



# RI OSPREY REPORT

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## The RI Osprey Monitoring Program is Back!

Audubon Society of RI is proud to bring back the RI Osprey Monitoring Program! Initiated in 1977 by Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM), the project was established to monitor



Young osprey feeding at Freebody Park in Newport. © 2010 Jack Kelly.

the state's osprey population as it recovered from the effects of DDT. Staff biologists and volunteers observed all known nests in Rhode Island and recorded how many chicks fledged each year. Over the years the osprey population steadily increased. In 2010, with cooperation from RIDEM, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island took over management of the program and has successfully completed its first year of monitoring.

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### What we accomplished in 2010

*Google Maps:* One of our first projects was to create a Google map of all the known osprey nests in the state using data from the RIDEM ArcView map. Nests with a monitor were indicated with green markers, nests that still needed to be claimed were marked in red, and directions to the nest were included where available. In this way, new volunteers were easily able to see which nests were available and where they were located.

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### New Hazard Marsh Platform

Audubon Society of RI installed a new osprey platform in its Ocean Drive Marsh conservation refuge, located on Hazard Road in Newport. Protected by Audubon since 1967, Ocean Drive Marsh is 10 acres of salt marsh and open water along the southwestern Newport coast. The platform is a tripod design, which will be more stable than a single post on soft marsh soils. Audubon will be watching closely to see if this platform is adopted by an osprey pair in 2011!



New platform awaits osprey in Hazard Marsh. © 2010 Scott Ruhren

### Did you know?

- Ospreys can become completely submerged when diving for fish and still be able to fly away with their prey.
- Ospreys have an opposable toe that can point forward to perch and backward to grasp fish.
- Young osprey have reddish-orange eyes. Adults have bright yellow eyes.
- The osprey is the only bird of prey that eats live fish exclusively.

# RI Osprey Monitoring

(Continued from page 1)

*Confirming nest sites:* The osprey database provided by RIDEM contained every nest site observed since 1977. Site visits by volunteers enabled us to confirm which sites had the potential to host ospreys and which were no longer viable. This will reduce the work load for next year.

*Improving map accuracy and adding new nests:* Where there were errors or inaccuracies in the original osprey map, volunteers were able to suggest changes. In some cases, key volunteers were added as Google map editors so they could make changes and additions from home based on their observations. A special thanks goes out to Butch Lombardi and Steve Reinert, who helped to clarify the locations of the many osprey nests in the Palmer River area—and added a few more!



**Napatree Point Ospreys.**  
© 2010 Janice Sassi

*Monitoring the nests:* Over the season, 168 potential nests sites were watched, with 171 fledged young observed. This is the most fledged young recorded in the history of the program. *See complete results on page 4.*

Audubon looks forward to continuing this valuable project. We are grateful to Rhode Island Fish & Wildlife for their support and assistance, and to the 60 volunteers whose monitoring efforts made it possible!

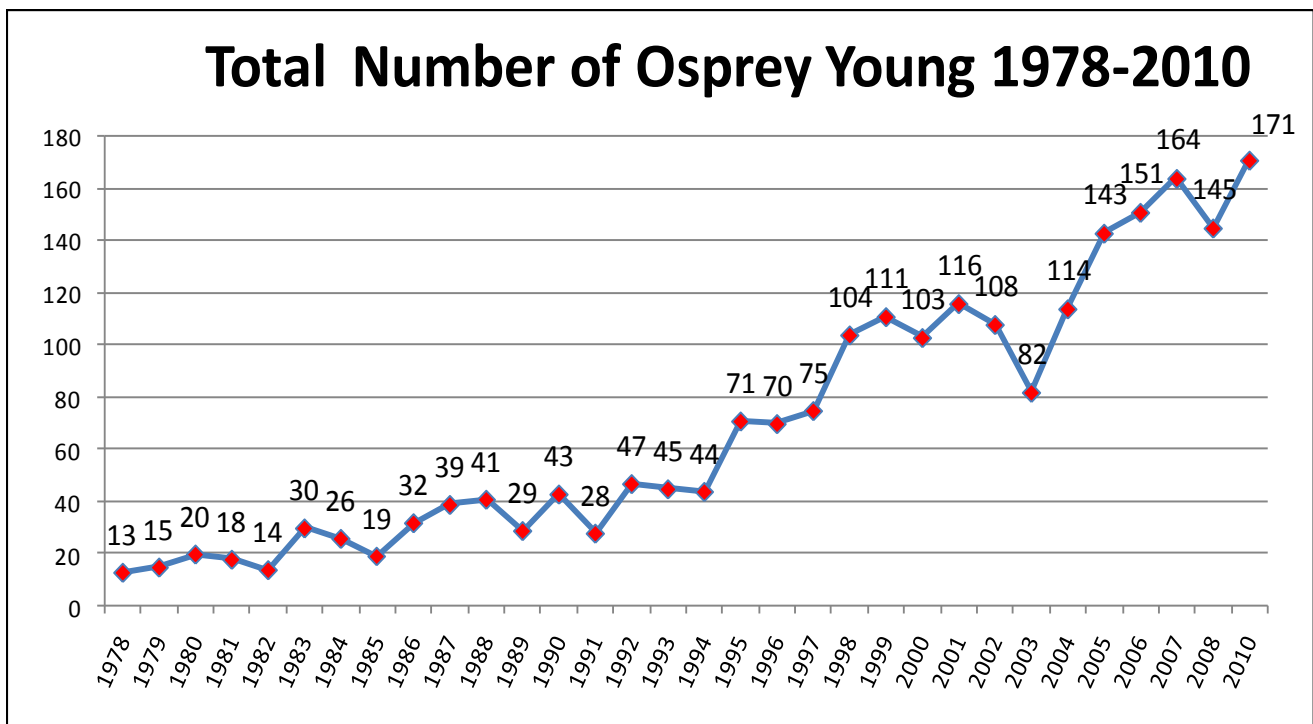
## What's Next?

