

0020540

From: [Thayer Broili](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#); [Darrell Echols](#)
Subject: Fw: Request Your Review of Spreadsheet Related to CWB Data
Date: 03/07/2008 10:25 AM

Below is NCWRC review of Larry Hardham's Colonial Waterbird spreadsheet.

Thayer Broili
Chief of Resource Management
Cape Hatteras National Seashore
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----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 03/07/2008 10:07 AM -----

"Susan Cameron"
<camerons@coastalnet.com>

To: <Thayer_Broili@nps.gov>
cc: <Britta_Muiznieks@nps.gov>, "Allen, David H." <Allend@coastalnet.com>
Subject: RE: Request Your Review of Spreadsheet Related to CWB Data

03/06/2008 05:08 PM EST

Hi Thayer,
I have spot checked the spreadsheet and the numbers look correct, but it is not an accurate interpretation of the data. Below, I discuss some reasons that the analysis is inappropriate and provide some information on terns/skimbers for clarification.

Our census data simply gives coast-wide totals by site and does not say anything about movement patterns of individual birds. The spreadsheet indicates that they looked at data within "a reasonable distance" to Cape Hatteras. We don't know enough about movements of these birds to make interpretations on the spatial scale indicated. Additionally, looking at just two years of data is not enough to say anything about trends for any of the species.

Overall, I think the use of dredged material islands has remained relatively steady over time. These islands proved to be important during the original surveys conducted by Dr. James Parnell in the late '70s. Habitat on these islands changes and is better some years than others. But again, use of the islands has remained relatively steady over time and numbers of birds on Cape Hatteras have declined regardless. Clearly, back in the 1970's USACOE placed much more dredge material around the state and created more islands than they do today, so there was probably more habitat on dredge islands 30 years ago.

Nesting sites are used year after year by terns and skimmers if habitat conditions remain suitable. Coastal birds will move to alternative nesting sites if they are available in response to habitat changes such as increased vegetation and in response to unacceptable levels of human disturbance and/or predation.

I'm not sure why Forster's terns and Caspian terns were included and least terns were excluded from the spreadsheet. Forster's terns and Caspian terns are not relevant to the discussion since Forster's terns nest primarily on wrack on marsh islands and Caspian terns nest primarily on dredged material islands.

Hope this helps. Feel free to call if you need clarification on any of the points or if you have any other questions regarding the data.

Best,
Sue Cameron
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0020541

-----Original Message-----

From: Thayer_Broili@nps.gov [mailto:Thayer_Broili@nps.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 04, 2008 2:45 PM
To: camerons@coastalnet.com
Cc: Britta_Muiznieks@nps.gov
Subject: Request Your Review of Spreadsheet Related to CWB Data

The file attached was provided by a "stakeholder" as a comparison of 2004 and 2007 data for CWB nesting in and around CAHA and is apparently based on data you provided. We would like your opinion about whether the file is an accurate reflection of the data and your interpretation of its implications. Please call me or Britta with any questions or thoughts. I know you're very busy, but we'd like your feedback this week or earlier if at all possible. Britta's # is 252-995-3740. Thanks.

(See attached file: NCWRC Colonial Waterbird Survey 04, 07.xls)

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