



Dead Neck Sampson's Island Weekly Shorebird Report

As of 06/01/2024

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

Piping Plover Activity:

There are currently 26 PIPL pairs on the island. There are 18 nests currently in the laying or incubating phase. 5 nests have hatched. In total, 5 nests have lost eggs due to various causes. 4 were completely lost: 3 were due to predation or suspected predation by coyotes. The most recent loss was due to a washout event early this week. Two nests were submerged in this event, and one pair was able to recover the eggs and were observed incubating again.

American Oystercatcher Activity:

There are 2 AMOY pairs on the island. AMOY pair 1 renested. AMOY pair 2 is still incubating. This nest is estimated to hatch around June 12.

Least Tern Activity:

Colony 1a at the eastern end of the island is estimated at 21 adult LETE and 2 COTE. Eggs have been observed from both species along with incubation. Colony 3a is estimated at 31 adult LETE. Eggs and incubation have been observed. Colony 2a, located farther west in another restoration area, has had eggs and incubation observed. This is the smallest colony at around 12 adult LETE. Colony 4a at the western end of the island is the largest with 37 adult LETE. Eggs and incubation have been witnessed.

Fencing Maintenance and Activity:

We have continued to pull out fencing where necessary. Additional "No Dog" and "No Landing" signs have been added over the last week across the entire island. More will be added as the island gets busier.

Predator activity:

Coyote activity has reduced significantly, and no tracks have been seen the past 2 visits. Crows are still prevalent and are seen throughout the island, often foraging in wrack lines. Gulls are seen throughout

the island. No aggression/predatory behavior from gulls towards plovers has been witnessed. While small mammal tracks were observed a few weeks ago, none have been spotted recently.

Management Concerns:

The island has been primarily busy on weekends so far this season. There have been two instances of boaters refusing to leave closed areas. Boat numbers for these were recorded and will be elevated if repeat incidents occur or if direct disturbance to nesting birds is observed. Some dogs have been observed on island, but all dog owners have been compliant and removed them from the site when spoken to by CWP staff.