



Dead Neck Sampson's Island Weekly Shorebird Report

As of 06/29/2024

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

Piping Plover Activity:

There are 27 pairs on the island. 19 pairs are either brooding chicks or have fledged chicks. Pairs 6, 11, 13, and 23 broods are fully fledged. We expect to confirm the fledges of Pairs 9, 15, and 20 within the next few visits. Pair 18 has started a re-nest near a previous nest attempt. Two nests (5 and 26) were lost to washout.

American Oystercatcher Activity:

All AMOYs are still being seen on the island but no new nest attempts have been found. The pairs are mostly seen foraging or roosting on their respective ends of the island.

Least Tern Activity:

Downy chicks have been seen in all the remaining colonies (1, 3, and 4) on both ends of the island. Estimates for each colony usually range between 15 and 30 adults. Colony 2 has officially been declared abandoned as no terns have been seen here since June 8th.

Fencing Maintenance and Activity:

Additional signage was added and is continuing to be added in preparation for the busy holiday week.

Predator activity:

Coyote activity has been steady over the past week. Tracks have been seen across the island. Additional fox tracks were spotted in one of the middle restoration areas. Crows have been consistently spotted; with terns noted actively defending against their presence within the colonies. Gulls are seen every visit all over the island.

Management Concerns:

There have been a lot of people visiting the island but everyone else has complied with island regulations in the last week. The island will be heavily staffed during the entire week leading up to and following July 4th.