



July 5th, 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: 7/2/2019

Monitoring Participants: Alfred Green, Victor Sieh,

Survey Start Time 9:16 AM

Temperature: 79 Degrees F

Winds: 5mph

Tide: At the time it was lowtide

Cloud Cover: N/A

Humidity: 60%

Duration of Visit: About 2 hours

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

Pair 2: Not Seen

Pair 5: 1A with 1J plover were walking along the hightide line

Pair 4: 2M and 2F plovers were observed foraging above the hightide line, adjacent to the pair post marker.

Pair 1: Not Seen

Pair 3: Not Seen

Pair 6: 2A plovers seemed to be roosting within the symbolic fencing at the time

Target species observations: Piping Plover

Adults: 7

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings: 1

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: American Oystercatcher

Adults: 6

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:2

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Common Tern

Adults: 3
Eggs:
Hatchlings:
Fledglings:
Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Least Tern

Adults: 23
Eggs:
Hatchlings: None observed at the time
Fledglings:
Losses, if any:

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

- **Great Egret 3**
- **Snowy Egret 2**
- Northern Mockingbird 2
- Barn Swallow 8
- Ring billed Gull 7
- Greater Black-Backed Gull 5
- Herring Gull 32
- Osprey 6
- Double-crested Cormorant 6
- Red Wing Blackbird 3
- Mourning Dove 3
- Willets 2

Disturbances

- 1 confirmed Least Tern nest outside of the symbolic fencing, ATV tracks were close to the nesting pair as well.

Monitoring Date: 7/5/2019

Monitoring Participants: Alfred Green, Victor Sieh,

Survey Start Time 9:16 AM

Temperature: 79 Degrees F

Winds: SSE 6mph

Tide: At the time it was hightide

Cloud Cover: N/A

Humidity: 87%

Duration of Visit: 1 hour 56 minutes

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

Pair 2: Not Seen

Pair 5: 1A with 2J plover were foraging along the hightide line.

Pair 4: 3A plovers were observed flying from the pair post marker into the symbolic fencing.

Pair 1: Not Seen

Pair 3: 3A plovers flew away as we walked towards the pair post marker.

Pair 6: 2A plovers seemed to be roosting within the symbolic fencing at the time.

Target species observations: Piping Plover

Adults: 9

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings: 2

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: American Oystercatcher

Adults: 7

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Common Tern

Adults: 12

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Least Tern

Adults: 26

Eggs:

Hatchlings: None observed at the time

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

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

- **Great Egret** 1
- **Snowy Egret** 1
- Northern Mockingbird 1
- Redwing Black Bird 1
- Barn Swallow 7
- Ring billed Gull 8
- Greater Black-Backed Gull 4
- Herring Gull 34
- Osprey 3
- Double-crested Cormorant 2
- Red Wing Blackbird 1
- Mourning Dove 1
- Willets 2
- Spotted Sandpiper 2
- Least Sandpiper 1

Disturbances

- 2 sets of deer tracks were observed on the Long Island Sound side of Sandy Point.

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, Victor Sieh, West Haven Wildlife Guards Crew Leaders