

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge



August 16 – 29, 2015 [Issue 14]

Photo Credit: USFWS/Morgan Bancroft

A Message from Monomoy

It sure does seem like the end of a field season now that Monomoy's interns have fledged and flown south. Monomoy staff would like to thank Zena Casteel, Cheryl Horton, Emilie Seavey, Carson Fehner, Mark Sudak, and Derek Trunfio for all their hard work and dedication this summer. Remaining staff focused on entering data and finishing productivity this week.

Although this is a great time of year to see staging birds, please be mindful and respectful of posted areas. Staging is an important behavior for the survival and longevity of migrating birds, so please do not disturb them! To add, this will be the last issue of Monomoy's Weekly Update this summer. Staff plans to continue trapping efforts of red knots in the fall, as well as read surface elevation tables for the Saltmarsh Integrity Project.

2015 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minimoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

Bird Sightings

Ring-billed gull	Black scoter
Iceland gull	Common eider
Bonaparte's gull	Red-breasted merganser
Greater yellowlegs	Blue-winged teal
Whimbrel	Green-winged teal
Long-billed curlew	Gadwall
Barn swallow	American black duck
Tree swallow	Mallard
Ruddy turnstone	Northern Gannet
Killdeer	Horned lark
Black-bellied plover	Saltmarsh sparrow
Semipalmated plover	Magnolia warbler
Semipalmated sandpiper	Common yellowthroat
Spotted sandpiper	Yellow Warbler
Solitary sandpiper	American goldfinch
Least sandpiper	Gray catbird
Semipalmated sandpiper	Song Sparrow
Long-billed dowitcher	Savannah sparrow
Short-billed dowitcher	Eastern towhee
Red Knot	Eastern kingbird
Wilson's phalarope (8/14)	Turkey vulture
Sanderling	Peregrine falcon
Dunlin	Bald eagle
Hudsonian Godwit	Red-winged blackbird
Marbled Godwit	American bittern
Black tern	Virginia Rail
White-winged scoter	Brown pelican (8/31)

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Photo of the Week



Laying Down Feldspar
Photo Credit: USFWS/Matthew Boarman

Bird Activity

Piping Plovers (PIPL)

No new information to report.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

On 8/19, the last three remaining chicks left to fledge on the Refuge were seen grouped together near their nest site south of Hospital Pond. Preliminary numbers conclude 17 chicks between eight broods, with 17 pairs nesting on the Refuge this breeding season! Entering data for report remains next on the list of things to do.

Staff is anticipating the arrival of staging AMOYs in the coming weeks.

If you see a banded AMOY, please report their band to the American Oystercatcher Working Group website at <http://amoywg.org/banding-re-sighting/>.

Common Terns (COTE) & Roseate Terns (ROST)

Productivity concluded on 8/19 after all plots fledged their remaining chicks. Staff has been bustling in the office entering data from the 2015 season and plan to finish taking down plots and compiling chick shelters in the coming weeks.

Staging counts were not conducted this week, although one of Monomoy's missing ROST chicks from the season was resighted by Jeff Spendelow, bringing the count up to 14 chicks! If you see a banded tern, please report their code/number to Kate Iaquinto at Kate_Iaquinto@fws.gov. Reporting bands is extremely important to researchers tracking the movements of these birds.

Roseate habitat restoration Project

No new information to report.

Nanotag Project

No new information to report. Staff and researchers continue to note birds leaving the area/Refuge.

Salt Marsh Integrity

On 8/24, staff attemptd to install a water levellogger (WLL) out on Minimoy Island. Unfortunately, issues with sand entering the WLL housing complicated the process and staff was unable to deploy the device. Staff put their thinking caps on to solve the problem and successfully deployed the WLL on Minimoy Island on 8/27. On another note,

staff laid down the feldspar plots for the two surface elevation tables (SET) on Minimoy Island on 8/24, the one SET at Hospital Pond on 8/27, and one of the SETs on North Monomoy Island on 8/28. These feldspar plots will help staff measure marsh accretion over time. SET readings are expected to occur next week for the SETs that have received feldspar plots, and later during the fall for the remaining two SETs on North Monomoy Island.

Current & Upcoming Events

- SET Readings for SMI** **Sept-Oct**
- Red Knot Cannon Netting** **Sept 13-17**
- Prescribed Burn** **October**
- Shoreline Survey** **Late Sept/Early Oct**

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					