



Dead Neck Sampson's Island Weekly Shorebird Report

As of 06/06/2024

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

Piping Plover Activity:

There are currently 27 PIPL pairs on the island. There are 9 broods so far with most located at either tip of the island. All brood currently contain 3-4 chicks. Chick losses have not yet been observed. In total 5, nests have lost eggs due to various causes. 3 of these 5 pairs have re-nested. No new nest losses have been recorded in the past week.

American Oystercatcher Activity:

There are still 2 AMOY pairs on the island. AMOY pair 1's nest remains at 2 eggs since one was lost in a clutch reduction. AMOY pair's nest still has 3 eggs and is being incubated. This nest is estimated to hatch around June 12, 2024.

Least Tern Activity:

Colony 1a at the eastern end of the island is made up of between 16-25 LETE with around 8 incubating pairs. One COTE pair is incubating in this colony as well. Colony 3a is slightly larger with an estimate of 26-30 adult LETE. Eggs and incubation have been observed. Colony 2a is still the smallest and is holding at around 12 birds and 5 incubating nests. Colony 4a at the western end of the island is the largest with a high count of 40 LETE.

Fencing Maintenance and Activity:

Additional signage has been added each week across the island. Additional lines of perpendicular fencing and twine have been added at common crossover points for pedestrians.

Predator activity:

Coyote activity is still low, and 1 set of tracks were seen during a single visit in the past week. Crows are still present 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. During the

most recent visit raccoon tracks were seen on the west tip of the island and the area will be monitored closely for any signs of losses.

Management Concerns:

Weekend visitors to the island have mostly followed set guidelines. There have been some uncooperative boaters. CWP will continue to monitor and reach out for repeat or hostile non-compliant boaters. Dogs have been seen on the island. Owners usually put their dogs in their boat when they see us approach and have not argued when reminded of the dog rules of the island.