We got a lot accomplished this year, but we already have plans for improving the program next year! Here's a look at some of what we are planning:

- **Mapping.** Now that we've improved the accuracy of our nest points (and added new points) in Google Maps, we need to update our map in ArcView. While Google Maps are easily shareable, ArcView enables us to join nest points to nesting success data and create maps that display our results. Audubon is currently seeking a volunteer or intern to assist with this project. Please contact July Lewis at 401-949-5454 x3044 or [jlewis@asri.org](mailto:jlewis@asri.org) if you are interested!
- **Electronic Data Submission.** Online data submission is being developed for the program, which will be easier and more efficient than paper records. Simply click on a link in an email, fill out an observation form, and hit send! The results will be automatically entered into a spreadsheet. Paper forms will also be available for those who prefer them.

## RI Osprey Population: A Look Back

In 1978, the future looked grim for ospreys. DDT, a pesticide that accumulates in animal tissues and causes thin eggshells in birds of prey, had taken a major toll on the population of this fish-eating bird. Although by this time DDT had been banned (in part due to the efforts of the Audubon Society of Rhode Island and other conservation organizations), but it was still present in the environment. Would the ospreys be able to recover? The RI Osprey Monitoring program was begun to find out. More than 30 years later, we can say that the answer is yes! The population has steadily increased and now appears to be healthy and thriving.



Osprey in flight. © 2010 Jack Kelly

# Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2010

Nest Sites Observed: 168  
 Successful Nests: 89  
 Active Nests (presumed adult pair; no fledged young): 18  
 SubAdult Nests: 9  
 Inactive Nest Sites: 52

Total Fledged Young: 171  
 Average Number fledged young per adult nest,  
 (Successful and Active nests): 1.6  
 Average Number fledged young per successful nest: 1.9

City	Nest Name	Final Status	Fledged
<b>Barrington</b>	Allins Cove N	NotActive	0
	Allins Cove S	SubAdult	0
	Barneyville Rd	Successful	3
	Barrington HS Federal Road	Successful	2
	Brickyard Pond	Successful	2
	George St (Horse Farm)	Successful	2
	Hundred Acre Cove (Cove Ave)	SubAdult	0
	Hundred Acre Cove (Isl)	Successful	2
	Hundred Acre Tongue S	NotActive	0
	Johannis Farm Midway	Successful	1
	Johannis Farm N	Successful	3
	Johannis Farm S	Successful	2
	Mussachuck Creek	Successful	3
	Palmer River Silviera Property	Active	0
Rumstick Point	Successful	1	
			<b>Total 21</b>
<b>Block Island</b>	Block Island Power	Successful	3
<b>Bristol</b>	Mill Cove	Active	0
	Mill Gut	Successful	2
	Mill Gut Tree Nest	Active	0
			<b>Total 2</b>
<b>Charlestown</b>	Burdickville East	Successful	1
	Burdickville West	NotActive	0
	Burdickville Wester	Successful	1
	Burdickville Westest	NotActive	0
	Rt 2 & 112 intersection	Successful	1
	Shumankunuc Rd.	NotActive	0
	Tuckahoe Turf	NotActive	0
			<b>Total 3</b>

