

2022 BPA/GPUD Avian Monitoring Report

06/20 – 06/26/2022

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

ACTIVITIES	DATE
Survey of sites in McNary Pool below the Snake River confluence	06/21
Survey of sites in McNary NWR off the Columbia River	06/21
Survey of sites in McNary Pool above the Snake River confluence	06/22
Survey of Potholes Reservoir	06/22
UPCOMING EVENTS	
Survey of sites in the John Day Pool	06/27-07/03
Survey of sites in McNary Pool above the Snake River confluence	06/27-07/03
Survey of sites in Potholes Reservoir	06/27-07/03

COLONY MONITORING & WATERBIRD SURVEYS

McNary NWR off the Columbia River: Site was visited on June 21.

Burbank Slough

0 Caspian terns were observed during a shore-based survey.

McNary Pool below the Snake River Confluence: Sites were visited June 21.

Crescent Island

22 loafing Caspian terns were observed on the shoreline; no chicks were observed. Some Caspian terns were observed flying into and out of the interior colony location. The vantage of the interior tern colony was obstructed by vegetation. Final counts of adult terns and attended nests from aerial imagery will be conducted at a later date.

Double crested cormorants were attending nests in the trees; no chicks were observed. Counts were unavailable this week.

Gull counts were unavailable this week and most interior nesting colonies were obstructed by vegetation. Gull chicks (ages 4-5 weeks) were visible along the shoreline.

Badger Island

The shoreline nesting colony of Caspian terns remains active. Loafing American white pelicans obstructed the view of the shoreline tern colony so a complete count of terns during this survey was not possible. While the shoreline Caspian tern colony has failed in previous years due to pelicans walking through the colony, there are no signs of tern colony failure in this shoreline colony this year. Caspian tern chicks (ages 1-3 weeks), many of which are mobile, were observed

in nests and along the shoreline (*Figure 1*). Final counts of adult terns and attended nests from aerial imagery will be conducted at a later date.



Figure 1. Caspian tern chicks on the shoreline nesting colony of Badger Island on June 21, 2022.

~40 loafing American white pelicans were observed on the beach near the Caspian tern nesting colony. No chicks were observed, although chicks have been observed during previous site visits.

Gull counts were unavailable this week. Most interior nesting pelican and gull colonies were obstructed by vegetation. Final counts of adult pelicans and gulls from aerial imagery will be conducted at a later date.

Foundation Island

The majority of cormorant nests were vacant during this boat-based survey. A few nests contained cormorant chicks (> 7 weeks old) that are near fledging (*Figure 2*). On the southern spit, ~100 double-crested cormorants (adults and fledglings) were observed loafing.



Figure 2. Double-crested cormorant chicks on Foundation Island on June 21, 2022.

2 American white pelicans and ~15 gulls were observed loafing.

Potholes Reservoir: Sites were visited on June 22.

Goose Island

23 Caspian terns were counted in 12 different locations on Goose Island and its surrounding islets (*Table 1*) that are visible from our vantage on a boat. For the second consecutive visit, most Caspian terns were observed on Southwest Main and nesting was confirmed (*Table 1, Figure 3*). An estimated 60% of the dissuasion flagged was intact; no passive dissuasion flagging was present in the active Caspian tern nesting area. Final counts of adult terns and attended nests from aerial imagery will be conducted at a later date.

Table 1. Caspian tern counts by location at Goose Island from 4/12 – 6/22. [NA: Not Available]

LOCATION	4/12	4/18	4/27 ²	5/03	5/17	5/24	6/01	6/06 ³	6/22
Northwest Main	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Northeast Main	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Southeast Main	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Spit	0	0	0	2	1	0	4	0	4
South Beach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colony Area ¹	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Southwest Main	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	11
West Main	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Beach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Rocks	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	6
Northeast Rocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northwest Rocks	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2
Total	0	0	0	6	7	0	9	6	23

¹ Complete obstruction from boat vantage.

² Nesting dissuasion activities occurred during counts.

³ Counts conducted from aerial imagery.



Figure 3. Caspian terns nesting on SW main of Goose Island on June 21, 2022.

Final counts of adult gulls from aerial imagery will be conducted later. Most gull chicks are near fledging (*Figure 4*).



Figure 4. Gull fledglings on Goose Island on June 21, 2022.

North Potholes Island

No waterbirds were observed.

Northeastern Potholes

No waterbirds were observed; most islands were flooded.

2016 Colony

3 Caspian terns and ~20 gulls were observed loafing

McNary Pool above the Snake River Confluence: Site was visited on June 22

Island 20

The gull nesting colony on the northern end of the island is no longer active and may have been impacted by flooding due to high McNary Pool elevations (*Figure 5*). ~60 gulls were loafing on the northern end of the island. Approximately 1,000 gulls were observed on the southern nesting colony which was not affected by flooding. Many gull chicks observed on the southern colony have fledged.



Figure 5. Flooded northern end of Island 20 on June 22, 2022.

~22 loafing American white pelicans were observed.