



June 27th, 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: 6/27/2019

Monitoring Participants: Alfred Green, Victor Sieh, Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe, Natalie Sinclair

Survey Start Time 10:06 AM

Temperature: 79 Degrees F

Winds: N/A

Tide: Survey began 2 hours 20 before low tide.

Cloud Cover: N/A

Humidity: N/A

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: 4A and 1H

Pair 4: 2A

Pair 1: Not seen

Pair 3: 1A and 3H

Pair 6: 2A and 1H

Target species observations: Piping Plover

Adults: 9

Eggs:

Hatchlings: 5

Fledglings:

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: American Oystercatcher

Adults: 6

Eggs:

Hatchlings:

Fledglings: 2

Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Common Tern

Adults: 8
Eggs:
Hatchlings:
Fledglings:
Losses, if any:

Target species observations: Least Tern

Adults: 36
Eggs:
Hatchlings: 4
Fledglings:
Losses, if any:

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

- **Great Egret** 2
- **Snowy Egret** 4
- Northern Mockingbird 1
- Barn Swallow 2
- Ring billed Gull 3
- Greater Black-Backed Gull 8
- Herring Gull 55
- Laughing Gull 3
- Osprey 6
- Double-crested Cormorant 1
- Red-winged Blackbird 3
- Mourning Dove 3
- Song Sparrow 1
- House Sparrow
- Willets 2 (possible nesting pair)

Disturbances

- 2 dead Least terns were spotted towards the middle of the sandy point shoreline. Possibly eaten on by a bird of prey.

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