

APPENDIX P 2020 SPECIES SURVEY

AVIAN SURVEY FIELD OBSERVATIONS

4/28/2020 LONG BEACH AVIAN SURVEY SUMMARY

- No federally species were observed.
- State listed species observed: bald eagle.
- State species of special concern observed: common loon (heard) and osprey.
- There are no signs of rookeries on either hassock island. A few scattered great egrets, snowy egrets, great blue herons, a juvenile black-crowned night heron, and green heron were observed.

Pearsalls Hassock

- There is an active stick nest near the eastern side of Pearsalls with a nesting female (see attached map). Due to the lighting and its distance from traversable areas, species identification was not possible, but based on the bird's lighter coloring, it was likely a red-tailed hawk based. The nest was located outside the breeding bird survey area where there are some scattered trees on the eastern edge, north of the old pier and will continue to be monitored.
- Osprey nests are present on structures plus one on the old pier on the west side. A full count and map of approximate locations will be prepared during the next survey.

Black Banks Hassock

- Observed a great horned owl nest with two large nestlings plus an adult (see attached map).
- Numerous osprey nests were located on the island, probably around 10 on this island alone. One active nest was located in a tree near the southern edge of the island (see attached map). They are also nesting on platforms, wooden box structures, and one pair was nesting on stacked wood behind one of the houses. As noted previously, these nests will be mapped during the next survey.
- Observed a juvenile eagle perched below a large nest on the northern half of the island (see attached map), but no other birds were observed at this nest. It may not be active this season but will continue to be monitored.
- Another stick nest was located near the potential eagle nest, but no birds were observed at this nest.

Some other notable species observed included clapper rail, greater yellowlegs, willet, Forster's tern, American oystercatcher, and purple finch. There are a few hundred brant in the area currently also. Nearly all the emerging *Spartina* has been mowed down—likely by the brant flocks. Numerous Canada goose nests and some goslings were observed.

Also, of note, two harbor seals were observed swimming near the launch.

5/7/2020 LONG BEACH AVIAN SURVEY SUMMARY

- No federally listed species observed on 5/7.
- No state-listed species observed on 5/7.
- State species of special concern observed: osprey and seaside sparrow.
- No signs of rookeries on either hassock island.
- All stick nests were mapped so those locations will be pulled into GPS next week.

Pearsalls Hassock

- The previously observed stick nest on near the eastern side of Pearsalls belongs to a red-tailed hawk.
- Two osprey nests were observed—one on the concrete sewer block and one on the old pier.
- No federally listed species were observed using the mudflat area proposed for restoration.
- Large flocks of glossy ibis were observed (>60 birds).

Black Banks Hassock

- Great horned owl nest was still active.
- Six osprey nests were observed (platforms, boxes, house structures and tree).
- Three stick nests were located in the northern scrub area, but there was no activity at these nests during either survey.

Some other notable species observed included yellow-crowned night heron (adults and juvenile) on both hassock islands, large flocks (>60) glossy ibis on Pearsalls, and least sandpiper. The single seaside sparrow observed on Black Banks was doing a breeding song display along the channel that bisects the hassock.

5/13/2020 LONG BEACH AVIAN SURVEY SUMMARY

- No federally listed species observed on 5/13.
- State-listed species observed on 5/13: common tern.
- State species of special concern observed: osprey.
- No signs of rookeries on either hassock island.

Pearsalls Hassock

- Red-tailed hawk nest on the eastern side of Pearsalls Hassock was still active.
- Two active osprey nests were observed—one on the concrete sewer block in center of Pearsalls Hassock and one on the old pier.
- No federally listed species were observed using the mudflat area proposed for restoration.

Black Banks Hassock

- Great horned owl nest was empty (likely fledged).
- Six active osprey nests were observed (platforms, boxes, house structures, and one tree nest).
- An additional osprey pair may be setting up a nest in the proposed work corridor on a concrete sewer block—needs confirmation (observed debris on block and bird sitting on it afterward).
- Three stick nests were located in the northern scrub area, but there was no activity at these nests during any survey.
- Two clapper rails were observed.

