

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

June 2 - 8, 2013 [Issue 4]

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from Monomoy
- 1 2013 Field Season Update
- 1 Bird Sightings
- 2 Bird Activity
- 2 Nano Tag Pilot Study
- 2 Predator Removal and Invasive Species Control
- 3 Upcoming Events

Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Dr. Peter Paton

Message from Monomoy

Now you see me now you don't! There are chicks on South, North, and Minimoy Islands. If you plan on visiting any of these islands we ask that you please be mindful and respectful of posted areas as many of our breeding birds have cryptic colored chicks that can be very hard to see. Camp set up is complete and staff moved in on 4 June. Monomoy is now in full swing of monitoring and all biological activities conducted on the refuge. So stay tuned!

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
Great 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
Yellow-crowned night-heron	Glossy ibis

Bird Activity

Piping Plovers (PIPL)

To date a total of 37 PIPL pairs have been identified on South Monomoy Island. Currently there are 27 active nests 5 of which are renests. Beginning 2 June, a total of 5 nests were lost to predation by crow species and/or common grackle, one nest was abandoned, and another lost to unknown predation. The refuge is addressing these predation issues by implementing a variety of non-lethal predator management techniques including erecting predator exclosures. The North Monomoy Island PIPL was seen incubating and is estimated to hatch 26 June. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

On 6 June a total of 2 new AMOY nests were located on South and North Monomoy Islands, bringing our active nests count on South and North Monomoy Islands to 8 each. To date a total of 15 chicks have been observed on South and North Monomoy Islands with our earliest estimated fledging date to occur on 30 June. On Minimoy there are a total of 4 active nests, one of which is a renest. On 5 June one nest was lost to predation by owl and staff located 2 chicks on Minimoy island. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Common Terns (COTE)

On 5 June productivity monitoring showed that all 28 productivity plots have active nests. Likewise staff observed fresh coyote tracks in the colony and around the northern tip of South Monomoy Island. Staff also observed a Northern Harrier flying around the colony which was then chased by COTE. Due to recent predator activity and an increase in colony "dread flights" or flushing staff will begin conducting night observation stints. Day stints and klepto-parasitism stints are being conducted as staff time allows. Tern census will be initiated on the 12 June.

Roseate Terns (ROST)

To date there are two 2egg ROST nests and one 1egg ROST nest in the colony. On 4 June the ROST sound systems were placed in the colony and are projecting ROST call backs. Day stints are attempting to locate more ROST pairs or nests.

Black Skimmers (BLSK)

No new information to report. BLSK have not been confirmed to be nesting on the refuge.

Least Terns (LETE)

No new information to report. Least tern census will be conducted beginning 15 June.

Horseshoe Crab Activity

Horseshoe crab tagging events for this week had to be cancelled due to poor weather. Horseshoe crab resighting surveys were completed on several days and several crab resights were reported. Tagging and resighting will continue as long as horseshoe crabs are spawning on the refuge, likely until early July. 140 crabs have been tagged on the refuge so far this year.

Nano Tag Pilot Study

Research is being conducted at Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge that will track Common Terns and American Oystercatchers fitted with NanoTags and determine the frequency and duration of movements into Federal waters on the eastern border of Nantucket Sound and the outer Cape. NanoTags may provide a promising alternative to limitations encountered with satellite tag and geolocator technology, and are currently the sole option for tracking many smaller bird species at fine scales. This work will be the first to test and refine the effectiveness of around-the-clock NanoTag tracking of terns and oystercatchers using automated telemetry stations. On 4 June staff assisted Pam Loring with trapping and processing COTE from the colony on South Monomoy Island, so far 23 NanoTags have been deployed on COTE. On 6 June staff assisted Pam Loring with trapping and processing a total of 4 AMOY with NanoTags on South and North Monomoy Islands. Only one more NanoTag needs to be deployed on an AMOY for this pilot study.

Upcoming Events

PIPL Census Window	June 1 – 9
HSC Tagging SMNY - Cancelled	June 7
HSC Tagging Morris Island - Cancelled	June 8
Tern Census	June 12-20
HSC Tagging NMNY	June 23

JUNE 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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	25	27	28	29
30						