

### **6/30/18**

Lots of chicks hatching this week! We currently have 37 chicks from 17 nests. The oldest chicks are growing quickly and replacing their fluff with real feathers. There are 9 nests that have yet to hatch, and a couple more pairs are still scraping.

Least terns are still scattered throughout northern half of the beach incubating eggs.

Kiah

#### **Refuge Beach:**

29 Pairs

9 Nests

37 Chicks/17 Broods

#### **Sandy Point:**

9 Pairs

5 Nests

12 Chicks/3 Broods

#### **Newbury/Newburyport Town Beach:**

5 Pairs

3 Nests

5 Chicks/2 Broods

### **6/22/18:**

Nests continue to hatch, bringing us to a total of 23 chicks from 7 nests! An additional 20 nests have yet to hatch, and we still seem to have a total of 35 pairs of plovers on the Refuge beach.

Least terns have finally settled in as well. We had 10 nests this week and as many as 10 other pairs that have yet to nest.

#### ***Refuge Beach:***

35 Pairs

20 Nests

7 Broods/23 Chicks

#### ***Sandy Point:***

10 Pairs

7 Nests

1 Brood/4 Chicks

#### ***Newbury/Newburyport Beaches:***

4 Pairs

2 Nests

1 Brood/4 Chicks

### **6/15/18:**

We finally have some plover chicks on the beach, including two chicks that hatched from the nest at the north end!

There were about 35 pairs of plovers this week, so perhaps some have moved on. I also found several new nests, though, bringing our total to 26 active nests and 2 broods (6 total chicks). There are three least tern nests and less than ten pairs, most of which are scattered throughout the north half of the beach.

This month's spring tides are tonight and tomorrow night (>11 feet, the highest tides this spring). We'll see what they bring.

### **6/10/18:**

With high winds and major surf on Monday and Tuesday, the high tide went right up to the base of the dunes on many stretches of the Refuge Beach. It wiped out a few more nests and many scrapes, so I was only able to account for 35 pairs this week. But we still have 25 active nests, many of which are incubating. Fingers crossed for the first hatches sometime in the next week or so!

Least terns are still hanging around in small numbers, but none of them are nesting.

### **6/1/18:**

We lost a few nests (to predation) and gained a few more. We still consistently have about 43 pairs of piping plovers, and we now have 29 active nests. And a banded plover is nesting on the Refuge! It was originally banded in Georgia in October 2017 and was subsequently seen in Florida before it arrived for the breeding season on Plum Island.

The least terns continue to hang around the beach, but they're not currently nesting.

### **5/27/18:**

Lots of new nests this week! We're holding steady at about 43 pairs, and we now have 26 active piping plover nests. Many are in the dunes rather than the shell line, so they're safe from overwash at the very least. I can also personally attest to the fact that the dune nests can be extremely difficult to find!

The least terns have started courtship feeding, but I've yet to see any scraping. They're hanging out in small flocks throughout the entire length of the beach right now.

### ***Refuge Beach:***

43 Pairs

26 Nests

***Sandy Point:***

9 Pairs

2 Nests

***Newbury/Newburyport Beach:***

6 Pairs

2 Nest

**4/14/18:**

Finally, a plover update! Our bio staff was out on the beach twice this week, although neither times was a thorough plover survey conducted, so this week's update is most likely not fully accurate in terms of plover numbers and activity. But they are out there, and they are scraping, so hopefully we'll see nesting soon!

***Refuge Summary:***

22 Pairs

8 Lone Plovers

0 Nests

***Sandy Point :***

Plover numbers have varied this week, with a high of 25 at one point (mainly feeding on the flats). They are scraping down there. No birds are being seen on the Newburyport beach, and no birds were seen on the Newbury beach, although there were scrapes, so there must be at least one pair using it.

