



# RHODE ISLAND OSPREY REPORT

## Volume 11 · 2020

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Welcome to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island’s (ASRI) annual Osprey Monitoring Report for the state of Rhode Island (and part of Massachusetts). The program was initiated by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) in 1977.

The program was launched in order to determine the extent of, and record the recovery from, the impact of the pesticide DDT upon the population of Osprey breeding in Rhode Island. In 2010 Audubon took over management of the program and publication of the annual report.

Over the past decade volunteer monitors have carefully monitored Osprey nests throughout Rhode Island.

This report includes data from the past decade, as well as monitoring details from the 2020 season.



### Community Science in Action

In 2020 the Osprey Monitoring program was fortunate to have 84 dedicated monitors who observed Osprey and their nests, collected breeding related data and offered suggestions for improving the program. In addition to volunteer monitors, the program had the involvement of two more-than-capable program volunteers: Gary Carlson and Jess Skyleson. These two volunteers improved and managed the entire monitoring and data collection process during the 2020 season.

Many program updates were introduced in 2020. Data collection pages were migrated to a Google platform; a Facebook group for monitors was created and became well-used; information was shared with monitors in a more efficient manner; details on nests sites were updated and new nest sites were added in a more organized system.

In addition, the flow of information between monitors and management became more efficient; as both Gary and Jess dedicated many hours to working with monitors. They answered questions, posted photos, commented on stories, explained new procedures and supported the many monitors who make the program a success.

Audubon thanks Jess Skyleson and Gary Carlson as well as all of the Osprey monitors for their tireless dedication and countless efforts that led to the success of the 2020 Osprey Monitoring program.

### Historical Nest Numbers

In 1940 there were 120 active nests in Rhode Island. This number declined to 8 nests in 1970 and then climbed to 25 active nests in 1986.

*Spitzer (1980), M. Scheibel, L. Suprock and J. Victoria (unpublished but printed in Ospreys, Poole, 1989, p211*



# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## 2020 Volunteer Osprey Monitors

Throughout the 2020 breeding season (April-August), 84 volunteers reported on 248 nests in Rhode Island and 10 nests in Massachusetts. Monitors submitted over 4,100 observations and spent a total of 1,548 hours in the field, averaging over 18 hours per monitor. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island thanks these dedicated volunteers for their continued support of the Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring program.

David Anderson	Barbara Costa	Heather Gordon	Peter Nassoit	Roberto Tornatore
Mark Anderson	George Cunha	Joan Gorman	Jim O'Neill	Bonnie Turano
Mary Arakelian	Betsy de Leiris	Martina Graziano	Elizabeth Paquette	Tami VanSteeden
John Arnold	Laury DeAngelis	Claire Gruneberg	Jeannine Pelletier	Elliot Waterman
Sally Barker	Cindy Dibble	Gayle Hargreaves	Ronald Pelletier	George Welly
Christine Benson	Mary DiCecco	Tyler Hertzwig	Margie & Mark Peppercorn	Birger Wernerfelt
Maura Bonafede	Donna DiGangi	David Jones	Tom Poirer	Geoff Whan
Lucille Boyce	Robert Duebel	Robin Label	Matt Ruscher	Jean Whatley
R. Michael Browne	Pierre Duval	Cindy Larson	Teresa Sarli	Shawen Williams
Gail Browning	Jean Entezary	Sharyn Lawler	Barbara Seith	Susan Williamson
J. Browning	Debra Eubank	Sharon Lawler	Barbara Sherman	David Winsor
Finn Brudevold	Nature Explorations	Butch Lombardi	Susan Silvia	Barbara Wrona
Gary Carlson	Sandy Fahey	Jerry & Donna Macomber	Tracy Silvia	Steve Zambarano
Frank Carroll	Val Fuchs	Bill McMullen	Betsy Staples	Therese Zink
Corinne Charpentier	Ted Furtado	Luis Mendes	Leile Stokes Weinstein	
Marianne Chronley	Jessica Gale	Peter Muir	Barbara Sullivan Watts	
Kathy Copeland	Michael Gerhardt	Karen Nachin	Cathy Taylor	

Table #2: 2020 Program Monitors



Photo credit: Debra Eubank, 7/28/20



Photo credit: Jim O'Neill, 6/2/20

**Did you know ?** Osprey do not defend feeding territories, but they do defend nest sites.

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Summary of 2020 Monitoring Results

### Rhode Island

Throughout the 2020 Osprey breeding season 84 Osprey monitors from Audubon Society of Rhode Island volunteered 1,528 hours while observing 239 nests across 27 communities in Rhode Island.

Of the 239 monitored nests, 13 sites had no nests, 42 were classified as inactive (no breeding activity), 8 were classified as housekeeping (breeding attempted but not sustained). Of the 176 nests showing breeding activity, 153 were successful, producing a total of 303 fledglings. An additional 17 nests did not have conclusive observations and 69 others are deemed historic due to a lack of activity over several seasons.

