



## Coastal Waterbird Nesting Report

**8/2/18**

Hi All,

Nancy conducted her first piping plover survey of the year this week, but there weren't many chicks left to see! There are at least 7 chicks remaining from 3 nests. In total, 40 chicks have fledged from 18 nests!

More piping plovers and other shorebirds are migrating through. I recently resighted a flagged plover that was banded as a chick in 2014. It hatched in New Brunswick and has been returning to that area annually, but it spends its winters in Turks and Caicos!

Kiah

**7/20/18**

A few more nests fledged this week! We now have 19 fledglings (chicks that have learned to fly) from 7 nests. We also have 26 chicks from 13 nests, some of which hatched this week. One nest has yet to hatch. Meanwhile, more plovers are migrating south and stopping along the refuge beach to rest and feed.

I saw one least tern chick this week. There aren't many adults around, but some have resumed courtship following the spring tides.

Kiah

**7/14/18**

Last night's tides were the highest of the season, reaching the base of the dunes (or higher) throughout nearly the entire beach. As a result, some chicks moved up on top of the dunes again, making them hard to see. I hope a few of the missing chicks will turn back up next week.



## Coastal Waterbird Nesting Report

### 7/14/18 continued

The good news is that the plover chicks have started fledging! At least eight chicks (from three nests) can now fly. We have at least 28 other chicks from 15 nests. Four nests are still incubating.

A least tern chick (to my knowledge, the first and only) hatched today, but most of the least tern nests were washed over last night.

Other shorebirds are already starting to migrate south in small flocks, including willets, sanderlings, semipalmated sandpipers, and even some piping plovers!

Kiah

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

8 fledglings/3 broods

28 chicks/15 broods

4 nests

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

11 chicks/4 broods

4 nests

#### ***Town Beaches:***

7 chicks/3 broods

1 nest

### 7/9/18

We currently have 41 chicks from 19 nests. The oldest chicks are attempting to fly, although they haven't quite made it off the ground yet. Most of the chicks were trying to find shelter from the intense sun this week. There are still 6 nests being incubated, and a couple more pairs are scraping.



## Coastal Waterbird Nesting Report

7/9/18 continued

A few least terns are still scattered throughout northern half of the beach, but none have hatched.

Kiah

***Refuge Beach:***

28 Pairs

6 Nests

41 Chicks/19 Broods

***Sandy Point:***

9 Pairs

4 Nests

19 Chicks/5 Broods

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

5 Pairs

1 Nests

11 Chicks/4 Broods

7/2/18

Hi all,

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

8/2/18



## Coastal Waterbird Nesting Report

### 7/2/18 Continued

#### ***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

### 6/30/18

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

8/2/18



## Coastal Waterbird Nesting Report

6/30/18 Continued

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

5 Pairs

3 Nests

5 Chicks/2 Broods

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).



## Coastal Waterbird Nesting Report

### 6/15/18 Continued

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.

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.



## Coastal Waterbird Nesting Report

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!



## Coastal Waterbird Nesting Report

4/14/18 Continued :

***Refuge:***

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.