



Dead Neck Sampson's Island Weekly Shorebird Report

As of 06/14/2024

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

Piping Plover Activity:

There are 27 pairs on the island. There are now 13 broods of chicks. The first estimated fledge date is June 15th. Chick losses have not yet been observed. 2 eggs were lost during the past week: 1 to washout and 1 due to coyote predation. Several more hatch dates are approaching in the upcoming week.

American Oystercatcher Activity:

AMOY pair 1 lost a nest due to coyote predation. This nest had 2 eggs, and it was a second nesting attempt. AMOY pair 2 lost 1 out of 3 eggs due to suspected avian predation. The other 2 eggs are expected to hatch this week.

Least Tern Activity:

Colony 2a experienced a large amount of predation in the past week and none were seen in the colony area during the last monitor. The remaining colonies have been holding steady and it's estimated there are between 30-40 pairs on the island.

Fencing Maintenance and Activity:

Fencing has been bumped out further with the discovery of new nests. We have had to repair some sections of twine that was damaged following fence expansion.

Predator activity:

Coyote activity has picked up and several PIPL and LETE nests have been predated. Coyote tracks have been seen up and down the entire island. Crows are still present and are seen throughout the island, though crows have not been attributed to any nest or chick losses in the past week. Gulls are seen throughout the island, and despite being near foraging chicks, there has been no suspected predation observed. Raccoon presence increased over the last week and is being monitored.

Management Concerns:

Most visitors to the island have been respectful of closed areas. There have been a few negative interactions between CWP staff and boaters, but none resulted in direct disturbance to nesting shorebirds or escalated to an aggressive interaction. One notable incident was a drone flying over the island and disturbing tern colonies. It was spotted on the east side, but we were unable to spot the pilot. The drone then headed west and left the area.