



(PHOTO: E.POWERS/USFWS) Through June 28th, 2019

MONOMOY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER VOLUME TWO 2019

THIS ISSUE'S SPOTLIGHT: TEEN CHALLENGE VOLUNTEERS



C.BRADLEY//USFWS VOLUNTEERS FROM TEEN CHALLENGE BOSTON

This issue's shoutout goes to the Teen Challenge Boston volunteers! As you visit Monomoy and are enjoying the trails, keep this group in mind. They did great work clearing the trails and removing invasive species at Morris Island. They help the refuge with trails and grounds maintenance and we are very thankful for the work they do. We couldn't do it without them!

SUNNY DAYS AT THE REFUGE AGAIN

As school is out for summer and the weather warms up, the refuge has many more visitors; both wildlife and human. Remember, leave only footprints, take only photographs.

Stop by the visitor center during your visit for more information about the refuge and to plan your day at Monomoy.



E.POWERS/USFWS OCEAN VIEW FROM SOUTH MONOMOY ISLAND

EXPLORING MONOMOY'S PAST DURING CHATHAM HISTORY WEEKEND



M.HILLMAN//USFWS
MONOMOY POINT
LIGHTHOUSE

The refuge participated in Chatham History Weekend, from June 21-23, to celebrate the Town's unique past. This year, a guided bus tour delivered passengers to Monomoy, in addition to other local museums. Staff taught visitors about barrier beach geology and the many breaks that have occurred over the years, changing what was once a peninsula into the islands we see today. A brief history of the lighthouse and the 75-year journey of USFWS at Monomoy was covered. The stop concluded with a discussion of the many imperiled species which have slowly but steadily increased in numbers at Monomoy, marking a huge success for conservation.

FISHING AT THE REFUGE



E.POWERS//USFWS

STRIPED BASS CAUGHT OFF SOUTH MONOMOY

Monomoy is a popular destination for shellfishers and fishers due to the abundance of prey in these waters. Soft-shell clams and striped bass are frequent catches here at Morris Island. Although the striper season started slow, fishing activity is increasing in recent days.

If you want to try your luck at catching a keeper, be sure to obtain the proper state or local permits and review current regulations. And, stop by the visitor center for some tips and tricks from our volunteers, many of whom are local fishing experts!

LIGHTHOUSE TOUR



M.HILLMAN//USFWS

LIGHTHOUSE TOUR GROUP

This year's special tours to the Monomoy Point Lighthouse during Chatham History Weekend occurred over a two-day period. Refuge staff and volunteer Steve Keenan transported visitors on the refuge's new 22-passenger landing craft, followed by a 1-mile hike to the historic light tower and keeper's house. Visitors got a look at the Monomoy Point Lighthouse, the keeper's house, and South Monomoy's landscape. Our thanks to all the happy passengers, and to the Historic Chatham group for the continued partnership.

KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON OUR ROSEATE TERNS

Monomoy is home to five federally threatened or endangered species, one of which is the elegant roseate tern. They can be quite difficult to identify by sight, due to physical similarities between the much more abundant common terns, so the best way to differentiate them in the raucous colony is by their call. There are also behavioral differences and slight variations in coloration of their beaks and peak breeding plumage. Our biology team has located 9 roseate nests to date -- within a colony exceeding 20,000 nesting common terns!



USFWS

ROSEATE TERN IN FLIGHT

PIPING PLOVERS PERSEVERING



USFWS

PLOVER CHICKS

The refuge is pleased to host 34 pairs of piping plovers this summer! Most eggs have not yet hatched due to frequent spring over-wash events coupled with depredation. Early in the season, most pairs will re-nest, as has been the case this season. At least one pair is showing great perseverance, already being on their 3rd nest. Even with the rocky start, 9 chicks have hatched, and the first fledged just last week!

VISITING SCIENTISTS

The refuge partners with many visiting scientists who conduct year-round field research alongside our biology team. In addition to hosting seal researchers in the middle of winter, the spring and summer months afford not only warmer weather, but research and monitoring on the federally threatened Northeastern beach tiger beetle and seabeach amaranth plant. This week we hosted scientist Gemma Clucas of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, who is analyzing tern fecal samples to assess diet as well as levels of microplastics. There is a never-ending array of exciting research to conduct at Monomoy -- a true living laboratory!



C.BRADLEY//USFWS

COMMON TERN IN FLIGHT

UPCOMING EVENTS

South Monomoy Beach Clean-Up

Have you ever wondered where those helium balloons go when they're released? Sadly, one destination is South Monomoy Island. This litter poses real dangers for the wildlife on the island and degrades their natural habitat. Join us to help clean up our beaches and help the wildlife that calls Monomoy home.

July 1st 8am

Registration Required

Guided Walks

Guided walks will be hosted regularly now that seasonal staff has arrived. More walks will be 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

THANK YOU!



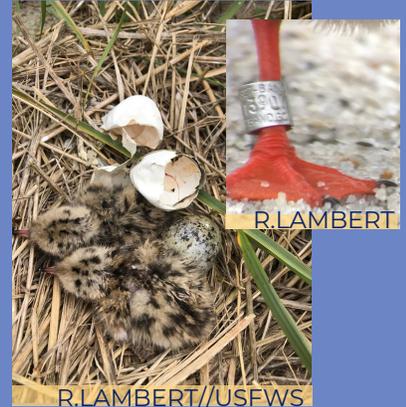
Friends of Monomoy

We'd also like to thank the Friends of Monomoy for their continued work on the refuge. For their latest project they planted juniper and mulched!

MORE FROM THE FIELD

TERN CHICK BANDING

Our tern chicks are hatching, which means it's time to band them as part of long-term research on nesting and migration patterns. Staff also resight and recapture previously banded adults.



R.LAMBERT/USFWS
COMMON TERN CHICKS WITH INLAY
OF BANDED ADULT COMMON TERN

FULL HOUSE WITH AMOYS



USFWS
AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER
CHICK.

All of our successful American oystercatcher nests now have chicks. Our biologists often call American oystercatchers "AMOYS" because the short nickname keeps up with fast-paced field work.

AWARD WINNING BUNNIES

The leading biologist for the New England Cottontail Project, Eileen McGourty, received a regional award for Strategic Conservation this year! The release on Nomans Land Island had its six-week check and all 13 individuals are alive and seeming to get acclimated to their new home.



USFWS
EILEEN MCGOURTY WITH
NEW ENGLAND COTTONTAIL



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