

# Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

June 30 – July 6, 2013 [Issue 8]

## 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**

## Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Claire Revekant

## Message from Monomoy

They are growing so fast! Many of our chicks are getting bigger by the day and are trying to spread their wings, but they are not on the move yet. 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. Heavy rain, thunderstorms, and wet fog have hindered field activity for two days and camp reopened on 2 July. We hope everyone had a safe and pleasant 4 July and the Monomoy family would like to thank all military personal for all that you do. Thank you!

## 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 21 active nests, 2 of which are new and 2 renests. There are 11 active broods with 25 chicks seen and 2 fledged chicks on South Monomoy Island. A total of 6 nests hatched this week. 8 nests were lost this week, 2 to coyote predation, 2 to common grackle predation, and 4 unknown. The refuge is addressing predation issues by implementing a variety of non-lethal predator management techniques including erecting predator exclosures. The North Monomoy Island PIPL has 1 chick and was seen on 4 July. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

*American Oystercatchers (AMOY)*

On 4 July staff conducted nest checks on North Monomoy Island and were only able to locate 3 chicks. Two AMOY pairs have fledged chicks with 1 confirmed sighting. On South Monomoy Island 6 chicks have been observed 4 of which have fledged. 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 with most reaching 15 day status. On 3 July productivity plots were divided in half to adequately check and relocate chicks and the decrease in the amount of hatchlings and pipped eggs. 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 all 8 ROST pairs have chicks in the colony and are becoming elusive. Day stints are attempting to locate more ROST pairs, nests, and chicks. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

*Black Skimmers (BLSK)*

BLSK pair has been observed on the flats on the north tip of South Monomoy Island. 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 74 Nano tags have been deployed on COTE from the colony on South Monomoy Island. One tower and one whip antenna were setup on the northern end of South Monomoy Island this week. All towers on South Monomoy Island are receiving data. No new tags have been placed on AMOY.

***Predator Removal and Invasive Species Control***

Non – native and species permitted for take are removed from our islands when evidence shows disturbance and predation to nesting birds on islands.

*Gull*

During this week GBBG visited the colony on many occasions during various times of day. On 2 July staff observed a GBBG land in the colony, eat 2 COTE chicks, and take off. On 5 July staff observed an immature and GBBG flying in tandem through the colony. Staff believes GBBG is teaching after hatch years where to hunt. Staff has seen adult and juvenile GBBG loafing on the flats on the west side of the colony.

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			