For details regarding the breeding statistics of each nest in Rhode Island, refer to pages 7-22.

### A Decade of Audubon Society Rhode Island Osprey Program Data

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Monitors	60	64	70	70	66	96	108	110	93	80	84
Hours Monitored	*	*	*	*	819	1,359	1,358	1,340	1,066	1,016	1,528
Nest Sites Monitored	168	187	200	209	199	229	236	267	193	238	239
Inactive Nest Sites	52	62	59	50	54	26	64	57	21	63	42
Housekeeping Nests	*	16	15	8	5	11	13	24	6	4	8
Active Nests	*	108	126	138	127	156	159	145	166	123	176
Successful Nests**	116	91	96	96	105	122	150	121	144	118	153**
Fledglings in RI	171	159	178	168	186	239	297	226	275	212	303

Table 1: Summary of Osprey Program Data \*No data available \*\*Successful nests are a subset of Active nests.



Photo credit: Butch Lombardi, 7/11/20



Photo credit: Chris Chrispy, 7/4/20

### Glossary of Monitoring Terms

**Insufficient Data:** Observations were inconclusive or no observations were made.

**Inactive:** Osprey may have been present, but no breeding-related behavior was observed.

**Housekeeping:** Osprey pair observed at nest but breeding behavior not sustained through season.

**Active:** Mating and/or incubation behavior was observed.

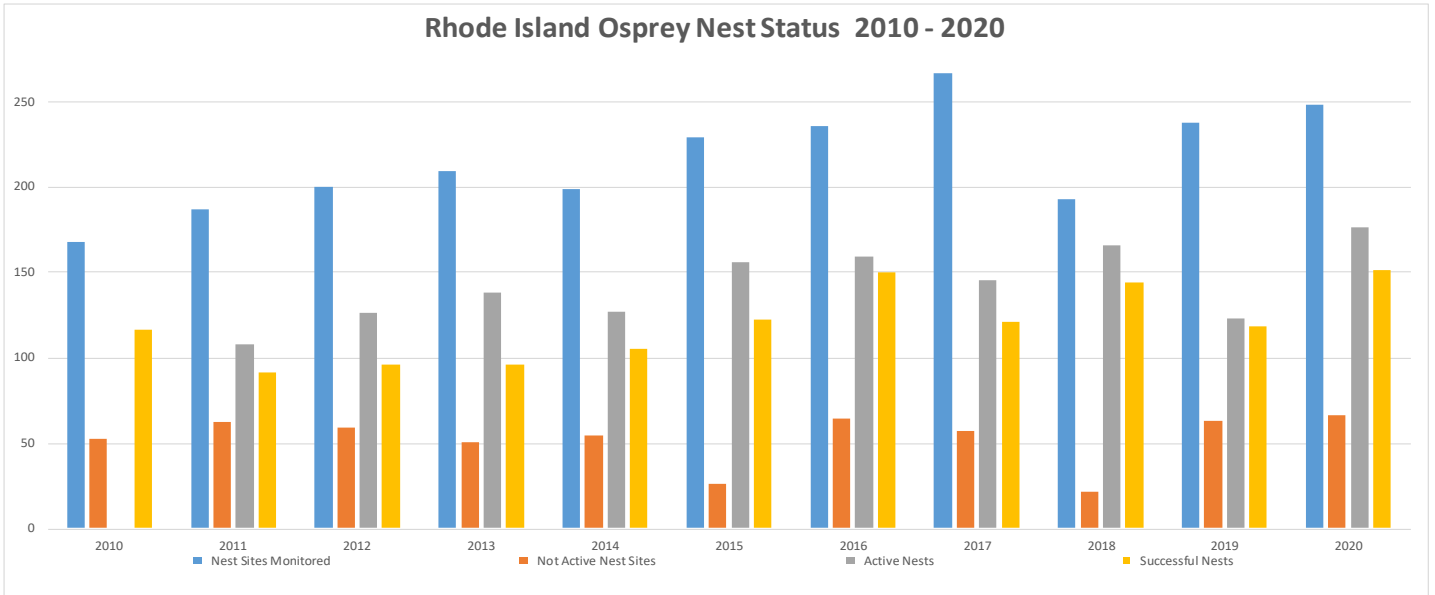
**Successful:** Fledgling(s) were observed. This category is a subset of Active nests.

