

2022 BPA/GPUD Avian Monitoring Report

07/11 – 07/17/2022

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS

ACTIVITIES	DATE
Survey of sites in McNary Pool below the Snake River confluence	07/13
Survey of sites in Potholes Reservoir	07/14
UPCOMING EVENTS	
Survey of sites in Potholes Reservoir	07/18-07/24
Survey of sites in McNary Pool above the Snake River confluence	07/18-07/24

COLONY MONITORING & WATERBIRD SURVEYS

Colony monitoring has become less frequent as most of our efforts have focused on colony counts from aerial imagery. These counts will be used to estimate peak colony size for each species and site during the 2022 breeding season. Peak counts will be made available in our 2022 Annual Report. Next week's report (07/18-07/24) will be our final weekly report for the 2022 colony monitoring period. PIT-tag recovery efforts on vacant colony sites will begin on July 25.

McNary Pool below the Snake River Confluence: Sites were visited on July 13.

Badger Island

From the boat, ~ 60 nesting Caspian terns and ~40 chicks 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 1*).



Figure 1. Caspian tern adults and chicks on Badger Island on July 13, 2022.

American white pelican and gull counts were unavailable this week. Most interior nesting pelican and gull colonies were obstructed by vegetation. 6 American white pelican chicks, estimated to be ~6 weeks old, were observed along the shoreline amongst adults (*Figure 2*). Final counts of adult pelicans and gulls from aerial imagery are currently being conducted.



Figure 2. American white pelican adults and chicks on Badger Island on July 13, 2022.

On the northern tip of Badger Island, 3 Caspian terns and 12 American white pelicans were observed loafing.

Foundation Island

The majority of double-crested cormorant nests on Foundation Island were vacant as most chicks have fledged. No attended nests were observed. ~115 double-crested cormorants, most of which were fledglings, were observed loafing.

On the north tip of Foundation Island, ~30 double-crested cormorants, ~50 American white pelicans, and ~60 gulls were observed loafing.

Potholes Reservoir: Sites were visited on July 14.

Reservoir levels continue to drop (current levels are > 5.5 ft below full pool), exposing many low-lying islands in North Potholes and additional shoreline habitat on Goose Island.

Goose Island

22 adult Caspian terns were observed loafing along the shoreline of South Spit (*Figure 3*). No Caspian tern chicks or fledglings have been observed at Goose Island this year.



Figure 3. Caspian terns and gulls loafing the on South Spit of Goose Island on July 14, 2022.

4 double crested cormorants were observed loafing.

~2,500 gulls were observed on Goose Island, approximately half of which were fledglings.

2016 Colony

8 Caspian terns were observed loafing.

51 gulls were observed loafing.

North Potholes Island

No piscivorous waterbirds were observed.

Northeastern Potholes

No piscivorous waterbirds were observed.