



July 17th, 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: 7/9/2019

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

Survey Start Time 9:10AM

Temperature: 76 Degrees F

Winds: 6mph

Tide: Survey started 2 hours before high tide

Cloud Cover: N/A

Humidity: 68%

Duration of Visit: About 2 hours

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

Pair 2: None seen

Pair 5: 2A with 1H plover were walking along the hightide line

Pair 4: None seen

Pair 1: None seen

Pair 3: 10A were observed roosting near the pair 3 and 6 post markers

Pair 6: Another 8J were seen afterwards

Target species observations: Piping Plover

Adults: 12

Eggs:

Hatchlings: 1

Fledglings: 8

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: American Oystercatcher

Adults: 5

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Common Tern

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

Target species observations: Least Tern

Adults: 31
Eggs:
Hatchlings: None observed at the time
Fledglings:
Losses, if any:

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

- **Great Egret 6**
- **Snowy Egret 3**
- Great Blue Heron 5
- Northern Mockingbird 3
- Barn Swallow 9
- Tree Swallow 6
- Ring billed Gull 9
- Greater Black-Backed Gull 4
- Herring Gull 23
- Osprey 3
- Double-crested Cormorant 3
- Mourning Dove 5
- Willets 2

Disturbances: There were adult foot prints inside the beginning area of the symbolic fencing

Monitoring Date: 7/10/2019

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

Survey Start Time 9:17 AM

Temperature: 76 Degrees F

Winds: 1mph

Tide: Survey began 3 hours after low tide

Cloud Cover: N/A

Humidity: 64%

Duration of Visit: About an hour and 45 minutes

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

Pair 2: 1F

Pair 5: None seen

Pair 4: 3A and 4J

Pair 1: None Seen

Pair 3: 1A and 1J

Pair 6: 4A

Target species observations: Piping Plover

Adults: 9

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings: 5

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: American Oystercatcher

Adults: 7

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings: 1

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Common Tern

Adults: 8

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Least Tern

Adults: 10

Eggs:

Hatchlings: None observed at the time

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

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

- **Great Egret** 2
- Great Blue Heron 6
- Northern Mockingbird 2
- Barn Swallow 12
- Tree Swallow 8
- Ring billed Gull 12
- Greater Black-Backed Gull 5
- Herring Gull 27
- Osprey 6
- Double-crested Cormorant 6
- Yellow Crown Night Heron 1
- Willets 2
- Semipalmated Sandpipers 12

Disturbances: Two sets of deer tracks were observed on the Long Island Sound side of Sandy Point. One set of dog-like tracks were observed outside the symbolic fencing on the Long Island Sound side of Sandy Point

Monitoring Date: 7/13/2019

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

Survey Start Time 9:09 AM

Temperature: 76 Degrees F

Winds: 7mph

Tide: Survey began 10 minutes before high tide

Cloud Cover: N/A

Humidity: 63%

Duration of Visit: About an hour and 50 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, 2F and 2M were near pair posts 3 and 6

Pair 6: 5A, 5F, 4M along with 2J in the mix

Target species observations: Piping Plover

Adults: 19

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings: 2

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: American Oystercatcher

Adults: 4

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings: 3

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Common Tern

Adults: 4

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Least Tern

Adults: 13

Eggs:

Hatchlings: None observed at the time

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

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

- Northern Mockingbird 2

- Barn Swallow 15
- Tree Swallow 7
- Ring billed Gull 8
- Greater Black-Backed Gull 3
- Herring Gull 22
- Osprey 1
- Double-crested Cormorant 4
- Willets 1 (with 2 juveniles)
- Semipalmated Sandpipers 11

Disturbances: A portion of the symbolic fencing was down but was repaired afterwards.

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