



August 10, 2019

**Subject: 2019 – Piping Plover/Least Tern/American Oystercatcher Monitoring  
Sandy Point Beach and Bird Sanctuary, West Haven, CT**

The West Haven Wildlife Guards, with oversight from Audubon Connecticut (Audubon) and in partnership with the City of West Haven and Roger Tory Peterson Institute of Natural History (RTPI), are conducting threatened and endangered species monitoring at Sandy/Morse Point Beach and Bird Sanctuary for the latter half of the 2019 season. The following includes a summary report of monitoring conducted on the dates noted below, performed following training from Audubon and RTPI staff.

**Monitoring Date:** 8/7/2019

**Monitoring Participants:** Alfred Green, Samiyah Sutherland, James Weber, Matthew Wahl, Daniela Morales, Noah Anderson, Anthony Pachecho, Rianne Mustafa

**Survey Start Time** 9:15AM

**Temperature:** 78 Degrees F

**Winds:** 9mph S

**Tide:** Survey started 4 hours after high tide

**Cloud Cover:** N/A

**Humidity:** 87%

**Duration of Visit:** About 1 hour and 10 minutes

**Piping Plover Pair Observations (M - Male, F - Female, A - unknown sex, J - fledging, H - Hatchling):**

**Pair 2:** None seen

**Pair 5:** None seen

**Pair 4:** None seen

**Pair 1:** None seen

**Pair 3:** None seen

**Pair 6:** None seen

**Target species observations: Piping Plover**

Adults:

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

**Target species observations: American Oystercatcher**

Adults:

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

**Target species observations: Common Tern**

Adults:  
Eggs:  
Hatchlings:  
Fledglings:  
Losses, if any:

**Target species observations: Least Tern**

Adults:  
Eggs:  
Hatchlings:  
Fledglings:  
Losses, if any:

**Other Bird Species Observed (State listed species in bold):**

- **Great Egret** 2
- **Snowy Egret** 3
- Northern Flicker 1
- Ruddy Turnstone 2
- Black-bellied Plover 6
- Semipalmated Sandpiper 23
- Semipalmated Plover 22
- Sanderling 32

**Disturbances:** None at this time



**Monitoring Date:** 8/9/2019

**Monitoring Participants:** Alfred Green, Samiyah Sutherland, James Weber, Matthew Wahl, Daniela Morales, Noah Anderson, Anthony Pachecho, Rianne Mustafa

**Survey Start Time** 9:11AM

**Temperature:** 80 Degrees F

**Winds:** 7 mph NW

**Tide:** Survey began 2 hours after high tide

**Cloud Cover:** N/A

**Humidity:** 64%

**Duration of Visit:** About 60 minutes

**Piping Plover Pair Observations (M - Male, F - Female, A - unknown sex, J - fledging, H - Hatchling):**

**Pair 2:** None seen

**Pair 5:** None seen

**Pair 4:** None seen

**Pair 1:** None seen

**Pair 3:** None seen

**Pair 6:** None seen

**Target species observations: Piping Plover**

Adults:  
Eggs:  
Hatchlings:  
Fledglings:  
Losses, if any:

**Target species observations: American Oystercatcher**

Adults: 4  
Eggs:  
Hatchlings:  
Fledglings:  
Losses, if any:

**Target species observations: Common Tern**

Adults: 4  
Eggs:  
Hatchlings:  
Fledglings:  
Losses, if any:

**Target species observations: Least Tern**

Adults: 2  
Eggs:  
Hatchlings:  
Fledglings:  
Losses, if any:

**Other Bird Species Observed (State listed species in bold):**

- Northern Mockingbird 3
- Great Blue Heron 1
- Laughing Gull 17
- Willet 1
- Semipalmated Sandpiper 6
- Least Sandpiper 1
- Ruddy Turnstone 2

**Disturbances:** Two dead loggerhead sea turtles washed ashore. One was half eaten with the skull cracked and the other had ribs scattered along the shore. Cause of death seems to have been from a boat rudder. Staff notified The Mystic Aquarium of the occurrence.

**Monitoring Date:** 8/10/2019

**Monitoring Participants:** Alfred Green, Samiyah Sutherland, James Weber, Matthew Wahl, Daniela Morales, Noah Anderson, Anthony Pachecho, Rianne Mustafa

**Survey Start Time** 9:15AM

**Temperature:** 73 Degrees F

**Winds:** 3 mph N

**Tide:** Survey began about an hour after high tide

**Cloud Cover:** N/A

**Humidity:** 59%

**Duration of Visit:** About 60 minutes

**Piping Plover Pair Observations (M - Male, F - Female, A - unknown sex, J - fledging, H - Hatchling):**

**Pair 2:** None seen

**Pair 5:** None seen

**Pair 4:** None seen

**Pair 1:** None seen

**Pair 3:** 1A and 1F

**Pair 6:** None seen

**Target species observations: Piping Plover**

Adults: 2

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

**Target species observations: American Oystercatcher**

Adults: 6

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings: 1

Losses, if any:

**Target species observations: Common Tern**

Adults: 4

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

**Target species observations: Least Tern**

Adults: 2

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

**Other Bird Species Observed (State listed species in bold):**

- **Great Egret 6**
- **Snowy Egret 2**
- Double-crested Cormorant 9
- Northern Mockingbird 3
- Barn Swallow 4
- Tree Swallow 15
- Laughing Gull 15
- Herring Gull 11

- Ring-billed Gull 16
- Willet 2
- Semipalmated Sandpiper 33
- Semipalmated Plover 27
- Ruddy Turnstone 4

**Disturbances:** None at this time

**Recommendations, if any:** Continue monitoring for use by Piping Plovers, American Oystercatchers, Least Terns, and Common Terns. Maintain string fencing in areas that target species are likely to use. Continue to monitor predator activity/tracks.

Please contact Alfred Green if you have any questions. Thank you.

Alfred Green, West Haven Wildlife Guards Crew Leader