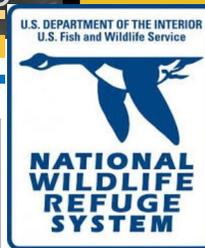




(PHOTO: USFWS)

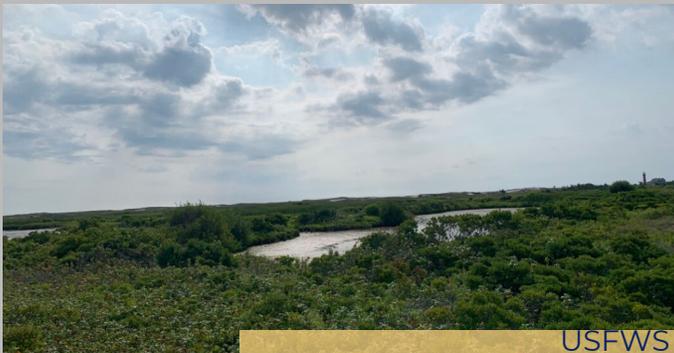
Through August 16th, 2019

MONOMOY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



BI-WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER
VOLUME FIVE
2019

THAT'S A WRAP!



USFWS

SOUTH MONOMOY

It may be nearing the end of the peak season, but that doesn't mean our work is done! Visitation slows down as travelers settle back in at home and kids return to school, but the refuge stays busy. Throughout the fall and winter there are many conservation and maintenance projects. Some highlights include the migratory bird banding station and research crews studying seals.

THANK YOU!

As the summer season draws to a close we want to give our thanks to the many volunteers that share our mission! Each and every volunteer that helps out, whether it is staffing the front desk or helping with maintenance around the refuge, makes what we do at Monomoy possible! We want to specifically thank the Friends of Monomoy for actively supporting the refuge.



Friends of Monomoy

TRAVELLING TO MONOMOY POINT LIGHT AND TO POWDER HOLE



VISITORS ON THE BOAT TO SOUTH MONOMOY

Part of the work we do here at Monomoy is connecting people with their natural resources, from creating informational programs to leading special tours of the refuge. Doing this helps foster attitudes of stewardship and builds the foundation of conservation now and into the future. Getting people out to the islands is always a source of inspiration and an ideal way to connect with nature.

The past two weeks have been exciting as we've had the opportunity to take 15 visitors to South Monomoy Island for a Monomoy Point Lighthouse tour on August 6 and a guided bird watching hike at Powder Hole on August 15. Both days were educational and fun as refuge staff bridged the gap between the islands by transporting passengers to the Monomoy Wilderness!



CIRCLING UP IN THE VISITOR CENTER BEFORE LEAVING ON THE TOUR



LIGHTHOUSE TOUR GROUP PICTURED IN THE TOWER AND ON THE HIKE IN



BIRDING TOUR GROUP, FIDDLER'S CRABS, MARSH AND PONDS ON SOUTH MONOMOY.



PHOTO CREDITS: M.HILLMAN/USFWS AND C.BRADLEY/USFWS

UNTIL NEXT YEAR!

This is the fifth and final volume of the Monomoy newsletter for 2019!

Thank you so much for keeping up with the refuge, our community, and our field biologists.

While this is the last newsletter until next summer, there will still be a lot of fun and exciting things happening at the refuge, from public tours to volunteer opportunities.

Be sure to 'Like' our Facebook page and stay connected. We'll be shifting to our off-season hours shortly, meaning the visitor center will be staffed based upon volunteer availability; be sure to call ahead if you would like to access the visitor center. Thanks for another great summer -- our busiest ever!



LIKE OUR PAGE
@MONOMOYNWR

FROM THE FIELD

STAGING BIRDS

Beginning mid-summer, the refuge becomes a critical feeding site for thousands of birds preparing for migration or stopping over to rest and forage. By nature of its geography and protected status, Monomoy provides ideal stopover habitat for such species as the red knot, which travels up to 8,000 miles one-way -- in some cases, from the Arctic to the southern tip of South America!



K.TITHERINGTON/USFWS
RED KNOT WITH A NANOTAG

GOMSWG MEETING



A..ADAMS/USFWS
PRESENTATION AT THE
GOMSWG MEETING

Our biologists attended the Gulf of Maine Seabird Working Group annual meeting to present information on this year's data and to share knowledge with regional cooperators. There were numerous research projects presented including monitoring of tern feeding habits, plastics in the diet, and the prospect of using drones to monitor seabird colonies.

DOWN TO THE DATA

With the majority of nesting birds having already fledged, our biologists are working around the clock to enter and proof the mountain of data collected this season. Once finalized, they compile graphs and maps for easier comparison to past years, and submit annual reports to cooperators. With thousands of nesting birds to track, this becomes quite a hefty task. The offices at Morris Island tend to be quieter during the height of field season, as biological staff live at field camps. This time of year it's a full house!



C.BRADLEY/USFWS
OUR BIOLOGISTS CHECKING DATA