# Survey Details

Date: 4 June 2019

Time: Part 1 - 8:15 – 10:45 Part 2 - 11:15 – 11:45

Weather: Mostly sunny, 55 – 60 F, Winds 5-7 Knots

Survey Crew: Ken Collis (RTR), James Tennyson (RTR), Tim Lawes (OSU), James Lawonn (ODFW)

The Astoria Megler Bridge was surveyed for total individual DCCO on bridge structure and for breeding pairs (Nests). The survey was conducted in two parts, part one was the main span conducted from a boat. Part two was the new nesting on the North (WA) side of the bridge; surveyed from shore using a spotting scope.

Part 1 – The DCCO colony using the south bridge was similar to the colony from 2018. The exception is the increased expansion this year into the crib section (B) closest to the shore. Birds are using the same areas as previously observed but density is higher is some areas, e.g., crib section (A). Chronology is asynchronous with some birds observed with chicks and some still engaged in breeding displays and nest construction. With that in mind, I don’t believe we are at the peak yet. Please refer to the table below for count numbers.

Part 2 – DCCO have successfully colonized the North span of the bridge on WA side. Observations showed birds using the same area they tried and failed to colonize in 2018. In addition, they have moved into the girded metal structure, please refer to attached graphic. DCCO were asynchronous here also with some birds attending chicks and others still engaged in nest construction and breeding displays. Please refer to the table below for count numbers.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **DCCO** | **DCCO Nests** | **PECO** | **PECO Nests** | **BRAC** | **BRAC Nests** |
| N | 154 | 98 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 | 192 | 93 | 35 | 14 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 217 | 121 | 46 | 17 | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | 160 | 58 | 60 | 37 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | 367 | 237 | 19 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| 5 | 1005 | 533 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 713 | 354 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7 | 480 | 330 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8 | 690 | 498 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| A | 958 | 454 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 4 |
| B | 102 | 32 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 13 |
| Sub Total | **5038** | **2808** | 160 | 77 | 28 | 17 |
| WA- N | 727 | 210 |  |  |  |  |
| Total DCCO | **5765** | **3018** |  |  |  |  |

\* A comparison count was conducted by James Lawonn (ODFW). Totals from his count follow: Part one, South Bridge colony – 2921 nests. Part two, WA – N new colony – 303 Nests. Total for count – 3224 nests.

Band Re-sights – For the first time we were able to get band reads from the bridge. Banded DCCO were located with binoculars and then using a large telephoto lens we were able to take photos. Using an image viewer to resize the photos the bands codes could be read. Codes are provided below.

Alpha-Numeric DCCO Band Codes

Yellow/Black HJ5

Yellow/Black HY0

Red/White HV2