

# Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

May 12 - 18, 2013 [ Issue 1 ]

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## Photo of the Week



## Message from Monomoy

Greetings, welcome, and sun salutations from the staff of Monomoy NWR. Another field season is upon us and we are already off to a great start. On May 13, 2013 we held our annual staff orientation meeting at the visitor contact station and conducted Hunter Safety Training. We are happy to welcome back Marla Hamilton, Yianni Laskaris, and Carly Congdon. New to our staff this season is Alex Cook, Claire Revekant, Jon Lanza, and Ravin Thomasson. Likewise we look to be adding to our ranks two visitor service personnel. Welcome to the Monomoy family! We are excited for this season and look forward to a productive 2013 field season; as the northerners' like to say this season will be "wicked" awesome.

## 2013 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

American crow	Red winged blackbird
Double crested cormorant	Black bellied plover
Dunlin	Willet
Ruddy turnstone	Laughing gull
Greater black-backed gull	Herring gull
Northern harrier	Snowy owl
Short billed dowitcher	Black crowned night heron
Great egret	Snowy egret
Thick billed murre	Turkey vulture
Osprey	

**BIRD ACTIVITY**

Piping Plovers (PIPL)

On 1 May staff located the first piping plover nest of the 2013 season on South Monomoy. A total of 18 PIPL nests have been identified since that date. Currently, 11 PIPL nests are inactive due to predation and/or weather. Staff last saw coyote tracks on 29 April but have not seen any since then. Therefore predation may be from gull, Crow spp., and/or common grackle. Currently there are 7 active PIPL nests on South Monomoy. Staff conducted nest checks and search on 17 May, but due to high wind conditions ended the activity for the day.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

The first AMOY nest of the 2013 field season was located on 1 May on South Monomoy Island. A total of seven nests on South Monomoy Island, five nests on Minimoy Island, and seven nests on North Monomoy Island have been found thus far. The earliest expected hatching should occur between the 23 - 28 of May.

Common Terns (COTE)

Twenty - seven productivity plots were set up in the colony on South Monomoy and will be completed the following week. Productivity measurements will begin at the end of the month. Staff has observed many COTE pairs scrapping and copulating and believes nesting will start soon. The high counts on South Monomoy have ranged from 400 to 3000 to date. A high count of two COTE was made on Minimoy Island.

Roseate Terns (ROST)

Staff saw the first ROST of the season on South Monomoy on 18 May in the colony, but no nests have been located yet. The sound system and nesting structures will be set up the coming week to attract roseate terns to a location south of the main colony. The area was used in 1999 by approximately 50 pairs of ROST and staff is hoping that they might return to this historic nesting location since attempts to attract ROST within the main colony have been relatively unsuccessful. This location provides adequate vegetation for nesting, proximity to nesting COTE for protection, but does not have a density of nesting COTE that is too concentrated and might keep ROST from being successful. A second sound system and structure arrangement will be placed closer to the main common tern nesting area. ROST nesting locations this year will

determine the location of habitat work that is scheduled for the 2014 season.

**Wading Bird Census**

North Monomoy Island

A census of wading birds nesting on North Monomoy Island was conducted on 17 May. Refuge staff located Black crowned Night heron, Snowy Egret, and Great Egret nests. Only BCNH had chicks. Once refuge staff compiles that data the results will be published in the next weekly update.

**Upcoming Events**

<b>Gull Census South Monomoy</b>	May 21 - 23
<b>HSC Tagging</b>	May 25
<b>AMOY Census Window</b>	May 26 - 31
<b>Gull Census North Monomoy</b>	May 28
<b>PIPL Census Window</b>	June 1 - 9

MAY 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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	