City	Nest Name	Final Status	Fledged
<b>East Greenwich</b>	American Legion Post	Successful	2
	Arlington RV park	Successful	3
	Uncle Bob's Self Storage	Active	0
			<b>Total 5</b>
<b>East Providence</b>	Bucklin Hill	Successful	1
	Bucklin Point	NotActive	0
	Catamore Blvd.	Successful	1
	Mink Road	Successful	1
	Mobil Tank Farm 1	Successful	2
	Omega Pond	Successful	2
	Pier Rd.	Successful	1
			<b>Total 8</b>
<b>Exeter</b>	Metcalf Marsh	Successful	2
			<b>Total 2</b>
<b>Hopkinton</b>	Narragansett Trail Central	NotActive	0
	Narragansett Trail North	Successful	2
	Narragansett Trail South	SubAdult	0
	Pee Wee Football	Active	0
	Potter Hill East	Successful	2
	Potter Hill West	Successful	1
	Potter Hill Western	Successful	2
	Quarry r. 216	NotActive	0
	Roy Dubbs sanctuary	NotActive	0
	Rt 91 Train tracks	NotActive	0
	Tomaquag	Successful	2
Wood River Golf Course	Successful	2	
			<b>Total 11</b>
<b>Jamestown</b>	Beavertail US GOV center	NotActive	0
	Fox Hill Farm	Active	0
	Jamestown Elem School	NotActive	0
	Jamestown South Pond	NotActive	0
	Marsh Meadows	Active	0
	Neale Farm	Successful	1
	North Bayview Dr.	NotActive	0
	O'Farrell Farm	NotActive	0
	Palmieri Property/Pole 69	Successful	1
Petrie Property	NotActive	0	

City	Nest Name	Final Status	Fledged
			<b>Total 2</b>
<b>Little Compton</b>	Goose Wing Beach	NotActive	0
	Haeffenreffer #1	NotActive	0
	Round Pond	NotActive	0
			<b>Total 0</b>
<b>Middletown</b>	Jepson Substation	NotActive	0
			<b>Total 0</b>
<b>Narragansett</b>	Canonchet Farm Museum	Successful	2
	Christofaro	Successful	2
	Foddering Farm	NotActive	0
	Galilee Bird Sanctuary	Successful	3
	Galilee Escape Rd.	Successful	1
	Galilee Water tower	NotActive	0
	Indian Rock Rd.	Successful	3
	Kenyon Farm Rd	Successful	1
	Lake Canonchet	Active	0
	Long Cove	Successful	2
	Narragansett Elem School	Active	0
	Narrow River mouth	Successful	3
	North Kingstown High School #2	Successful	1
	Point Judith Pond Sunnybrook Farm	NotActive	0
	Salt Pond	Successful	2
	Sprague Park	Successful	1
	Wastewater Treatment Facility	Active	0
			<b>Total 21</b>
<b>Newport</b>	Freebody Park	Successful	2
	Gooseberry Beach	NotActive	0
			<b>Total 2</b>
<b>North Kingstown</b>	Bailey Road	Successful	3
	Mainsail Drive	Successful	1
	Mc Ginn Park	SubAdult	0
	North Kingstown Dog Pound	Successful	2
	North Kingstown High School #1	Successful	1
	Quonset-Allen's Harbor	Successful	2
	Rabbit Island	Successful	2
	Ryan Park	Successful	3

City	Nest Name	Final Status	Fledged
			<b>Total 14</b>
<b>Pawtucket</b>	Riverview Pawtucket	NotActive	0
			<b>Total 0</b>
<b>Portsmouth</b>	Bay Point Inn/DPW Cell Tower	Successful	2
	Bristol Harbor Rock	SubAdult	0
	Melville	Successful	2
	Town Pond 1	NotActive	0
	Town Pond 2	NotActive	0
	Town Pond 3	NotActive	0
			<b>Total 4</b>
<b>Providence</b>	Port of Providence	Successful	1
			<b>Total 1</b>
<b>Prudence Island</b>	Coggeshell Cove	NotActive	0
	Nags Creek North	NotActive	0
	Nags Creek South	Successful	1
	Potter Cove	Successful	2
			<b>Total 3</b>
<b>Richmond</b>	Buttonwoods Rd.	Active	0
	RPE Waste Services Cell Tower	Successful	2
	Rt 95 /Old Switch Rd.	Successful	2
			<b>Total 4</b>
<b>Seekonk</b>	Marnoch Dr	SubAdult	0
			<b>Total 0</b>
<b>South Kingstown</b>	Billington Cove	Successful	2
	Camp Fuller Windsurfing	Successful	2
	Factory Pond	Successful	1
	Great Swamp 1	Active	0
	Great Swamp 2	Successful	1
	Great Swamp 3	NotActive	0
	Great Swamp 4	Successful	1
	Great Swamp 5	Successful	2
	Great Swamp 6	Successful	2
	Great Swamp 7	NotActive	0
	Great Swamp 8	NotActive	0
	Great Swamp 9	NotActive	0

