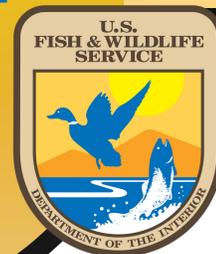


(PHOTO: R.LAMBERT/USFWS) Through August 2nd, 2019

MONOMOY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
VOLUME FOUR
2019



THIS ISSUE'S SPOTLIGHT: LIGHTHOUSE RENOVATION



E.POWERS//USFWS

DRYWALL INSTALLATION IN THE LIGHTHOUSE

We are finishing up the most recent renovations on Monomoy Point Light keeper's house by installing wallboard and joint compound. This fall, staff and volunteers will paint and install interior trim and doors; ready for staff, researchers, and guided public tours!

REMINDER TO BE SMART THIS SUMMER

The temperatures continue to rise as summer progresses. We want to remind you to stay hydrated, apply sunscreen, and know the risks of any fun summer activities you may want to participate in. If the heat becomes unbearable, think about stepping in the visitor center to cool off and learn about our



C.BRADLEY//USEFWS

MORRIS ISLAND OVERLOOK

GETTING OUT TO THE ISLAND



USFWS

LANDSCAPE VIEW FROM MONOMOY POINT LIGHT

Did you know that Morris Island is only 40 acres of the entire refuge? The rest is comprised of three off-shore islands, largely open to the public by boat. We encourage those who are interested in enjoying Monomoy's spectacular fishing and birdwatching to make the trip. If you don't own a boat, the refuge partners with 3 local, specially-permitted operators (listed below), who can deliver you to the Monomoy Wilderness for a fee. When visiting the islands, just remember they are federal wilderness areas, and critical for nesting and migrating shorebirds. Please follow rules and regulations on posted signage and on our website.

- MONOMOY ADVENTURES - (508)-292-3060
- MONOMOY ISLAND FERRY - (508)-237-0420
- OUTERMOST ADVENTURES - (508)-945-2030 (NORTH MONOMOY ONLY)

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY



C.BRADLEY//USFWS

ECOSYSTEM TUMBLE KID'S GAME

We've launched a new exhibit and new programming for the rest of the summer. We even have a new installation for our younger visitors! From history lovers, to citizen scientists, to the newest explorers of your family, we have something for everyone. Check the full schedule on our Facebook page or website or see some of the highlights on the last page of this newsletter!

ALMOST BLOWN AWAY



M.HILLMAN//USEWS

STAFF AND VISITORS TAKING SHELTER IN THE VISITOR CENTER BASEMENT

Unusual weather struck the Cape this past week with three confirmed tornadoes and 90+ mph winds. The refuge trails and driveway saw significant tree damage, and power was out for 2 days. Staff have been working hard to clean up and repair grounds and facilities. Staff and visitors took shelter in the HQ basement during the height of the storm, and thankfully, no one was hurt. We thank first responders and utility crews for all their hard work!

MONOMOY'S BUZZING WITH BEETLES

Monomoy is home to thousands of Northeastern Beach Tiger Beetles, a federally threatened species, which were reintroduced in 2000 starting with only thirteen individuals. The refuge provides ideal beetle habitat due to large swaths of undisturbed beach, little foot traffic, and no vehicle traffic. Staff conducted an index count last week and found 2,274 individuals in just the area covered, with another planned survey in the upcoming weeks. Next year, a sub-sample will be captured at Monomoy and translocated to other sites, with the goal of reestablishing self-sustaining populations in the Mid-Atlantic region. A huge success for conservation!



USFWS

NORTHEASTERN BEACH TIGER
BEETLE

HOPPING ALONG NOMAN'S LAND ISLAND



USFWS

NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL

The New England Cottontail Project on Noman's Land Island NWR is continuing to go well. Despite one mortality and two individuals which can no longer be tracked, the remaining 10 are using the habitat as anticipated. Refuge staff took a trip last week to monitor the progress. They mowed a trail in hopes of collecting rabbit pellets for DNA analysis, and sure enough, Biologists located and collected three pellet samples from two individuals. These data will confirm breeding is occurring on the island if the DNA is from offspring.

THE LAST LATE BLOOMER FOR PLOVERS

We're on our last nest still being incubated! Seven pairs of plovers have fledged sixteen chicks so far. Fifteen more chicks from an additional five pairs are on track to fledge soon. The numbers are lower than last year which is likely due to the challenging season the plovers faced. It is important to remember challenging seasons are natural and there will always be good years for nesting as well as bad years.

Mitigating unnatural human influence that can cause detrimental effects is the best way to help our plovers out!



USFWS

ADULT PLOVERS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lighthouse Tour

We're extremely excited to offer an additional lighthouse tour this summer! Space is extremely limited and registration is required, so be sure to register as soon as possible. Contact crystal_bradley@fws.gov for more information.

August 6th 9:00am
Leaving from Visitor Center
Registration is open from
August 4th-5th

Guided Walks

Guided trail walks continue throughout the summer (see schedule, below). Additional walks are available upon request Thursdays through Mondays from 10am-3pm. These tours are dependent on volunteer availability. The visitor center is more than happy to answer any questions you may have!

Fridays & Sundays
10:30am and 2:30 pm
Saturdays at 10:30am
Leaving from Visitor Center



STAY UPDATED AND CONNECTED
WITH OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

MORE FROM THE FIELD

TERNS TAKING FLIGHT

Despite a later start than normal, our common terns are fledging in large numbers and are readying their departure from South Monomoy Island to more southern latitudes. Staff removed portions of field camp as work slows down. We have our common tern census numbers in, with **14,343** nesting pairs -- a new record, and once again the largest tern colony on the east coast! The analysis was delayed due to corrections needed to account for the late arrival.



K.LAPENTA/MASS AUDUBON

COMMON TERN CHICK FEEDING

SUMMER WITH THE SHARKS



USFWS

GREAT WHITE SHARK STRANDED
IN THE SHALLOWS

As peak shark activity is August through September, we are observing more sharks and depredated seals. Great white sharks are a critical part of our ecosystem, not only here at Monomoy, but across the globe. Make safe and informed decisions when entering the water, know the risks, and always be aware of your surroundings. And, remember that Monomoy was preserved in perpetuity for wildlife; swimming and beach-going may sometimes conflict with this mission.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

New environmental education programming continues Thursdays through Mondays until August 16th. There will be history lectures, seal talks, geology lectures, educational games for kids, and discussions on the great white shark's role in the food web. Registration is required. Check our Facebook page, website or stop by the visitor center for a full schedule and more information!