



Dead Neck Sampson's Island Weekly Shorebird Report

As of 7/20/2024

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

Piping Plover Activity:

There are 5 unfledged broods remaining on the island. All nests have hatched and there are no incubating nests on the island. Many adults and fledglings are seen across the island and numerous birds appear to be staging on the island from other sites nearby.

American Oystercatcher Activity:

AMOY pair 2 is still being seen on the east end of the island. They are usually spotted roosting or foraging. One individual from pair 1 has been spotted consistently, while the other individual has been seen on and off.

Least Tern Activity:

While all colonies remain, Colony 1 at the east end has decreased in size and is estimated to be around 4-8 pairs. Both of the other colonies continue to have large numbers of birds. Large flocks of staging/stopping over terns are often gathered in the intertidal right outside colonies.

Fencing Maintenance and Activity:

No additional fencing activity this week.

Predator activity:

Coyote activity continues to be observed. Tracks are often found throughout oceanside beach and on top of restoration areas. There has been a noticeable rise in ghost crab burrow sightings. These have occurred both on the ocean and bay sides, and four to five burrows have been seen in short spans of beach. Crows and gulls remain frequent sights along the island.

Management Concerns:

Negative interactions and incidents have decreased significantly since the 4th of July holiday. No other management concerns at this time.