City	Nest Name	Final Status	Fledged
<b>South Kingstown</b>	Great Swamp platform 1	NotActive	0
	Great Swamp platform 2	NotActive	0
	Great Swamp Range	NotActive	0
	Great Swamp Sub Station	Successful	1
	Jerusalem Coastal Lab	Successful	1
	Narrow River Duck Blind	NotActive	0
	Narrow River Gooseberry Is.	NotActive	0
	Old Mountain Field	Successful	2
	Point Judith Pond Smelt Brook	Successful	2
	Pond St.	Successful	2
	Ram Point Marina	Successful	4
	Shannock Rd	SubAdult	0
	Succotash water tower	NotActive	0
	Theatre by the Sea	NotActive	0
	Trustom Pond 1	Successful	2
	Trustom Pond 2	Successful	2
<b>Swansea</b>	Merriman's Pond 1	NotActive	0
	Merriman's Pond 2	SubAdult	0
	Swansea Golf Club North	Successful	3
	Swansea Golf Club South	Successful	3
			<b>Total 6</b>
<b>Tiverton</b>	Jack's Island Ruecker	NotActive	0
	Tiverton Land Fill	Active	0
			<b>Total 0</b>
<b>Warren</b>	Belcher Cove Middle	Successful	3
	Belcher Cove North	Successful	3
	Belcher Cove South	Successful	2
	Brown St.	NotActive	0
	Cell Tower Near FedEx	Successful	2
	Fatima High School	Successful	2
	First Student	Successful	3
	Kickemuit Middle School	Successful	2
	Palmer River Tree Nest	Active	0
	Wujick Farm Nest	Successful	2
			<b>Total 19</b>
<b>Warwick</b>	Barry's Niteclub	NotActive	0



City	Nest Name	Final Status	Fledged
Warwick	CCRI	Successful	1
	Mickey Stevens	Successful	3
	Rocky Hill School	NotActive	0
			<b>Total 4</b>
West Greenwich	Big River Mgt. Area	Active	0
	Hazard Rd.	NotActive	0
	Super 8 Motel	NotActive	0
			<b>Total 0</b>
Westerly	Avondale	Successful	4
	Misquamicut West	SubAdult	0
	MisquamicutGolf Course	NotActive	0
	Napatree Pt central	NotActive	0
	Napatree Pt west	Successful	2
	Rt 78/91 Transfer Station	Successful	1
	Tom Harvey Road	Active	0
	Westerly Police	Active	0
	White Rock Rd.	Active	0
	Winnapaug Atlantic Ave.	Successful	2
	Winnapaug Breach Dr.	NotActive	0
			<b>Total 9</b>
			<b>GRAND TOTAL 171</b>

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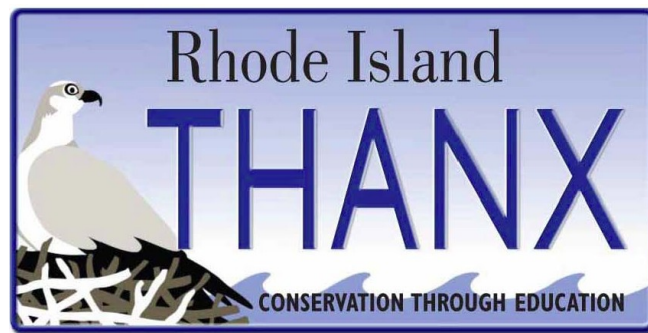


Plate Fee is \$41.50\*

\*\$21.50 pays for the production of the plates and \$20 supports the environmental education programs of Audubon Society of Rhode Island and Save The Bay.

Note: A \$10 fee will be added upon renewal of your registration to support environmental education.

Visit [www.asri.org](http://www.asri.org) and click on the Osprey plate for your form to order an Osprey plate.



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Connecting People with Nature

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