

# Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

June 23 - 29, 2013 [ Issue 7 ]

## Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from Monomoy
- 1 2013 Field Season Update
- 1 Bird Sightings
- 2 Bird Activity
- 2 Nano Tag Pilot Study
- 2 HSC Tagging and Resights

## Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Ravin Thomasson

## Message from Monomoy

As we begin to head further into hurricane season the Monomoy family would like to ask our visitors to be cautious on the roadways and waterways. Heavy rain, thunderstorms, and wet fog has hindered field activity for four days and closed camp since 26 June. Staff has been able to utilize partial good weather breaks and data updates to stay productive. The Monomoy family would like to congratulate Amber Carr for receiving the Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Award. Job well done! Also we would like to thank Kate Iaquinto, Tom Eagle, Susan Russo, and Pam Carota for the coordination and implementation of an awesome staff meeting. Great job! The Monomoy family would like to thank all of the volunteers who came to help with horseshoe crab tagging on 23 June. We could not accomplish such a large task without your help! If you plan on visiting the refuge 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.

## 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
Parasitic Jaeger	

**Bird Activity**

Piping Plovers (PIPL)

Currently there are 35 active nests, 4 of which are new and 15 renests. There are 42 total pairs of PIPL on South Monomoy Island. The refuge is addressing predation issues by implementing a variety of non-lethal predator management techniques including erecting predator exclosures. To date 8 chicks from 3 broods have been seen. The banded PIPL from Florida has been seen on the south end of South Monomoy Island and confirmed to be nesting on the refuge. The North Monomoy Island PIPL nest was not seen on 25 June while staff conducted nest checks. The PIPL pair was observed during that time and behavior suggests that there were chicks on the ground. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

On 25 June staff conducted nest checks on North Monomoy Island and were only able to locate 3 chicks. That same day staff implemented management practices to encourage an AMOY pair to renest. On 23 and 24 June 2 chicks were seen on South Monomoy Island. 3 AMOY broods are estimated to fledge this week. Due to inclement weather staff has been unable to conduct nest checks on Minimoy. Many AMOY chicks are getting closer to fledging and are becoming elusive. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Common Terns (COTE)

To date all 28 productivity plots have chicks. The colony saw fewer "dread flights" and is focusing energy on protecting their chicks. Staff is still observing predator activity in and around the colony. Night stints are now being regularly scheduled. Day stints and klepto-parasitism stints are being conducted as staff time allows. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Roseate Terns (ROST)

To date there are 7 ROST chicks from 6 nests in the colony. On 24 June staff identified a ROST hybrid chick and had a confirmed sighting of a ROST COTE pair. Day stints are attempting to locate more ROST pairs or nests. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

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. Information will be provided once it becomes available.

**Nano Tag Pilot Study**

To date 50 Nano tags have been deployed on COTE from the colony on South Monomoy Island. On June 24 and 25 staff assisted Pam Loring in trapping COTE. In the upcoming weeks more tags will be deployed. On 27 June the receiving station at the south tip of South Monomoy Island was brought online and it immediately started receiving signals from tagged terns (likely foraging birds, the colony is 8 km to the north!) There are plans to set up another tower on the north end of South Monomoy Island. No new tags have been placed on AMOY.

**HSC Tagging and Resights**

Staff and volunteers tagged a total of 244 HSC on 23 June on the northern tip of South Monomoy Island bringing the season total to 384 tagged HSC. During this survey window there were a total of 11 tagged HSC resighted. Based on availability and time another survey window may be conducted. Thank you to all of our volunteers and job well done!

JULY 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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			

JULY 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		