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From: [Doug McGee](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Darrell Echols](#); [Thayer Broili](#)
Subject: Re: Weekly RM report question
Date: 08/07/2009 08:41 AM
Attachments: [08062009 DRAFT CAHA Resource Mgmt Summary for July 30 - August 5, 2009.doc](#)

Mike,

I called Shiloh and he said while they noted non-breeding pairs in their observations, those birds are not used in tabulating the fledge rates, only pairs with known nests are. We should follow suit if our numbers are ever going to be compared to their numbers in the reports, as I'm sure they will be.

Fledge rate:

Green Island - 1.5 fledged/pair (3/2)

Bodie Island - 0.25 fledged/pair (1/4)

Bodie/Hatteras - .75 fledged/pair (3/4 if two chicks fledge) It's currently .25 fledged/pair (1/4)

Hatteras - .78 fledged/pair (7/9)

Ocracoke - 0 fledged/pair (0/4)

For the entire park it's .52 chicks/pair or .61 if the two chicks fledge.

This is two times the 95-08 average (.30) in the 2008 report.

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**Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS**

08/06/2009 04:40 PM

To: Doug McGee/CAHA/NPS@NPS

cc: Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Darrell
Echols/CAHA/NPS@NPS

Subject: Weekly RM report question

Hi Doug,

See attached revised (draft) report. I'd like to include the number of breeding pairs of AMOY in the table, since we get asked about it and it is needed to calculate the chick fledge rate. I revised the draft RM Weekly Report and added a column in the AMOY table to provide the number of breeding pairs, based on the "Final Breeding Pair" (text) information in the July 16-22 RM report.



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I conceptually understand the two "new pair bond after mate loss" and "one potential pair" references in the July 16-22 report and appreciate the thorough monitoring that it took to make such a nuanced distinction. This approach seems to lead us to the conclusion that the number of pairs fell within a range (e.g., 23-26 pairs), which means the fledge rate would be a range as well. I wonder if you should just make a "best professional judgement" call and decide what you consider to be a functional "breeding pair." As a practical matter, the subtle distinctions are confusing, have apparently not been done in the past, and make it difficult to calculate a fledge rate. In looking at Ted and Shiloh's 2008 annual report (p. 26,. Figure 2.3 for CALO and Figure 2.4 for CAHA), it looks like they have generally been able to use firm numbers and clearly calculate the chick fledge rate at both Seashores each year from 1999 to 2008

Is it possible for you to make a call on the number of AMOY breeding pairs that are footnoted in the table? (Is it worth a consultation with Shiloh to see what he thinks?) If a pair loses one bird but gains a new mate, isn't that still the functional equivalent of "one pair" in terms of capability to reproduce? If a "pair" establishes a territory or otherwise exhibits breeding behavior but does not nest, isn't that "potential pair" still a breeding pair (same as we would consider a pair of piping plover exhibiting breeding behavior to be a "pair" even if they do not lay an egg)?

If this is something that you need a little time to consult on or make a solid decision that you are comfortable with, we can go ahead with the original table this week (i.e., without the # of breeding pairs); but ultimately (next week?) I want to be able to use the revised table that shows the number of breeding pairs for each area.

Please let me know in the morning if we should use the table without the # of breeding pair, or if we can make a clear call on the number in time to include the information in this week's report.

Thank you for all your hard work!

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**Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Resource Management Weekly Field Summary for July 30– August 5, 2009
(Bodie Island, Hatteras and Ocracoke Districts)**

Piping Plover *Breeding season has concluded.*

American Oystercatchers (AMOY):

Two unfledged, 30-day-old AMOY chicks remain on the seashore. AMOY chicks usually fledge sometime after 35 days, but it can take as long as 45-50 days. The estimated fledge date (based on 35 days) for these two chicks is 8/10.

Location	Breeding Pairs	Total Nests to Date	Active Nests	Nests Hatched	Nests Lost	Total Chicks Hatched	Unfledged Chicks	Chicks Lost	Fledged Chicks
Green Island	2	2	0	1	1	3	0	0	3
Bodie District	4 ¹	4	0	1	3	2	0	1	1
Bodie/Hatteras District	4	6	0	5	1	8	2	5	1
Hatteras District	9 ²	13	0	6	7	13	0	6	7
Ocracoke District	4 ³	6	0	2	4	5	0	5	0
CAHA TOTALS	23	31	0	15	16	31	2	17	12

¹Plus one new pair bond after mate loss; ² Plus one new pair bond after mate loss; ³ Plus one “potential pair” with a known breeding history on the seashore and/or a pair that established a scrape territory, but did not nest on the Seashore to our knowledge

Colonial Waterbirds (CWB):

Colonies throughout eastern North Carolina continue to fledge LETE chicks. Recent fledglings can be observed on almost every beach of the seashore, but the origin of the fledglings cannot be conclusively determined.

Green Island:

No activity.

Bodie District (Ramp 1 to Bodie Spit):

8/1 – Bodie Spit. No LETE activity observed in colony. No adults, chicks, or fledglings.

8/5 – Bodie Spit. No LETE activity observed in colony. No adults, chicks, or fledglings.