**Fledgling:** Young bird with flight feathers (as opposed to a chick).

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

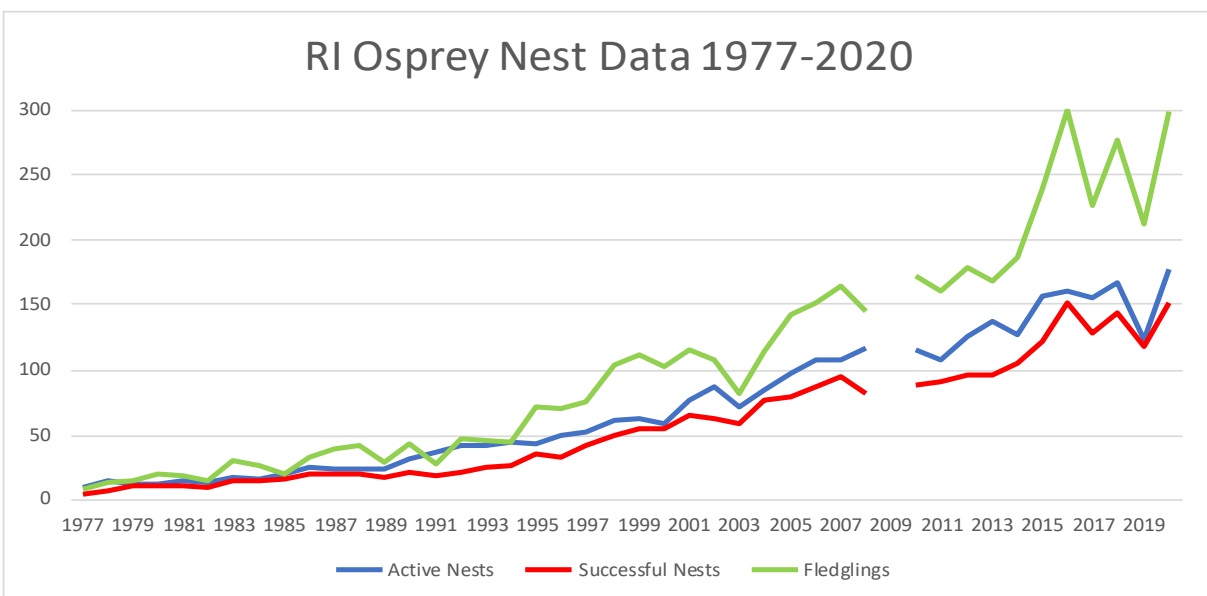
## Osprey Nest Status

The following graph displays the number of Osprey nest sites that were monitored over the past decade, as well as the breeding status of those nests. Given that nearly 250 nest sites are monitored, observations in 2020 indicate that successful nests have remained steady near the 150 mark. The number of successful nests remain a high percentage of active nests which is a good sign for the population. Over the past nine years the number of successful nests has consistently been above 70% of active nests; over the past five years the percentage of successful nests has been above 83% of active nests. Note: This report counts Successful nests as a subset of Active nests.



Graph 1: 2010 –2020 Breeding Status of Osprey Nests in Rhode Island

The following graph compares the number of active (showing breeding activity) nests, successful nests and fledglings observed over the life of the monitoring program. There is no data available for 2009. In 2010 the Audubon Society of Rhode Island starting managing the program.



Graph 2: Osprey Nest Data 1977-2020

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Breeding Status

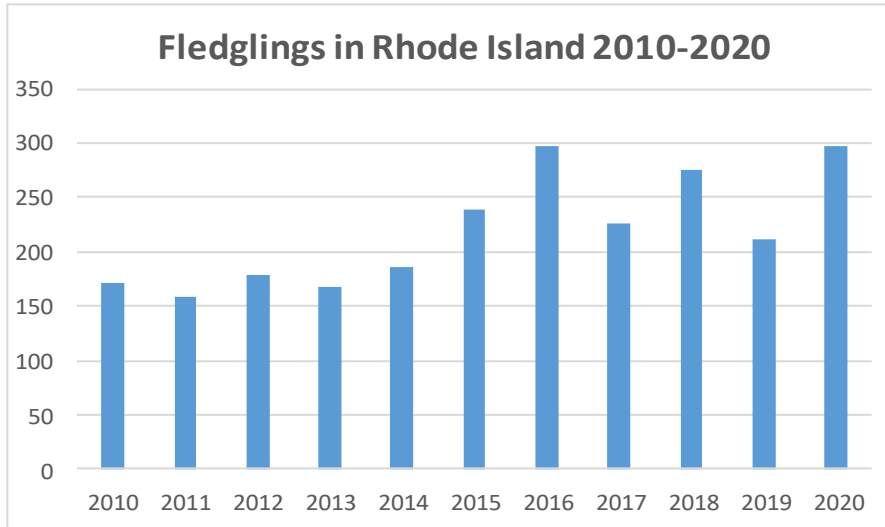
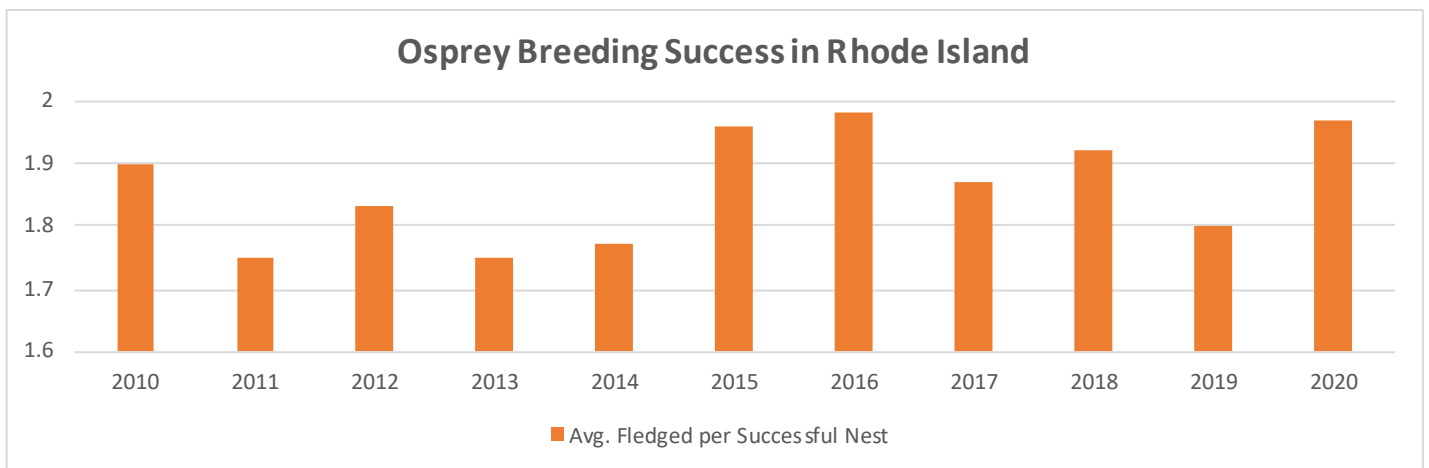


