



OSPREY NEWSLETTER

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Osprey Nesting Season

This was another successful season for the Rhode Island ospreys. The number of active nests decreased slightly from last year's 108 to 104 nests while the number of young decreased from 151 to 145. While some locations were not as productive, the season overall was very successful.

Several new sites were discovered, on top of water, light and cellular phone towers. This continues to be problematic, as it is very difficult to lure ospreys to alternate sites that can't compete with the 80-199 foot height of these structures. We continue to work closely with towns and utilities to alleviate electrical or human health and safety concerns. We also continue to monitor cell towers as osprey advocates to alleviate conflicts.

Table 1 of the newsletter contains the activity of all known nests. If we have inadvertently incorrectly reported any activity, please do not hesitate to contact us at the numbers above.

A very special thanks to our cooperators:

We know many of you went to great lengths to accurately monitor the osprey nests. Enough can't be said about your efforts, as the current osprey population has overwhelmed the staff's ability to monitor them. We are truly fortunate to have the assistance of so many dedicated volunteers. This project would not exist without the assistance of the cooperators. As always, we extend our thanks to the following cooperators who have given so much of their time and efforts in monitoring the growing number of RI osprey nests: Michele Cyr, Steve Reinert, Ellen Champion, Jim McEneaney, Bill Prescott, Fran Johnson, Bill McEneaney, Birger Wernerfelt, John MacLennan, Jane Harrison, Charlie Nixon, Brooke Beard, Wayne Browning, Charlotte Sornborger, Joe Metzen, Rob Bierregaard, Henry Tarbox, Julia Royston, Mary Leito, Tracy Silvia, John Hammett, Suzanne Paton, Robin Weber, Daryl Anderson, Eugenia Marks, Rita Holahan, Fran Johnson, Stephen Connors, Cheryl Wiitala, Hilary Hartlaub, Henry Tarbox, David Cole, Walter Profitt, Rodie Siegler, and Barbara Bucci.

If we made any errors in reporting your data, please do not hesitate to call and correct the problem. If you are not currently a cooperator but would like to be one, please contact the Division for sites and volunteer forms.

Gentle Reminder

Cooperators, if you have not submitted your volunteer hour sheets please do so now. The hours 'donated' are considered an in-kind donation. Federal money is given at a rate of 3 to 1 for donations. The money is used to support and expand programs within the Division.

Osprey mortalities and incidents

We were notified of several osprey mortalities this season. A young osprey at North Kingstown's Ryan Park nest died. Additionally, one youngster in Apponaug was electrocuted and another died at the nest at Napatree Point. A nest in the Tongue Marshes in Barrington fell in early July with young in the nest which did not survive. Also, one of the young in the nest at the Quonset Golf Course in North Kingstown died as a result of multiple broken bones. Vivian Maxson, of the Born to be Wild Nature Center in Bradford, was able to successfully rehabilitate and release a young osprey.

NEW POLES AND PLATFORMS

The Division would like to thank the Audubon Society for offering to erect a nest pole in the salt marsh adjacent to Hazard Road in Newport. The Audubon Society will also be making site visits to find potential nest pole sites.

National Grid also unveiled three new nest poles in the Town Pond area in the Portsmouth area. The nests were not used this season, but hopefully will be used in the future.

US Fish & Wildlife is erecting a new pole in Long Cove in the Narragansett Area.

Anyone who is interested in putting up new poles may contact the Division for guidance. We will assist and give advice for best placement and specifications of these poles. As in the past, the appropriate permits need to be acquired from CRMC for pole placement within coastal or freshwater wetlands.

FAREWELL

I am sorry to say that I will be retiring at the end of this month. I have had the distinct pleasure of editing the "Osprey Newsletter" for thirty years, and have been blessed with the friendship of dozens of dedicated birders. Please continue corresponding with Chris Raithe, Endangered Species Project leader.

Health and happiness,
Lori

Lori Gibson, editor

"It is the policy of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to offer its services and accommodations to all orderly persons, and, as required, to all properly licensed persons, without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or if you desire further information, please write to the Office for Equal Opportunity, US Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240."

"The Osprey Newsletter is made possible, in part, by the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Act, Rhode Island Project ES-PR.

