

2022 BPA/GPUD Avian Monitoring Report

07/04 – 07/10/2022

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

ACTIVITIES	DATE
Survey of sites in McNary Pool above the Snake River confluence	07/05
Survey of sites in McNary Pool below the Snake River confluence	07/05
Survey of sites in Sprague Lake	07/07
Survey of sites in Lake Lenore	07/07
Survey of sites in Banks Lake	07/07
UPCOMING EVENTS	
Survey of sites in Potholes Reservoir	07/11-07/17
Survey of sites in McNary Pool below the Snake River confluence	07/11-07/17

COLONY MONITORING & WATERBIRD SURVEYS

McNary Pool above the Snake River Confluence: Site was visited on July 5.

Island 20

The Ring-billed gull colony on the northern end of the island is no longer active and may have been impacted by flooding due to high McNary Pool elevations. Approximately 1,000 nesting gulls were observed on the southern colony which was not affected by flooding. Many gull chicks have now fledged from the southern colony.

25 American white pelicans were observed loafing.

McNary Pool below the Snake River Confluence: Sites were visited on July 5.

Crescent Island

Although the interior Caspian tern nesting colony was obstructed by vegetation from our vantage on the boat, Caspian terns were frequently observed flying and landing on the island's interior. Complete counts, including the interior nesting colony, will be conducted from aerial imagery. On the flooded shoreline, 3 Caspian tern adults and 3 fledglings were observed loafing (*Figure 1*).



Figure 1. Caspian tern adult (banded) with fledgling and ring-billed gulls on Crescent Island on July 5, 2022.

Approximately half of the double-crested cormorant nests in the trees on Crescent Island have failed due to unknown causes. Although our view from the boat was partially obstructed due to vegetation, ~10 double-crested cormorant nests with chicks (ages 2-5 weeks) were observed.

Most interior nesting gull colonies were obstructed due to vegetation, although gull fledglings were observed on the shoreline. Complete counts will be conducted with aerial imagery.

Badger Island

From the boat, ~130 nesting Caspian terns were observed on the shoreline colony. The shoreline nesting colony has become more dispersed as most chicks were mobile and over 1 month old (*Figure 2*).



Figure 2. Caspian tern adults and chicks on Badger Island on July 5, 2022.

American white pelican and 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.

On the northern tip of Badger Island, ~30 Caspian terns, ~20 double-crested cormorants, ~40 American white pelicans, and ~70 gulls were observed loafing.

Foundation Island

The majority of double-crested cormorant nests on Foundation Island were vacant as most chicks have fledged. ~10 double-crested cormorant nests were observed with chicks (ages 3-4 weeks).

On the north tip of Foundation Island, 3 Caspian terns, ~10 double-crested cormorants, ~20 American white pelicans, and ~60 gulls were observed loafing.

Sprague Lake: Site was visited on July 7.

Harper Island

No Caspian terns were observed on Harper Island. There has been no confirmation of a Caspian tern nesting colony on Harper Island this year from boat or aerial surveys.

The majority of double-crested cormorant nests on Harper Island were vacant as most chicks have fledged. ~25 double-crested cormorant nests were observed with chicks (ages 3-4 weeks).

~300 gulls were observed with fledglings.

On the western tip of Harper Island and outlying islands, 25 double-crested cormorants, ~40 American white pelicans, 3 gulls, and 1 bald eagle were observed loafing.

Banks Lake: Sites were visited on July 7.

Twinning Island

No Caspian terns were observed.

~500 nesting California gulls with chicks (ages 3-5 weeks) and fledglings were observed.

1 double-crested cormorant was observed loafing.

Goose Island

Two nesting Caspian terns was observed on Banks Lake - Goose Island (*Figure 3*).



Figure 3. Caspian tern pair nesting on Banks Lake - Goose Island on July 7, 2022.

2 double-crested cormorants and 15 American white pelicans were observed loafing.

~120 nesting ring-billed gulls with chicks (ages 4-5 weeks) and fledglings were observed.

Lenore Lake: Sites were visited on July 7.

Shoal Island

The interior Caspian tern nesting colony remains active, although was partially obstructed due to vegetation and rocks from the boat. Caspian tern chicks on the interior nesting colony were estimated to be ~3-4 weeks old. ~20 Caspian terns and 2 fledglings were observed loafing on the shoreline (*Figure 4*).



Figure 4. Caspian tern adults and one fledgling with California gulls on Shoal Island on July 7, 2022.

Counts of nesting gulls were unavailable this week. Chicks ranged in age from 3 weeks old to fledgling (*Figure 4*).

North Rock Island

Counts of double-crested cormorants were unavailable this week. The largest of the three double-crested cormorant nesting colonies on North Rock Island was vacant as most chicks have fledged. 10 double-crested cormorant nests with chicks (ages 4-5 weeks) were observed on the active nesting colonies.