Photo credit: Eliot Waterman, 5/2/20

Graph 3: Number of fledglings observed since 2010.

The number of fledglings observed in Rhode Island is dependent on many factors. These include the level of available food (fish) and nesting locations. Another factor includes the ability of monitors to observe the fledglings. The ability to see fledglings is driven by the number of monitors, the number of hours monitors spend observing fledglings, and monitors' access to find and observe nests. During the 2020 season the program had 84 monitors. This is a larger group than 2019, yet lower than the previous four years. That said, these 84 dedicated volunteer monitors spent more hours in the field (1,528) than any other time in the past 10 years. The additional observation hours clearly had an impact in finding and counting the number of fledglings in Rhode Island.

Tracking the number of Osprey that fledge from year to year is important when determining the health of an Osprey population. Studies have estimated that the breeding rate needed to balance adult mortality in New England is between 0.8 and 1.0 fledged young per active nest. In 2020 Osprey nests monitored in Rhode Island had 1.69 fledglings per active nest and 1.97 fledglings per successful nest. This indicates that the Osprey population in Rhode Island is not only self-supporting, but also growing.



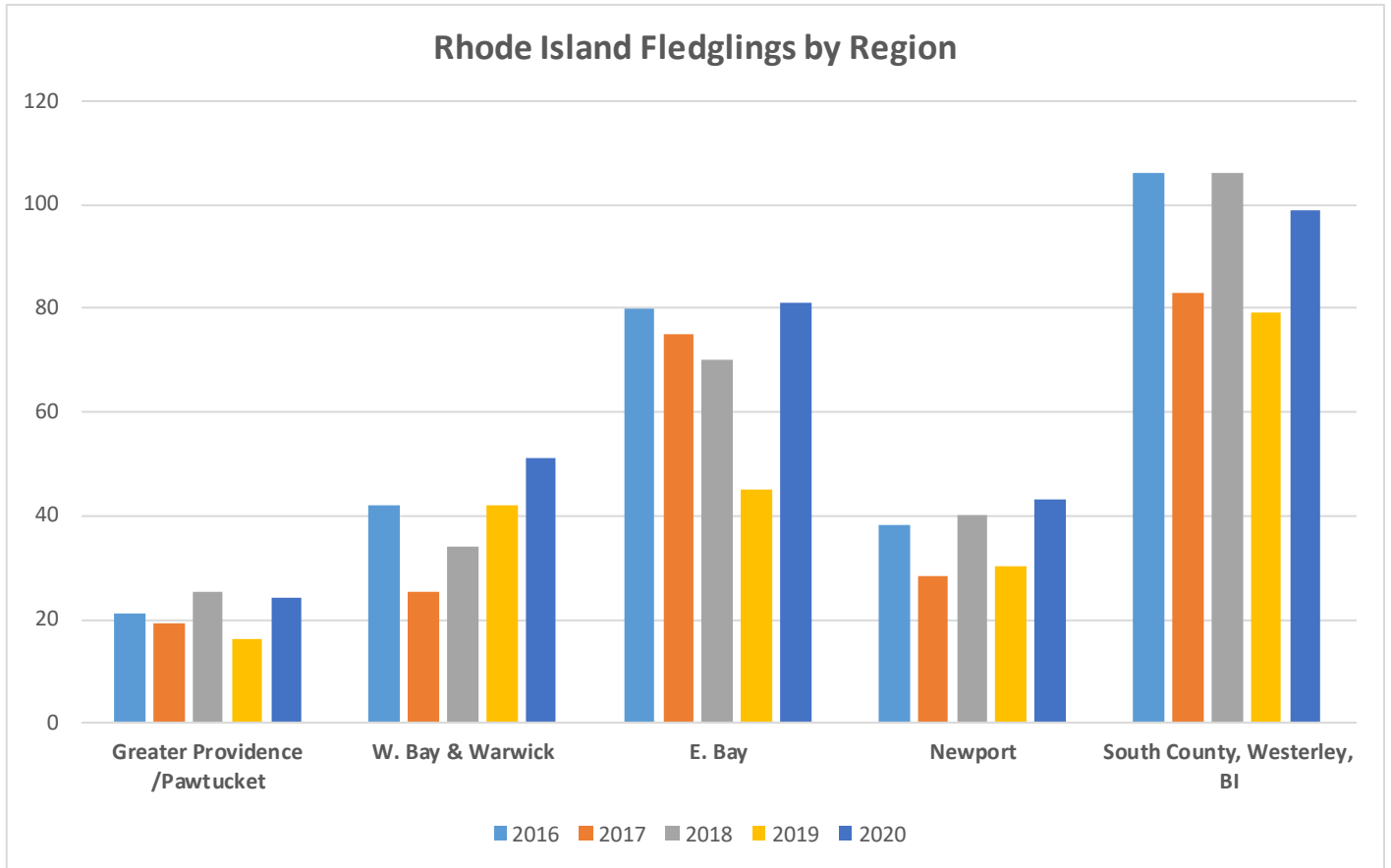
Graph 4: Fledglings as a percent of monitored nests.