Table 1

Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Statistics 1978 - 2008

Year	Total # of nests Surveyed	# of Active Nests	# of Successful Nests	Total # of Young	# of young per active nest	# of young/ successful nest
1978	13	12	7	13	1.08	1.86
1979	14	12	10	15	1.25	1.50
1980	14	12	10	20	1.67	2.00
1981	19	15	10	18	1.20	1.80
1982	16	13	9	14	1.08	1.56
1983	20	17	14	30	1.76	2.14
1984	19	16	14	26	1.63	1.86
1985	23	20	16	19	0.95	1.19
1986	28	25	19	32	1.28	1.68
1987	27	24	19	39	1.63	2.05
1988	31	23	20	41	1.78	2.05
1989	33	23	17	29	1.26	1.71
1990	45	31	21	43	1.39	2.05
1991	45	37	18	28	0.76	1.56
1992	50	42	21	47	1.12	2.24
1993	49	42	25	45	1.07	1.80
1994	49	44	26	44	1.00	1.69
1995	61	43	35	71	1.65	2.03
1996	77	49	33	70	1.43	2.12
1997	81	52	42	75	1.44	1.79
1998	81	61	49	104	1.70	2.12
1999	74	63	55	111	1.73	1.98
2000	89	58	55	103	1.78	1.87
2001	80	77	65	116	1.51	1.78
2002	89	87	63	108	1.24	1.71
2003	89	71	53	82	1.15	1.55
2004	100	84	76	114	1.36	1.5
2005	100	98	79	143	1.46	1.79
2006	116	108	87	151	1.40	1.74
2007	113	108	95	164	1.52	1.73
2008	161	117	82	145	1.24	1.77

Table 2

Great Swamp Impoundment Nesting Activity for 2008
Impoundment built in 1960-1961, around the elm tree
Osprey began nesting on the powerline ~1975

YEAR	ELM TREE	POLE 1	POLE 2	POLE 3	POLE 4	POLE 5	POLE 6	POLE 7	POLE 8	POLE 9	PLAT	RANGE	SUBSTATION
1977	2	~	~	2	~	2	~	~	~	NA	~	~	~
1978	2	~	~	0	0	0	0	~	~	NA	~	~	~
1979	2	~	~	1	2	2	SA	~	~	NA	~	~	~
1980	Blew down	~	~	2	2	2	2	~	~	NA	~	~	~
1981	NA	SA	SA	3	0	0	0	~	~	NA	SA	~	~
1982	NA	~	1	2	3	2	2	~	~	NA	SA	~	~
1983	NA	NA	0	3	2	0	3	SA	~	NA	1	~	~
1984	NA	~	1	3	2	1	2	SA	~	NA	A	~	~
1985	NA	NA	0	0	0	0	2	2	~	NA	0	~	~
1986	NA	NA	0	2	1	2	3	2	~	NA	2	~	~
1987	NA	2	2	2	1	2	0	SA	~	NA	~	~	~
1988	NA	2	3	3	3	3	2	SA	~	NA	3	1	~
1989	NA	0	2	0	0	2	0	SA	SA	NA	A	2	~
1990	NA	0	2	NA	0	1	NA	2	SA	NA	0	2	~
1991	NA	SA	0	0	0	0	2	NA	0	NA	0	0	~
1992	NA	A	2	NA	NA	2	0	1	0	NA	A-0	A-0	A-0
1993	NA	1	NA	1	A-0	2	NA	2	0	NA	A-0	A-0	A-0
1994	NA	A-0	A-0	A-0	NA	A-0	1	A-0	A-0	NA	~	A-0	A-0
1995	NA	NA	2	NA	1	1	1	3	1	NA	~	2	NA
1996	NA	NA	A-0	NA	2	A-0	1	1	A-0	NA	A-0	2	NA
1997	NA	3	2	2	2	1	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	NA
1998	NA	3	A-0	NA	3	1	2	A-0	NA	NA	NA	3	NA
1999	NA	1	1	1	NA	1	1	2	NA	NA	NA	2	NA
2000	NA	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	NA	2	A-0
2001	NA	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	2	NA	2	2
2002	NA	1	0	1	0	~	1	~	~	0	NA	1	1
2003	NA	3	NA	2	1	U	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	2
2004	NA	NA	1	2	2	2	0	0	NA	NA	NA	1	2
2005	NA	2	2	A-0	2	2	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	A-0	2
2006	NA	2	3	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	NA	3	2
2007	NA	2	1	0	2	1	0	NA	NA	NA	NA	3	2
2008	NA	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	NA	NA	NA	A-0	A-0

