

From: [Britta Muiznieks](#)
To: [Cyndy Holda](#); [Mike Murray](#)
Cc: [Thayer Broili](#); [Eric Frey](#)
Subject: Re: Fw: Sandy Bay AMOY
Date: 06/09/2011 11:47 AM

Here's my stab at answering Bob's questions. Some of it is speculation but it is based on my professional judgement of what we have observed from this pair.

Only one of the adults from this pair is banded so we can only definitively say that this bird has been nesting in this area since 2008. In 2011 the nest was ~35 meters from the nearest white line on the road. The nest was just below the berm so the pair could not be seen incubating while driving by on Highway 12. The nest had 3 eggs but only one of the eggs hatched. There is currently one 25 day-old chick in the Sandy Bay Closure.

We will frequently observe one of the adults flying over the highway to the oceanside to forage while the other adult tends to the chick on the sound. The foraging adult will often bring food back from the oceanside for the chick. There is currently a closure of ~0.3 mi on the sound that the chick utilizes for foraging and roosting. The large dune on the opposite side of the highway appears to act as a visual as well as physical barrier for the chick. If there was no large dune on the opposite side of the highway, it would be more likely for the chick(s) to travel from one side of the highway to the other to forage (as the adults are doing) and the likelihood of a vehicle strike would be much higher. During our observations, the chicks have always remained on the soundside until fledging. In 2008, one of the pair's chicks fledged but died from injuries consistent with a car strike ~ 8 days after fledging. After fledging we have observed a fledgling with the adults move between the oceanside and soundside prior to migration.

While the likelihood of a vehicle strike for the adults from this pair is higher than for other pairs on the seashore, the height of the dune forces them to fly above most vehicles when flying back and forth between the sound and ocean shoreline decreasing the likelihood of a vehicle strike. While a 200 meter buffer for this pair with a chick would cross the highway, the current closure only comes to the edge of the highway. The consent decree states that "when nesting occurs in the immediate vicinity of paved roads, parking lots, campgrounds, buildings, and other facilities, NPS retains the discretion to provide resource protections to the maximum extent possible while still allowing those sites to remain operational."

Britta Muiznieks
Wildlife Biologist
Cape Hatteras National Seashore

252-995-3740-**Office**
252-475-8348-**Cell**
252-995-6998-**FAX**

▼ Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS

**Cyndy
Holda/CAHA/NPS**

06/09/2011 08:45 AM

To Britta Muiznieks/CAHA/NPS@NPS
cc Thayer Broilli/CAHA/NPS@NPS, Mike
Murray/CAHA/NPS@NPS
Subject Fw: Sandy Bay AMOY

Britta,
When you have a moment, would you or someone on your staff familiar with Sandy Bay closure, please **draft a response** to these questions for the Superintendent's review?

Thank you.

Cyndy M. Holda
Public Affairs Specialist
Cape Hatteras NS/Fort Raleigh NHS/Wright Brothers NM
252-473-2111 ext. 148
252-216-6455 cell
252-473-2595 fax
Email: cyndy_holda@nps.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

This message is intended exclusively for the individual or entity to which it is addressed. This communication may contain information that is proprietary, privileged or confidential or otherwise legally exempt from disclosure.

----- Forwarded by Cyndy Holda/CAHA/NPS on 06/09/2011 08:43 AM -----

"Bob Davis"
<davisrb@embarqmail.com>

06/08/2011 09:05 PM

To "cyndy holda" <cyndy_holda@nps.gov>
cc "Barbara Ackley" <ackleybc@aol.com>, "bobdavis" <davisrb@embarqmail.com>
Subject Sandy Bay AMOY

Cyndy : I notice that Sandy Bay has a substantial bird closure .Your Resource Field Summary does not indicate any AMOY nest at Sandy Bay as of June 1. Is there one present ? If so , is this the same bird(s) as in prior years ? How far away from NC RT 12 highway have the nests been ? Where do you measure ?

- a) Edge of black top
- b) Nearest white line on road
- c) Center (yellow) line on road

d) Other

What is closest distance that the chicks and adults forage from NC RT 12 ?

These distances have an obvious bearing upon the public perception of buffer requirements in Cape Hatteras.

Thank you , BOB DAVIS