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

### Distribution of Osprey Fledglings in Rhode Island

The graph below shows the distribution of Osprey fledglings across five regions of Rhode Island from 2016-2020. The northern region of Rhode Island has been omitted from this report because there have not been any sightings of Osprey nests in the past several years. Note that in the 2020 breeding season all five regions show an increase in fledglings over the previous year.



Graph 5: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2016-2020

#### Did You Know?

According to one study in New England by Alan Poole, male Ospreys are more likely to return (and nest) near their natal sites than females. (Poole, *Ospreys*, 1989, p60)



Photo credit: Chris Chrispy,  
10/15/20

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

The table below (and on the following pages) compares the activity data of Osprey nests monitored by RI Osprey program volunteers from 2016-2020. A glossary of status-related terms is located on page 3.

Barrington	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Final Breeding Status
100 Acre Cove (Cove Ave)					1	Successful
100 Acre Cove (Isl)	2	1	3			Active
100 Acre Tongue S	1	1	3	1	2	Successful
131 Adams Pt. Road						No Nest
14 Stone Tower						Historic
Allins Cove E			1	1	3	Successful
Allins Cove W	4	2	3	2	2	Successful
Barrington H.S.	2	1	2			Housekeeping
Barrington YMCA	3	2	4	2	4	Successful
Bourne Lane	3	3		2	1	Successful
Brickyard Pond	3		1	1	2	Successful
Brickyard Pond 2						Historic
Cranesbill						Historic
Johannis Farm Midway	2	2	1			Housekeeping
Johannis Farm N	3	2	1		3	Successful
Johannis Farm S	1	3	1			Active
Little Mussachuck Creek 1	3	3	1		3	Successful
Little Mussachuck Creek 2						Historic
Nagtegaal Nest			1	3	3	Successful
Osamequin		2		2		Not Active
Police Cove Park					3	Successful
Rumstick Pt.	2				2	Successful
Smith's Cove	2		3			Historic
Sowams Tree Nest	2		2			Active
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Active (But not</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 3: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2016-2020

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

Block Island	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Block Island Power	2	2	3		2	Successful
Rodman's Hollow						Not Active
Sachem Pond	NA	NA	1	2	3	Successful
Worden's Pond						Unkown
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<i>Successful</i>	<b>2</b>	<i>Active (But not</i>	<b>0</b>	<i>No Nest</i>	<b>0</b>
	<i>Fledglings</i>	<b>5</b>	<i>Housekeeping</i>	<b>0</b>	<i>Historic</i>	<b>0</b>
	<i>Total Sites</i>	<b>4</b>	<i>Not Active</i>	<b>1</b>	<i>Unknown</i>	<b>1</b>