Table 3

Osprey Nesting Activity 2008

Nesting site	Town	Nest Activity	# of		Remarks
			Young	Young	
Adams Point	Barrington	NA	0	0	Not active
Belcher Cove South	Barrington	S	1	1	
Smith Cove, Rumstick Point	Barrington	S	1	1	
Hundred Acre/ Acre Ave.	Barrington	A	0	0	
Johannis Farm/ North	Barrington	NA	0	0	
East Bay Manor	Barrington	U	0	0	Not monitored
Johannis Farm/ Middle	Barrington	S	2	2	
Johannis Farm/ South	Barrington	S	4	4	
Wampanoag Trail- Curve	Barrington	A	0	0	
Barrington High School/Federal Road	Barrington	S	2	2	
Tongue Marshes North	Barrington	S	0	0	Nest came down in July
Brickyard Pond	Barrington	NA	0	0	Nest fell
Mussachuck Creek	Barrington	NA	0	0	
Hutch's Dam	Block Island	TBA			
Mill Gut	Bristol	S	2	2	
Mill Cove	Bristol	S	2	2	
Ningret Pond	Charlestown	NA	0	0	
Ninigret Pond Fiore Sand & Gravel	Charlestown	NA	0	0	Cone on pole
Rt 2 & 112 intersection	Charlestown	NA	0	0	
Quonochontaug Pond	Charlestown	S	2	2	
Shannock Rd	Charlestown	NA	0	0	
RPE Waste Services Cell Tower	Charlestown	S	2	2	
Shumankunuc Rd.	Charlestown	NA	0	0	
United Nuclear/Francis Carter	Charlestown	NA	0	0	
Luther Property	Coventry	NA	0	0	Tree fell down
ACI	Cranston	NA	0	0	
American Legion	East Greenwich	S	1	1	
Uncle Bob's Self Storage	East Greenwich	S	2	2	Tree fell down
Mobil Tank Farm 1	East Providence	S	2	2	

Mobil Tank Farm 2	East Providence	U	0	Nest not monitored
Mink Road	East Providence	S	2	
Bucklin Point	East Providence	S	2	
Bucklin Point Hill	East Providence	S	1	
Pierce Field	East Providence	NA	0	
Omega Pond	East Providence	SA	0	
Metcalf Marsh	Exeter	NA	0	
Killingly Pond	Glocester	A	0	
Burdickville East	Hopkinton	A	0	
Burdickville West	Hopkinton	S	1	
Chickadee Farm	Hopkinton	NA	0	
Wood River Golf Course	Hopkinton	S	2	
Narragansett Trail Central	Hopkinton	A	0	
Narragansett Trail North	Hopkinton	S	2	
Narragansett Trail South	Hopkinton	A	0	
Tomaquag	Hopkinton	S	1	
Potter Hill Central	Hopkinton	A	0	
Potter Hill East	Hopkinton	S	2	
Potter Hill West	Hopkinton	S	2	
Jamestown Fox Hill Farm	Jamestown	SA	0	
Jamestown Marsh Meadows	Jamestown	S	2	
Jamestown South Pond	Jamestown	S	2	
Beavertail US GOV center	Jamestown	S	1	
Palmieri Property/Pole 69	Jamestown	SA	0	
Jamestown Elementary School	Jamestown	NA	0	
Goose Wing Beach	Little Compton	NA	0	
Quicksand Pond	Little Compton	NA	0	
Haeffenreffer #1	Little Compton	NA	0	
Haeffenreffer #2	Little Compton	NA	0	
Round Pond	Little Compton	S	1	
Canonchet Farm Museum	Narragansett	NA	0	
Indian Rock Rd.	Narragansett	S	2	
Foddering Farm	Narragansett	S	1	
Galilee Bird Sanctuary	Narragansett	S	2	