Some other notable species observed included black-crowned night heron and migrating shorebirds, including ruddy turnstone, semi-palmated plover, black-bellied plover, willet, least sandpiper, and short-billed dowitcher. Shorebirds were observed along the hassock edges during low and rising tides, as well as on flats during low tide in bay and along edges of neighboring hassock islands. Common tern was observed in the bay on the west side of the hassock islands.

5/21/2020 LONG BEACH AVIAN SURVEY SUMMARY

- No federally listed species observed on 5/21.
- State-listed species observed on 5/21: common tern.
- State species of special concern observed: osprey, seaside sparrow.
- No signs of rookeries on either hassock island.

Pearsalls Hassock

- Due to leaf-out, activity at red-tailed hawk nest on the eastern side of Pearsalls Hassock could not be confirmed.
- Two active osprey nests were observed—one on concrete sewer block in center of Pearsalls Hassock and one on old pier.
- No federally listed species were observed using the mudflat area proposed for restoration.

Black Banks Hassock

- Six active osprey nests were observed (platforms, boxes, house structures and one tree nest).
- The additional osprey nest in the proposed work corridor on a concrete sewer block was investigated; a broken eggshell was present. Whether it is still active or not could not be confirmed. Osprey were observed in the vicinity (but there are additional nests in the vicinity), so whether they will try again at this location is unknown.
- A saltmarsh sharp-tailed sparrow was observed running across a small mudflat in a low marsh area on the north end of North Black Banks Hassock (west of project corridor). There was a male seaside sparrow also vocalizing in the same area.

Shorebirds flocks observed on the beaches consisted of semi-palmated sandpipers, ruddy turnstone, and semi-palmated plover. Common tern was observed in the bay on both sides of the hassock islands. Significantly fewer brant were observed (<50) because they had already started moving north. Brant flocks effectively mowed down the *Spartina*—it is still less than 12 inches high in most marsh areas. Hopefully, it will recover quickly to provide better nesting habitat for sparrow and wren species.

8/12/2020 AND 8/17/2020 LONG BEACH SURVEY SUMMARY

AVIAN

- No federally listed species observed (8/12 and 8/17).
- State-listed species observed: common tern (8/12 and 8/17) and least tern (8/12).
- State species of special concern observed: osprey (8/12 and 8/17) and black skimmer (8/12).
- No signs of rookeries on either hassock island; however, numerous black-crowned and yellow-crowned night heron juveniles have been observed on both hassocks (up to 4 observed at once).
- Osprey nests fledged; they are everywhere (up to 9 observed at once).

Pearsalls Hassock

- No federally listed species were observed using the mudflat area proposed for restoration.

Black Banks Hassock

- Saltmarsh sparrows observed and multiple juveniles.
- Osprey appear to be adding onto a tree nest in the northern woodland area that was previously observed but had no activity in the spring.

PLANTS

- No federal- or state-listed species observed.

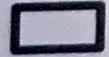
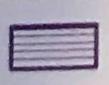
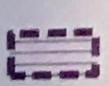
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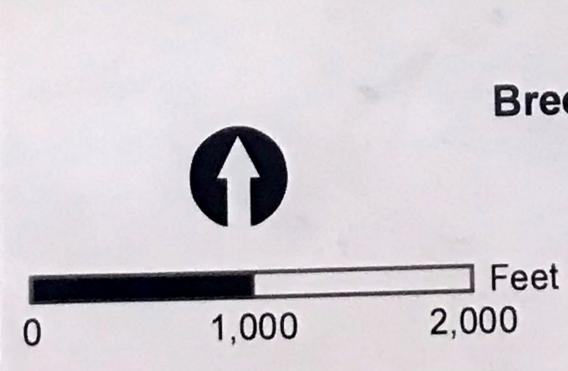
- Shrubs, trees, and Phragmites on both islands were browning, likely due to salt spray from Tropical Storm Isaias (see photo on following page).



4/28/2020 SURVEY



-  Survey Area
-  Listed Bird Observation Point
-  Proposed Restoration Area
-  Breeding Bird - Wandering Survey
-  Breeding Bird - Perimeter Survey
-  Listed Plant Survey



Listed Species & Breeding Bird Surveys

Long Beach WPCP Consolidation Project