Bristol	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Audubon NCAA	2	2	2	1		Active
Bristol Transfer Station	2		2			Not Active
Colt State Park Chimney	NA	NA	2	2		Active
Columban Fathers	NA	NA	3	3	2	Successful
Fish Hawk Farm (Prev. Griswold)					3	Successful
Mill Cove	2	3	3		2	Successful
Mill Gut CSP					3	Successful
Mill Gut Peninsula CSP	3	2		1	1	Successful
Mill Gut Tree Nest CSP	1	2		3	2	Successful
Mount Hope HS	1	2	3	3	3	Successful
Musselbed Shoals Light	2	2	3	1	2	Successful
Peter Road Cell Tower	2	2	3	1	1	Successful
Poppasquash Point		1	3	2		Historic
Roger Williams University						Unknown
Silver Creek Thomas Park						Historic
Tupelo Street Cell Tower	2	2	2			Active
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<i>Successful</i>	<b>9</b>	<i>Active (But not</i>	<b>3</b>	<i>No Nest</i>	<b>0</b>
	<i>Fledglings</i>	<b>19</b>	<i>Housekeeping</i>	<b>0</b>	<i>Historic</i>	<b>2</b>
	<i>Total Sites</i>	<b>16</b>	<i>Not Active</i>	<b>1</b>	<i>Unknown</i>	<b>1</b>

Table 3 Continued: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2016-2020



# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

Charlestown		Fledgling Count				
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Burdickville East				1		Historic
Burdickville West		U			1	Successful
Burdickville Westest				2		Historic
Charlestown Police Dept.	NA	NA			4	Successful
Kingswood Court						No Nest
Quonochontaug Pond	2					Active
Rt. 2 & Rt. 112	2	1	2			Not Active
Shumankunuc Road					1	Successful
West Pond				3		Not Active
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<i>Successful</i>	3	<i>Active (But not</i>	1	<i>No Nest</i>	1
	<i>Fledglings</i>	6	<i>Housekeeping</i>	0	<i>Historic</i>	2
	<i>Total Sites</i>	9	<i>Not Active</i>	2	<i>Unknown</i>	0

Coventry		Fledgling Count				
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Center of New England BJ's	1		2	1		Active
Waterman Hill						Historic
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<i>Successful</i>	0	<i>Active (But not</i>	1	<i>No Nest</i>	0
	<i>Fledglings</i>	0	<i>Housekeeping</i>	0	<i>Historic</i>	1
	<i>Total Sites</i>	2	<i>Not Active</i>	0	<i>Unknown</i>	0

East Greenwich		Fledgling Count				
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
American Legion Post	3	1	0	3	2	Successful
Eldridge School Field					2	Successful
Uncle Bob's Self Storage	1	1	1	2	4	Successful
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<i>Successful</i>	3	<i>Active (But not</i>	0	<i>No Nest</i>	0
	<i>Fledglings</i>	8	<i>Housekeeping</i>	0	<i>Historic</i>	0
	<i>Total Sites</i>	3	<i>Not Active</i>	0	<i>Unknown</i>	0

Table 3 Continued: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2016-2020

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

East Providence	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
1001 Wampanoag Way						No Nest
100F Commercial Way					2	Successful
404 Old Wampanaug Trail	-	-	-	1		Active
Bold Point	2	2	2			Historic
Bold Point 2						Not Active
Bucklin Hill		3	2	1		Not Active
Bucklin Hill 3						Active
Bucklin Hill North	4	3	1	2	1	Successful
Bucklin Point		1	1		1	Successful
Catamore Blvd.		1	2	2	1	Successful
East Bay Manor						Historic
Exxon Mobil Tank Farm 1	1	1	2	1		Active
Exxon Mobil Tank Farm 2			2	2	2	Successful
Exxon Mobil Tank Farm 3		1	3	1	2	Successful
Exxon Mobil Tank Farm 4	2			1	2	Successful
Exxon Mobil Tank Farm 5	-	-	-			Not Active
Exxon Mobil Tank Farm 6	-	-	-			Not Active
Omega Pond	1		2	1	2	Successful
WPRO Radio Tower					2	Successful
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	9	<b>Active (But not</b>	3	<b>No Nest</b>	1
	<b>Fledglings</b>	15	<b>Housekeeping</b>	0	<b>Historic</b>	2
	<b>Total Sites</b>	19	<b>Not Active</b>	4	<b>Unknown</b>	0

Table 3 Continued: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2016-2020

### Osprey Nest Fidelity

In a study conducted in the 1970s only 3% of banded New England Osprey changed nest sites over a 10-year period. In addition, no Osprey nested more than 11 miles from their old nest site. This data is for Osprey nesting on artificial structures, which last longer than nests in trees and other natural sites.

