



Flag-banding update in North Carolina

Tracy Borneman

Flagged

- Cape Lookout and Cape Hatteras N.S.
- 2011
 - chicks: 34
 - adults: 1
- 2012
 - chicks: 47
 - adults: 4



2012 Protocols for Flag-banding

- Chicks
 - Sanded edges of all flags
 - Banded ~30 days old
 - Checked chicks every 1-2 days for survival and normal activity
 - no recaptures
- Adults
 - Observe incubation
 - Check eggs

Observations

- Exhibited normal behavior
- No limping or difficulty running
- No focusing on legs
- No fidgeting with flags or bands
- No problems roosting
- No difficulty incubating
- No cracked eggs
- Adult banded in 2011 returned to same breeding territory

Survival

- Outcome
 - 2 adults resighted during winter
 - at least 11 chicks resighted in Florida



Resighting

- Pros:
 - Horizontal orientation for normal reading
 - Flat surface
 - Larger text
- Difficulties:
 - Flag may look like solid unmarked color band (code hidden)
- Resight vertical code round band or flag?
- Flags on both legs.
- Must rely more heavily on spotting scope



Future Use?

- We support continued use of flags
 - No debilitating injuries
 - No behavioral alterations
 - Flag placement easier and quicker than round bands
 - No long-term signs of injury or problems with flags