 4/18 a lone PIPL was observed foraging along the shoreline N of Frisco Pier. Also on 4/18 a single PIPL was observed both ocean and sound-side of Sandy Bay.

Ocracoke District:

North Ocracoke: Up to seven PIPLs have been observed foraging and/or roosting.

South Point: Up to ten PIPLs have been observed along the inlet shoreline and within the mudflats. On 4/15 two PIPL were observed on the oceanside shoreline. Territorial displays have been observed and scrapes within the pre-nesting area have been documented. The number of breeding pairs has not yet been established.

PIPL Breeding Summary:

Total Nests to Date	Active Nests	Total Nests Hatched	Total Nests Lost	Total Eggs Hatched	Unfledged Chicks	Lost Chicks	Fledged Chicks
2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Nests/Expected hatch dates:

Nest 1 – Cape Point. This nest was exclosed as a three-egg nest on 4/17 and was a four-egg nest on 4/19. Hatching should occur on or near 5/14.

Nest 2 – Cape Point. This nest was discovered as a two-egg nest on 4/15, exclosed as a three-egg nest on 4/18, and was a four-egg nest on 4/20. Hatching should occur on or near 5/15.

WIPL Update:

Ocracoke District: Wilson’s plovers have been observed on South Point within the pre-nesting closure. No breeding behavior or territorial displays have been noted.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY): Pairs continue to be observed on scrape territories in all districts.

Location	Total Nests to Date	Active Nests	Nests Hatched	Nests Lost	Total Chicks Hatched	Unfledged Chicks	Chicks Lost	Fledged Chicks
Green Island	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bodie District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bodie/Hatteras District	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hatteras District	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ocracoke District	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAHA TOTALS	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0

2010 AMOY Breeding Pairs: Twenty-one of the 23 breeding pairs from 2009 have returned. Four of these pairs showed up on their breeding grounds but subsequent sightings have been infrequent or non-existent. Four potential new pairs have been documented scraping and one pair that historically nested in the Park but was not documented nesting in 2009, has returned and is defending a territory.

Bodie District:

- Green Island: One pair had a three-egg nest on 4/16 and another pair is scraping on the north end of the island.
- Bodie Island: Three of four breeding pairs from 2009 have returned. One AMOY scrape was found outside of the pre-nest closure on the north side of the Bait Pond under the bridge on 4/16. One pair has not been observed since 4/5.
- Bodie/Hatteras District (Rodanthe to Ramp 30): Three of four breeding pairs from 2009 have returned. One pair had a two-egg nest on 4/17. One pair is on territory and breeding behavior has been observed. One pair has not been observed since 4/13 and another pair has not been observed since 4/16.

Hatteras District: Four breeding pairs have nests and at least seven more pairs are on scrape territories. One breeding pair has not been observed since its initial sighting on 2/27. Three potential new pairs have been associated with scrape territories.

Ocracoke District:

One pair has a nest and two additional pairs are on scrape territories. The fourth pair have displayed no territorial or breeding behavior.

One pair had a one-egg nest on 4/16. On 4/18 the egg was found broken and outside of the nest cup. This pair continued the clutch north of the original nest location and three additional eggs were documented for this pair on 4/21.

A new potential breeding pair was scraping and territorial fighting with an established breeding pair on South Point on 4/20. Due to the location of the documented scrapes and territorial behavior, the buffer requirements resulted in a full beach closure 0.4 miles south of Ramp 72 precluding access to South Point for ORVs and pedestrians.

Colonial Waterbirds (CWB):

Bodie District: No activity observed.

Hatteras District: Least terns have been observed at Cape Point and on South Beach. No breeding behaviors have been observed.

Ocracoke District: Least terns have been observed at South Point. No breeding behaviors have been observed.

A temporary low amperage electric fencing system will be installed by staff at Bodie Island Spit, to protect nesting CWBs from mammalian predators. The fence will be installed during the week of April 26 and remain on site until the end of CWB season in August. The fence will be within the already existing pre-nesting closure and therefore inaccessible to visitors. The

purpose of this action is to determine if such an electric fence reduces nocturnal (7:00pm - 6:00am) predation by mammals on CWBs. This action is considered experimental. Operational effectiveness of the fence will be evaluated during and after the nesting season to determine whether efforts similar to this should be employed in the future.

Sea turtle nests: None

Sea Turtle Strandings:

Bodie District:

- 4/15 – Loggerhead sea turtle (female) was found dead 0.1 mi N of Ramp 27.

Hatteras District:

- 4/18 – Loggerhead sea turtle (male) found moderately decomposed 3.9 miles S of Ramp 38 in Buxton Village.

Ocracoke District:

- 4/17 – The skeleton of a loggerhead sea turtle was found .54 miles NW of Ramp 59. This turtle most likely is a stranding from this past winter.
- 4/18 – The skeleton of a green sea turtle was found 1.3 mile SW of Ramp 72. This turtle most likely is a stranding from this past winter.

Marine Mammals:

Bodie District:

None this week.

Hatteras District:

- 4/16 – A dead, male neonate bottlenose dolphin was located 0.3 mi SW of Ramp 49 near Frisco Village.
- 4/17 – A dead neonate bottlenose dolphin was found 1.1 miles N of Ramp 38 in Avon Village.

Ocracoke District:

- 4/15 – A dead, female neonate bottlenose dolphin was found 1.3 miles SW of Ramp 72 on Ocracoke Island.
- 4/18 – A dead harbor seal was found off of Silver Lake Drive, a public soundside access area in Ocracoke Village.

Closures – additions/modifications/removals:

Closure #	Location	Species	Date Installed
Bodie District			
BI10-002	N side of Bait Pond	AMOY	4/16/2010
BH10-002	0.7 mi N of Ramp 30	AMOY	4/20/2010
Hatteras District			

HI10-002-G	0.2 mi W of Ramp 45	AMOY	4/16/2010
HI10-004-B	Hatteras Inlet	AMOY	4/19/2010
HI10-002-H	Just W of Ramp 45	AMOY	4/20/2010
HI10-010	0.8 mi S of Ramp38	AMOY	4/20/2010
HI10-006-A	Sandy Bay	AMOY	4/21/2010
HI10-007-B	1 mi N of Buxton Village	AMOY	4/21/2010
Ocracoke District			
OI10-002-A	0.4 mi S of Ramp 72	AMOY	4/20/2010

Closure intrusions

Bodie District:

4/19 – One set of dog tracks was observed 0.1 mi S of Ramp 27 within the resource closure for nesting AMOYs. The tracks extended ~10 meters within the closure.

Hatteras District:

4/15 – A cyclist stopped and entered the Sandy Bay resource closure for nesting AMOYs.

Resource management staff arrived and requested they leave the closure.

4/20 – Pedestrian tracks were documented traveling both north and south through the resource closure established for nesting AMOYs north of Buxton.

Ocracoke District:

4/15 - Two pedestrians were observed walking inside the pre-nesting closure at South Point on Ocracoke. The pedestrians were called out of the closure. The pedestrians had not read the signs.