*Spitzer, Poole, Scheibel, 1983 (Poole Ospreys 1989 p140)*



Photo credit: Claire Gruneberg, 8/15/20

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

Exeter	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Ladd School / Exeter Job Corp.						Historic
Metcalf Marsh	2	U	U			Unknown
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Active (But not</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>1</b>

Hopkinton	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Dow Memorial Field	2	2	1			Not Active
Hopkinton ACO/DPW						Not Active
Narragansett Way North						Historic
Narragansett Way South						Historic
Potter Hill East	1		1		2	Successful
Potter Hill West			U			Not Active
Potter Hill Wester	3	1	2	3	2	Successful
Tomaquag	2	1	1		3	Successful
Wood River Golf Course Hole 4						Historic
Wood River Golf Course Hole 5			2	2		Not Active
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Active (But not</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 3 Continued: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2016-2020



Photo credit: John Arnold, 3/30/20



Photo credit: Maura Sheldon Bonafede, 4/2/20

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

Jamestown	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Beavertail	2	1				Not Active
Dutch Island Lighthouse	2	U	1			Unknown
Fort Getty Road					1	Successful
Fox Hill Farm	1	1	2			Unknown
Jamestown South Pond	2	2		2		Not Active
Jamestown Water Tower						Not Active
Lawn Ave. School	2	1	2	2	2	Successful
Mackeral Cove					3	Successful
Marsh Meadows		3	3	3	3	Successful
Neale Farm	1	1	1	2		Unknown
North Bayview Drive						Historic
O'Farrell Farm	3	2	2	2	2	Successful
Palmieri Property						Historic
Petrie Property 1						Historic
Petrie Property 2	U	U	2	1	4	Successful
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	6	<b>Active (But not Successful)</b>	0	<b>No Nest</b>	0
	<b>Fledglings</b>	15	<b>Housekeeping</b>	0	<b>Historic</b>	3
	<b>Total Sites</b>	15	<b>Not Active</b>	3	<b>Unknown</b>	3

Little Compton	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Adamsville Landing					1	Successful
Goose Wing Beach	U		U			Historic
Haeffenreffer 1	3	1	3	3	1	Successful
Round Pond						Not Active
Watch House Pond						Historic
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	2	<b>Active (But not Successful)</b>	0	<b>No Nest</b>	0
	<b>Fledglings</b>	2	<b>Housekeeping</b>	0	<b>Historic</b>	2
	<b>Total Sites</b>	5	<b>Not Active</b>	1	<b>Unknown</b>	0

Table 3 Continued: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2016-2020

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

Middletown	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Coddington Cove		1	2	1	2	Successful
Jepson Road Substation 3						Not Active
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	0	1	2	1	2	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>

Narragansett	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
267 Sand Hill Cove Road	NA	3	0		4	Successful
40 Barnacle Drive					0	Historic
86 Harbor Island Drive	2	2	1	2	1	Successful
BI Ferry Parking Lot - Coned	1	0	1	2	0	Historic
Canonchet Farm	2	2	2		1	Successful
Canonchet Farm 2	-	-	-		0	Historic
Christofaro Park	1	2	2		2	Successful
Christofaro Park 2	0	0	0		0	Historic
Galilee Bird Sanctuary	2	1	2	3	0	Unknown
Galilee Escape Rd.	2	U	3	1	1	Successful
Galilee Escape Rd. Watertower					3	Successful
Indian Rock Rd.	2	U	3	1	3	Successful
Lake Canonchet	0	0	1		1	Successful
Long Cove	0	U	U		0	No Nest
Marine Drive					0	Historic
Narrow River Mouth	3	3	3		2	Successful
Narragansett Sand and Salt	U	2	2	2	0	Not Active
Narragansett Elem. School	2	2	2		0	Active
Point Judith Sunnybrook Farm	0	U	U	1	1	Successful
Point Judith Pond Smelt Brook					0	Historic
Salt Pond Plaza	2	U	3	3	1	Successful
Sprague Bridge	3	1	3	2	2	Successful
Sprague Park	3	1	2	2	1	Successful
Wastewater Treatment Facility	0	1	2		0	Not Active
Wastewater Treatment West	1	1	2		1	Successful*
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Active (But not</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>1</b>

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

<b>Newport</b>	<b>Fledgling Count</b>					
<b>Nest Name</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020 Breeding Status</b>
Freebody Park	1	1	3	2	2	Successful
Gooseberry Beach					1	Successful
Gooseneck Cove	1	2	1	2		No Nest
Hazard Marsh	2	2	1	3	3	Successful
Navy Yard N						Historic
Navy Yard S						Historic
Rogers High School					1	Successful
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Active (But not</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>North Kingstown</b>	<b>Fledgling Count</b>					
<b>Nest Name</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020 Breeding Status</b>
123 Ocean State Drive (131)	-	-	2	2	2	Successful
Allen Harbor Marina	0	2	2	1	3	Successful
Allen Harbor Marina Entrance					0	No Nest
Bailey Riroad					0	Historic
Mainsail Drive	1	0	0		0	Not Active
McGinn Park	0	0	0		0	Not Active
North Kingstown Dog Pound	U	2	3	2	1	Successful
North Kingstown HS North	1	2	2	1	0	Not Active
North Kingstown HS South	2	1	2	2	1	Successful
Northup Road					0	Historic
Old Baptist Rd	U	0	0	2	1	Successful
Pendar Rd.	3	0	2	1	1	Successful
Quonset Point Marsh					0	Historic
Quaker Lane Bait & Tackle	NA	NA	0		0	Historic
Rabbit Island					3	Successful
Ryan Park	2	0	2	3	2	Successful
Salt Water Farms, Davisville	1	2	1	1	1	Successful
Snuff Mill Rd. & Rt. 1A	U	0	1	2	0	Not Active
Spink's Neck Beach					0	Historic
Wickford Beacon	-	-	-	3	2	Successful
Wilson Park NK	3	3	2		1	Successful
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>Active (But not</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2016-2020

