

From: [Mike Murray](#)
To: [Larry Hardham](#)
Bcc: [Britta Muiznieks](#); [Doug McGee](#); [Cyndy Holda](#); [Thayer Broili](#)
Subject: Re: AMOY
Date: 07/21/2010 11:06 AM

Larry,

AMOY

Not all the AMOY that nest or fledge on the Seashore are banded, but many are. In the past, most AMOY chicks (but not all) were banded by NC State researchers. As of this breeding season, Doug McGee and Britta Muiznieks have been added as sub-permittees to Ted Simons' Federal Banding Permit, which allows them to capture and band American oystercatchers. In 2010 all chicks on the Seashore have been banded prior to fledging. There are currently at least four banded (**breeding**) birds that hatched here in 2004 and three banded (**breeding**) birds that are known to have hatched here 2005. All three of the 2005 hatch year birds fledged after 35 days (42, 42 and 45 days). Because it can take 4-6 years for juveniles to nest for the first time, staff do not expect to see many that were banded here to return to nest for several years. Staff will catch glimpses of some of the juveniles at the beginning of the breeding season, but do not know where they spend the majority of the summer months. Some AMOY chicks take longer than others to reach the point of being able to take their first flight of 30 meters or greater. All AMOY chicks are deemed "weak flyers" after they are first observed flying 30 meters or greater and are given 2 weeks thereafter to become proficient. AMOY fledge rates by location are available in the DEIS pp 227-228.

CWB

Most management agencies struggle with the issue of determining or estimating productivity (fledge rate, etc.) for colonial waterbirds, which is why most agencies simply count nests during the peak nesting period, rather than estimating fledge rate, survival rate, etc.. A discussion of "estimating breeding success or annual fecundity" and related difficulties is provided in the USGS Open File Report 2009-1262 (pp. 63-65). In brief, the primary difficulty is in keeping track of the numerous breeding adults (typically unbanded), nests, chicks, and fledglings, all of which are at usually at differing stages of development within a single colony. This and many other variables, such as keeping track of unbanded birds as they move between islands and colonies, determining the exact number of pairs when they are unmarked, determining the number of pairs that lose nests and/or re-nest, determining the number of pairs with successful nests, and finally determining the number of fledged chicks (fledglings can move back and forth between locations and staff cannot determine their origins) make it very difficult to determine fledge rates for CWB. As far as I can tell, NPS does more monitoring of CWB at the Seashore and provides more annual data (nest counts, etc.) than do our neighboring agencies (which typically do nest counts once every three years)

I hope this is helpful information. Also, I received your information about the Pea

0027631

Island habitat enhancement work. I've asked some NPS folks to look at that information and provide me with feedback about the appropriateness of such an action on NPS property, and will get back to you once I have received that feedback.

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cc

07/17/2010 03:57 PM

Subject AMOY

Mike,

Are all AMOY chicks banded?

Of the chicks that take longer than the approximate fledge days of 35+ days, have any returned?

Of the chicks that are given the extra two weeks to "officially fledge" because they are deemed to be weak flyers, have any returned?

It would seem important to band all chicks and especially those that take longer than expected to fledge so the extra protection can be evaluated.

What have the fledge rates for AMOY and colonial waterbirds been for the last five years?

Just trying to be able to respond to questions that I get concerning AMOY and terns.

0027632

Thanks,

Larry