

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

May 19 - 25, 2013 [Issue 2]

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Photo of the Week



Message from Monomoy

This week we add to our ranks and welcome Berett Garbus. She will be working the visitor contact station. From the Monomoy family we would also like to say happy retirement to Steven "Ziggy" Zadroga and send best wishes to Nick Ernst as he transitions to his new position in Rhode Island. We thank you both for your time at Monomoy and hope you know that you will truly be missed. Likewise we would like to thank the volunteers: David Clapp, Matt Malin, Shiloh Schulte, and Stephanie Koch for helping with Gull census on South Monomoy. Although weather conditions limited our field activity this week we stayed productive. We wish everyone a safe and happy Memorial Day!

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	Black skimmer

BIRD ACTIVITY

Piping Plovers (PIPL)

To date a total of 20 PIPL nests have been identified on South Monomoy Island. Staff conducted nest checks on 25 May after concurrent bad weather days. Likewise a 2 egg PIPL nest was located on the southwest corner of broad creek island on North Monomoy Island. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

Staff conducted nests checks on 25 May on North Monomoy Island and South Monomoy Island after concurrent bad weather days. All seven nests on North Monomoy were accounted for and one of the North Monomoy nest is starting to hatch! So far four of the South Monomoy AMOY nests have been checked and all are doing well. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Common Terns (COTE)

The first COTE nest was located on 19 May on South Monomoy near camp site location and subsequent nest have been seen in the colony. Staff worked on completing productivity plots and constructing three blinds in the colony.

Roseate Terns (ROST)

While the staff were working in the colony more ROST were heard and seen landing, but no nests have been located yet. The sound system and nesting structures still need to be set up to attract roseate terns to a location south of the main colony. With better weather we are hoping to complete this activity next week.

Black Skimmers (BLSK)

Staff observed a pair of skimmers in the colony on 22 May. No nests have been located yet.

Least Terns (LETE)

On the 25 May staff located two, 1 egg LETE nests at the south tip of South Monomoy Island

Wading Bird Census

North Monomoy Island

The data shows a total of 228 nesting wading birds on North Monomoy Island. There were 150 black crowned night heron nests, 62 snowy egret nests, and 16 great egret nests. Again no glossy ibis were seen or nested on the island.

Gull Census

South Monomoy Island

Staff and volunteers conducted gull census on 21 and 22 of May on all areas of South Monomoy Island except the main tern colony which remains a no gull area. The census is conducted to count nests of greater black backed gulls and herring gulls. Overall very few nests were counted and staff observed a decrease in gull numbers. The results of the census will be compiled later on this summer.

Horseshoe Crab Tagging (HSC) and Resights

Morris Island

Staff and volunteers tagged a total of 140 HSC on 23 and 25 May on the refuge portion of Morris Island. Five resighted HSC were seen during this survey window. If you are interested in volunteering for tagging and/or resighting HSC please contact Marla Hamilton at Marla_Hamilton@fws.gov for more information.

Upcoming Events

Gull Census South Monomoy	May 21 - 23
HSC Tagging	May 25
AMOY Census Window	May 26 - 31
Gull Census North Monomoy	May 28
PIPL Census Window	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	