The pre-nesting closure is to be removed on 8/6.

Bodie/Hatteras District (Rodanthe to Ramp 30):

8/3 – Ramp 23. Several incubating adults and one chick were observed.

7/31 – 1.1 mi N of Ramp 27. One LETE chick was observed.

8/5 – 1.1 mi N of Ramp 27. No chicks were observed.

8/5 – 0.3 mi S of Ramp 27. No chicks were observed.

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8/1 -1.4 mi S of Ramp 38. Six LETE chicks and five nests were observed.

8/3 – East South Beach. No LETEs observed.

8/3 - West South Beach. One LETE chick was observed.

8/3 - Salt Pond Road. One LETE nest, one chick and two recent fledglings were observed.

Ocracoke District:

8/5 - 0.6 mi N of Ramp 59. One two-egg LETE nest and one chick were observed.

Sea turtle nests:

Nests this week on CAHA: 9

7/30 – Loggerhead nest, 2.0 mi N of Ramp 55 (Hatteras)

7/31 – Loggerhead nest, 1.6 mi S of Ramp 38 (Hatteras)

7/31 – Green nest, 1.0 mi N of Buxton village (Hatteras)

8/01 – Loggerhead nest, 1.0 mi N of Ramp 70 (Ocracoke)

8/01 – Loggerhead nest, 2.8 mi N of Ramp 27 (Hatteras)

8/01 – Loggerhead nest, 0.3 mi N of Ramp 43 (Hatteras)

8/02 – Loggerhead nest, 0.1 mi S of Ramp 43 (Hatteras)

8/02 – Loggerhead nest, 0.8 mi N of Ramp 43 (Hatteras)

8/04 – Loggerhead nest, 1.6 mi SW of Ramp 55 (Hatteras)

False Crawls this week on CAHA: 2

7/31 – Loggerhead false crawl, 0.1 mi S of Ramp 44 (Hatteras)

7/31 – Loggerhead false crawl, 0.6 mi N of Ramp 72 (Ocracoke)

Total Nests at CAHA: 95 (67 Hatteras Island, 28 Ocracoke Island, 0 Bodie Island).

Total False Crawls to date on CAHA: 98 (53 Hatteras Island, 44 Ocracoke Island, 1 Bodie Island)

Sea Turtle Nest Hatchings:

Two nests in Ocracoke District have completed hatching and the nest expansions have been removed. Two other nests in Hatteras District are in the process of hatching and those expansions will be removed no sooner than 72 hours after the first emergence was observed.

Sea Turtle Strandings:

7/31 – Green sea turtle found dead at Hatteras Inlet.

8/4 – Loggerhead sea turtle found alive and floating around at Salvo Marina. Turtle was transported to Roanoke Island Animal Hospital.

Marine Mammal Strandings:

None this week.

Closures – additions/modifications/removals:

Closure #	Location	Species	Date Installed/Removed
Bodie Island			
BI09-001-M	0.5 mi S of Ramp 4	AMOY/LETE	7/30/2009

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Bodie-Hatteras			
BH09-009-E	0.1 mi S of Ramp 27	AMOY/LETE	8/1/2009
Hatteras Island			
NONE	NA	NA	NA
Ocracoke Island			
NONE	NA	NA	NA

Closure intrusions**Bodie Island:**

7/31 - One pedestrian was observed shelling in the resource closure 0.1 mi S of Ramp 27.

8/1 - At Ramp 23, ORV tracks extended from Ramp to mid-beach, did a U-turn then exited via Ramp. Barricades were still intact.

8/4 - Two pedestrians were observed walking inside the CWB closure at Ramp 23.

8/5 - A child's bare footprints were found within the filter fencing and around a sea turtle nest cavity, N of Ramp 23. Multiple other sets of pedestrian tracks were also observed within the closure.

8/5 - Bare pedestrian footprints were observed leading to water from dunes within the LETE closure, 0.1 mi S of Ramp 27.

Hatteras Island:

7/31 - PVC pipe from a turtle closure in South Avon village was removed and then partially burned.

7/31 - Bare footprints went through turtle closure N of Buxton.

8/2 - Sometime between 7 and 11 a.m., an ORV backed into the symbolic fence at a turtle nest closure just north of Ramp 55 and broke the string. The law enforcement staff investigated the incident and it does not appear to be a deliberate violation.

Omitted from last week's report for Hatteras Island:

7/24 - N of Buxton; Multiple surfers were observed walking into and through the turtle nest closure. Footprints were also observed within 15 feet of egg chamber.

7/25 - N of Buxton: Multiple footprints were observed above the high-tide line throughout closure, two articles of clothing were also left hanging on the closures' stringing.

7/25 - N of Buxton: A single set of footprints were observed in a sea turtle closure. Footprints were observed throughout most of the closure and over the nest cavity.

7/30 - N of Buxton: Two PVC markers were removed from behind a nest and were relocated about 10 feet away from the original locations.

Ocracoke Island:

8/3 - One pedestrian with three dogs were observed in the South Point closure.

8/4 - One pedestrian observe shelling in South Point closure.