

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

July 13—July 19, 2014 [Issue 10]

Photo Credit: USFWS/Kaiti Titherington

A Message from Monomoy

Though many chicks have fledged, spread their wings and begun exploring the beaches of Monomoy, the breeding season will continue for the next few weeks. Staging shorebirds, including red knot, whimbrel, and short-billed dowitcher, have been seen filtering in from the Arctic in increasing numbers. It is at this crucial time that we remember to remain out of posted areas to protect migrating adults along with their newly-fledged chicks making their first trips south!

We encourage all our visitors to enjoy the beginning of migration from a safe distance. Don't forget to ask our visitor services staff to borrow a pair of binoculars!

2014 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

Double-crested cormorant	Black-bellied plover
Great black-backed gull	Semipalmated plover
Herring gull	Semipalmated sandpiper
Ring-billed gull	Sanderling
Glaucous gull	Dunlin
Iceland gull	Snowy owl
Laughing gull	Great egret
Bonaparte's gull	White-throated sparrow
Willet	Turkey vulture
Greater yellowlegs	Peregrine falcon
Lesser yellowlegs	Red-winged blackbird
Black-crowned night heron	Common grackle
Yellow-crowned night heron	Ruddy turnstone
Tricolored heron	Wilson's plover
Green heron	Red Knot
American bittern	Seaside sparrow
White-rumped sandpiper	Northern gannet
Least sandpiper	Common loon
Pectoral Sandpiper	Common eider
Hudsonian Godwit	American black duck
Marbled Godwit	Magnolia warbler
Short-billed dowitcher	Cedar waxwing
Black tern	Brant goose
Arctic tern (7/17)	Eastern kingbird
Spotted sandpiper	Willow flycatcher
Whimbrel	Barn swallow
Razorbill	Black Scoter
Mississippi kite	Gull-billed tern
Glossy Ibis	

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Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Brian Harrington

Bird ActivityPiping Plovers (PIPL)

There are currently 6 active unfledged broods with 12 chicks and 14 fledged broods with 32 chicks on South Monomoy. Minimoy has one brood with 2 chicks and is expected to fledge next week. The brood on North Monomoy was not seen this week and is believed to have failed. No new nests or hatches were recorded this week. One nest was lost on South Monomoy this week to unknown causes.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

There are currently 10 broods, with 3 nests currently being incubated and 13 chicks documented. SMNY holds the lead with 7 fledged chicks distributed between 3 broods. Three fledged chicks have been seen between 2 broods on NMNY, although 4 broods are suspected based on parental behavior.

Minimoy was checked once this week on 7/17, where 3 active broods are suspected based on parental behavior and evidence. One fledged chick and 2 unfledged chicks were seen on this date between 2 broods. One nest was lost to abandonment or a suspected dead egg.

On 13 July, staff banded 2 more chicks on Broad Creek Island! Please report YE(2P) and YE(3P) to the American Oystercatcher Working Group (amoywg.org) if you see them.

Common Terns (COTE)

The colony continues to deal with predator problems, noting multiple GBBG appearances and a harrier observed taking a chick on 7/17. Coyote tracks were seen on the camp trail and around the colony on 7/17 and 7/18.

The first empty plot was closed on 7/12 in preparation to the end of the breeding season. Thirteen plots have been taken down so far with the remaining plots having few nests and B-census chicks.

Mass banding was initiated on 7/12 with 816 soon-to-be fledglings receiving bands by the end of the week. The refuge plans to band 1000 chicks (aged 20+) outside of the plots.

Staff continues to conduct kleptoparasitism stints and notes the addition of hatch year chicks making the colony very active.

Roseate Terns (ROST)

6 of 8 ROST nests have hatched to date for total of 11 chicks (2 of which are hybrids!) between 6 broods. All ROST chicks have received PFR bands and 1 chick fledged this week for a total of 6 fledglings. One more chick is suspected to have fledged, although it was not found on its fledge date. One nest continues to be incubated and 1 nest failed this week due to abandonment. An abandoned ROST egg from one of the hatched nests was found predated by unknown causes. Staff suspects gull based on evidence. Day stints only continue to relocate chicks.

Black Skimmers (BLSK)

BLSK were not seen on the refuge this week.

Least Terns (LETE)

No new information to report.

Laughing Gulls (LAGU)

No new information to report.

Roseate habitat restoration Project

On 19 July, photos were taken of all 3 study areas to assess how the goldenrod planted at the beginning of the season has been growing to date. Each study area contains 3 grids with 4 photos per grid. Staff reports the goldenrod growing fairly well with 5 out of 8 ROST pairs nesting in 2 of the study areas. More information and photos will follow in the next update to better explain the project.

iPlover

Staff has recorded 44 plover nests with iPlover to date with 3 new entries this week.

Salt Marsh Integrity

Nekton sampling is set to begin this week on July 23rd, with a trial run planned for July 22nd. Staff plan to begin nekton sampling on North Monomoy and Minimoy Islands first, which have 20 and 17 nekton sampling sites, respectively. Water level data continues to be collected at the Morris Island and Hospital Pond units. We would like to give a big thank you to all the volunteers who signed up to help during the nekton sampling window!

Northeastern beach tiger beetles

Two teams set out to perform surveys for Northeast beach tiger beetles (NBTB) this week on July 17th, spanning from the break at South Beach to the Lighthouse on South Monomoy. A total of 5,335 beetles were counted. Surveys are planned again for this week to obtain additional high counts for this year's larger cohort.

Current & Upcoming Events

NBTB Surveys

July 13-22

SMI: Nekton Sampling Window

July 22-Aug 7

Bio Discussion: Predator Control

July 24

Shorebird Staging Counts

~Late July~

JUNE 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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	1	2	3	4	5