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From: [Thayer Broili](#)
To: [Mike Murray](#); [Darrell Echols](#)
Subject: Fw: [amoywg] Great black-backed gulls and AMOY broods
Date: 06/30/2010 08:41 AM

fyi

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----- Forwarded by Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS on 06/30/2010 08:24 AM -----

**Britta
Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS**

To Troy Buckel/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc Thayer Broili/CAHA/NPS@NPS
06/30/2010 07:34 AM Subject Fw: [amoywg] Great black-backed gulls and AMOY broods

Troy-

It will be interesting to see how they tackle the black-backed gull problem. Sounds like a lot of folks are dealing with the same issues that we are.

Britta Muiznieks
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----- Forwarded by Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS on 06/30/2010 07:31 AM -----

"Brad Winn"
<Brad.Winn@dnr.state.ga.us>
Sent by: amoywg-
owner@lists.ncsu.edu

To <Pamela_Denmon@fws.gov>, <amoywg@lists.ncsu.edu>
cc
Subject Re: [amoywg] Great black-backed gulls and AMOY broods

06/29/2010 06:37 PM

Please respond to "Brad Winn" < Brad.Winn@dnr.state.ga.us >; Please respond to amoywg@lists.ncsu.edu

Hi Pam. Got mink? We have seen fledge-age AMOY from multiple pairs in remote, linear, marsh, shell-rake habitats disappear serially over a number days. A mink making it's rounds gets the blame. Seems like mink wait until the chicks are big and meaty before the slaughter. No mink? Please

disregard this post. It's the gulls.

Brad

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

From: <Pamela_Denmon@fws.gov>

To: <Pamela_Denmon@fws.gov>

To: Group, AMOY Working <amoywg@lists.ncsu.edu>

Sent: 6/29/2010 1:36:44 PM

Subject: [amoywg] Great black-backed gulls and AMOY broods

Hey all,

I'd love to get some feedback on observations of AMOY chicks of an older age (30 days and older) coexisting with non-nesting adult and imm great black-backed gulls in the immediate vicinity.

The set up is this: for the first year since AMOY monitoring has occurred on Fisherman Island (began in 2002), we have had fantastic hatching success with no high tide storm washouts and no mammal sign on our beaches-we monitor frequently enough to observe mammal tracks and nest wash outs. Nests were hatching and to my amazement, chicks were growing! We were having broods of 3 make it to 30 days! It was fantastic and it looked as though all of our current and prior mammal management efforts were paying off. Then, suddenly, large chicks at 30 days and older started to disappear. We lost 11 in a week and more since then. We have not observed a peregrine the entire season. Owls are in the area, and could be a factor, but no remains of any of the chicks have been found.

It has been suggested that the culprit is the GBBG's that are loafing in the territories of these broods. There can be anywhere from 2 to 50 gulls at any given time with more starting to show up this time of year. I have not observed any interest in gulls towards chicks thus far or extreme defense by AMOY's with chicks when these gulls are around. Having said that, I did see a GBBG take and quickly kill an adult AMOY and 34 day old chick several years ago. I am being slightly pressured to "get rid" of all of the GBBG's on the beach-which may or may not be possible-I don't know. However, I'm hesitant that we aren't just shooting at whatever may be doing something without any evidence of what is really going on out there.

What I'd appreciate from you are any observations of coexistence, antagonistic behavior, or large chick mortality that you could provide with GBBG's or herring gulls.

We are also considering making some experimental small and low to the ground hiding spots for chicks to see if they will use them. Thoughts on that would also be appreciated.

Thanks,

Pam

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