

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

July 20 – July 26, 2014 [Issue 11]

Photo Credit: USFWS/Susi von Oettingen

A Message from Monomoy

An end of summer lull has reached Monomoy, as the tern colony becomes less and less frenzied with each passing day. It is a fascinating time for visitors, with opportunities to watch newly fledged American oystercatchers, terns and piping plovers fattening up for the journey south. Perhaps most intriguing are the large flocks of terns beginning to stage at the break on South Beach and at the South Beach/South Monomoy connection.

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.

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	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/Claire Revekant

Bird ActivityPiping Plovers (PIPL)

No nests were lost, gained, hatched, or remained active this week. Six chicks fledged bringing the total number to 38 fledged chicks between 17 broods on South Monomoy. Three remaining chicks in 1 brood are expected to fledge August 2nd. Minimoy was not completely checked this week, although 1 PIPL chick was seen on 22 July and is expected to fledge later in the week. More information on productivity will follow in the coming weeks.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

There are currently 10 broods, with 1 nest currently being incubated on North Monomoy and 13 chicks documented on the refuge. 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 not completely checked this week because of time constraints. Staff was able to check Minimoy for a short period of time on 7/22 where the remaining egg of an abandoned nest was buried. Three fledged chicks between 2 broods are still suspected with potentially 3 active broods based on parental behavior.

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

Common Terns (COTE)

Productivity continues to wind down within the tern colony, with 19 productivity plots closed, and 14 plots remaining as of July 26th. Staff will continue to monitor remaining plots until the last remaining nests have hatched and B-census chicks have fledged/reached 23 days. Additionally, kleptoparasitism stints also continue for 3 hours/day.

Predator activity has also continued within the colony, with multiple sightings of Northern harrier, and two instances of Northern harrier predation of tern chicks observed.

This coming week marks a shift from productivity monitoring to conducting counts of staging terns.

Roseate Terns (ROST)

6 of 8 ROST nests have hatched to date for total of 11 fledged chicks (2 of which are hybrids!) between 6 broods. All ROST chicks have received blue PFR bands. The

remaining two unhatched nests were abandoned and suspected to be unviable. One of the adults from these nests (with a PFR band) was resighted on Nantucket on July 22nd. This week, staff will begin resighting banded ROSTs during tern staging counts.

Black Skimmers (BLSK)

No new information to report.

Least Terns (LETE)

No new information to report.

Roseate habitat restoration Project

No new information to report. 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.

iPlover

Staff has recorded 52 plover nests with iPlover to date with 8 new entries this week.

Salt Marsh Integrity

Nekton sampling began this week on Wednesday, July 23rd. Staff were able to sample all 20 nekton sites on North Monomoy by week's end! Hospital Pond/Minimoy are the next sites to be sampled this week, with Hospital Pond planned for sampling July 28th. We would like to give a big thank you to all the volunteers who signed up to help during the nekton sampling window!

Sampling on North Monomoy has provided some great insight into the abundance and diversity of species within Monomoy's marshes. To date, the 3 most abundant species have been mummichog, striped killifish, and Atlantic silverside.

Additionally, water level data continues to be collected at the Morris Island and Hospital Pond units.

Northeastern beach tiger beetles

No new information to report. Refuge staff performed surveys for Northeast beach tiger beetles (NBTB) in mid-July, spanning from the break at South Beach to the Lighthouse on South Monomoy. A total of 5,335 beetles were counted. A final, adjusted count for the 2014 NBTB cohort will be provided in the coming weeks.

Current & Upcoming Events

SMI: Nekton Sampling Window

July 22-Aug 7

Bio Discussion: Predator Management

July 31

Tern Staging Counts

Late July/August

Shorebird Surveys

August 15

JULY 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	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	1	2