



Dead Neck Sampson's Island Weekly Shorebird Report

As of 05/08/2024

Monitors: Eric Schertler, Andrew Hayden, Jamie Infanti, Rose Caplan, Mike Heine

Piping Plover Activity:

There are currently 20 PIPL pairs on the island so far. There are 13 active nests. 10 of these nests are incubating while 3 are actively laying. The earliest estimated hatch date is currently May 21, 2024.

American Oystercatcher Activity:

There are 2 AMOY pairs on the island. The western pair has nested and laid their first egg on April 30. Their nest still has only 1 egg as of May 8. The eastern pair has scraped again since losing a nest on April 30. The new scrapes are next to the jetty on the eastern end of the island.

Least Tern Activity:

Groups of terns have been seen foraging offshore. These have ranged in small flock size from 3-5 birds at a time. First sighting was on May 5. Some birds have been seen roosting on the beach, though no courtship behavior has been observed yet.

Fencing Maintenance and Activity:

We have continued to pull out fencing where necessary. These adjustments have only been made on the ocean side of fencing.

Predator activity:

Heavy predator activity on the island. Coyote tracks are seen walking up and down oceanside beach and through several restoration areas. First set of raccoon tracks were seen channel side towards the west point of the island. The occasional set of possum tracks has been seen mainly along the oceanside beach. Crow and gull activity has remained steady. Crows are often spotted flying over the island and have been seen eating a seal carcass. Bird of prey activity has picked up with multiple red-tailed hawk and northern harriers being seen flying over the island. An owl pellet was also found under some driftwood at the western end.

Management Concerns:

No major management concerns thus far given many boaters have not yet arrived for the summer, and there has been little human activity so far.