Galilee Water tower	Narragansett	S	1	
Sunnybrook Farm	Narragansett	NA	0	
Narragansett Elementary School	Narragansett	S	2	
Narrow River	Narragansett	NA	0	
Narrow River Duck Blind	Narragansett	NA	0	
Sprague Bridge	Narragansett	S	3	
Narragansett Beach/Wastewater Treatment	Narragansett	NA	0	Abandoned
Salt Pond	Narragansett	S	2	
Sprague Park	Narragansett	S	1	
DeChristofaro	Narragansett	S	3	
Gooseberry Beach	Newport	NA	0	
Freebody Park	Newport	S	3	
Allen's Harbor	North Kingstown	S	2	
Mc Ginn Park	North Kingstown	SA	0	
N.Kingstown Dog Pound	North Kingstown	S	1	
North Kingstown High School	North Kingstown	SA	0	
Snuff Mill Road	North Kingstown	S	3	
Quonset Navy Yard Facilities Bldg.	North Kingstown	TBA		
Quonset Club House	North Kingstown	NA	0	
Quonset Navy Yard Gate 51	North Kingstown	S	1	
Rabbit Island	North Kingstown	NA	0	Abandoned
Ryan Park	North Kingstown	S	2	
Turco Marsh	North Kingstown	NA	0	
Melville	Portsmouth	S	3	
Town Pond 1	Portsmouth	NA	0	
Town Pond 2	Portsmouth	NA	0	
Town Pond 3	Portsmouth	NA	0	
RIDOT/RWU Cell Tower	Portsmouth	S	2	
Port of Providence	Providence	S	1	
Coggeshall Cove	Prudence Island	U	0	
Potter Cove	Prudence Island	S	2	
Nags Creek South	Prudence Island	S	3	
Buttonwoods Rd.	Richmond	S	1	
Wyoming River Dam	Richmond	A	1	

Rt 95/Ct	Richmond	U	0
Rt 95 Between 3&4	Richmond	NA	0
Rt 95 Switch Rd.	Richmond	S	1
Seekonk Driving Range	Seekonk	TBA	
Wampanoag Trail- Men's Club	Seekonk	TBA	
George St (Horse Farm)	Seekonk	S	3
Marnock Driv	Seekonk	S	2
Olney St	Seekonk	TBA	
Monarch Dr	Seekonk	TBA	
Old Mountain Field	South Kingstown	S	1
Biscuit City Rd	South Kingstown	NA	0
Factory Pond	South Kingstown	S	1
Great Swamp 1	South Kingstown	S	2
Great Swamp 2	South Kingstown	S	1
Great Swamp 3	South Kingstown	S	2
Great Swamp 4	South Kingstown	S	2
Great Swamp 5	South Kingstown	A	0
Great Swamp A	South Kingstown	S	1
Great Swamp B	South Kingstown	S	1
Great Swamp Range	South Kingstown	A	0
Great Swamp Sub Station	South Kingstown	A	0
Salt Pond	South Kingstown	S	1
Pond St.	South Kingstown	S	2
Potter Pond	South Kingstown	S	2
Jerusalem F&W CoStal Lab	South Kingstown	S	3
SuccotSh (water tower)	South Kingstown	S	1
Point Judith Pond	South Kingstown	S	1
Point Judith Pond Turner Cove	South Kingstown	S	3
Trustom Pond 1	South Kingstown	S	2
Trustom Pond 2	South Kingstown	SA	0
Camp Fuller Windsurfing	South Kingstown	S	1
Palmer River East	Swansea	NA	0
Barneyville Road North	Swansea	S	3
Swansea Country Club North	Swansea	S	2

Silviera Property	Swansea	S	3	
Swansea Country Club Middle	Swansea	S	1	
Swansea Country Club South	Swansea	S	3	
Jack's Island (Ruecker Refuge)	Tiverton	A		
Belcher Cove North	Warren	S	2	
Belcher Cove	Warren	TBA		
Kickemuit Middle School	Warren	TBA		
CCRI	Warwick	S	2	
Mickey Stevens	Warwick	A	0	
Arlington RV park	Warwick	S	2	
Barry's Niiteclub	Warwick	S	1	
Spring Green Cove	Warwick	NA	0	
Big River	West Greenwich	S	1	
Super 8 Motel	West Greenwich	NA	0	
Hazard Rd.	West Greenwich	NA	0	
Avondale	Westerly	S	3	
Chapman Pond	Westerly	S	2	
Maschaug Pond	Westerly	NA	0	
Little Maschaug Pond	Westerly	A	0	
Old Carriage Road	Westerly	NA	0	Nest fell down
Napatree Point 1	Westerly	S	1	One young died
Napatree Point 2	Westerly	NA	0	
Quarry Rte. 78	Westerly	NA	0	
Rt 91 Train tracks	Westerly	NA	0	
Westerly Pee Wee Field	Westerly	NA	0	
White Rock Rd.	Westerly	S	2	
Winnapaug Breach Dr.	Westerly	NA	0	
Winnapaug Atlantic Ave.	Westerly	S	2	
Tom Harvey Road	Westerly	SA	0	
Barneyville Road North	Seekonk	TBA		
Total			145	

TBA = To be announced S = Active & successful A = Active SA = Subadult NA = Not active U = Unknown