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

<b>Pawtucket</b>	<b>Fledgling Count</b>					
<b>Nest Name</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020 Breeding Status</b>
Charlton						Historic
Cod & Oil Fish Market						Housekeeping
Hasbro	2	2	3	2	1	Successful
Max Read Field	1	2	2	2	2	Successful
Miller's Truck Repair						Not Active
Morley Field						Not Active
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful Fledglings</b>	2	<b>Active (But not Housekeeping)</b>	0	<b>No Nest Historic</b>	0
	<b>Total Sites</b>	3	<b>Not Active</b>	1	<b>Unknown</b>	1
		6		2		0

<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>Fledgling Count</b>					
<b>Nest Name</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2020 Breeding Status</b>
Almy Thurston						Historic
Bay Point /DPW Cell Tower			2			Historic
Boyd's Lane Park & Ride	NA	NA	2			Not Active
Bristol Harbor Rock	3	2	3	2	2	Successful
Burma Road					3	Successful
Burma Road Vigilant St.						Not Active
Carr Point Left Field						Active
Carr Point Right Field	3	2	3	2		Not Active
Hog Island	2	3	1	2	2	Successful
Hog Island 2					2	Successful
Hog Island 3						Historic
Jepson Lane 350						No Nest
Jepson Rd. Substation	2		3	3		Not Active
Jepson Rd. Substation 2	NA		1	2	1	Successful
Lawton Valley Water Plant					1	Successful
Lawton Valley Water Plant						Unknown
McMillin Boatyard					3	Successful
Melville	3	2	3	2	3	Successful
New England Boatworks					3	Successful
Newport Car Museum					1	Successful
Patience Isle Dock						Historic
Portsmouth Cement Company	2	1	3			Not Active
Portsmouth Fire Department	2	3	3	1		Active
Prudence Park					1	Successful

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2016-2020

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

Portsmouth		Fledgling Count Continued				
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Town Pond 1	3	1		2	2	Successful
Town Pond 2	2	2	U			Active
Town Pond 3			U	1	2	Successful
Wick's Nursery				1	3	Successful
Willow Lane Chimney Nest						Unknown
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	14	<b>Active (But not</b>	3	<b>No Nest</b>	1
	<b>Fledglings</b>	29	<b>Housekeeping</b>	0	<b>Historic</b>	4
	<b>Total Sites</b>	29	<b>Not Active</b>	5	<b>Unknown</b>	2

Providence		Fledgling Count				
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
5 Shipyard Street	NA	1	2			No Nest
Autopart Intl. Broad Street	NA	1	1			No Nest
Field Point						Historic
Johnson & Wales Athletic Field					3	Successful
Johnson & Wales Greenway					3	Successful
Port of Providence						Historic
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	2	<b>Active (But not</b>	0	<b>No Nest</b>	2
	<b>Fledglings</b>	6	<b>Housekeeping</b>	0	<b>Historic</b>	2
	<b>Total Sites</b>	6	<b>Not Active</b>	0	<b>Unknown</b>	0

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2016-2020



Photo credit: Heather Gordon, 4/6/20



Photo credit: Peter Muir, 7/21/20



# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

Prudence Island	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
Barrington Yacht Club PI	2	U	1			Historic
Calf Pasture						Historic
Coggeshell Cove Prudence Isle	2	U				Unknown
Gull Point Prudence Isle	1	1	1			Unknown
Nags Creek N	1					Historic
Nags Creek S		2				Historic
Potter's Cove Prudence Isle	1	2				Unknown
Sheep's Pen Cove Prudence Isle			2			Historic
WS Water Tower PI	-	-	-	1		Unknown
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Active (But not Successful)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>4</b>

Richmond	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding
Beaver River/Rt. 138	1	0	1	2	0	No Nest
Buttonwoods Rd.	1	2	1	3	1	Successful
Harvest Acres					2	Successful
Heritage Trail					2	Successful
RPE Waste Services Cell Tower	2	1	1	1	0	No Nest
Rt. 95 /Old Switch Rd.	3	1	0		1	Successful
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Active (But not Successful)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2016-2020

### Osprey Egg Information:

- Clutch Size: 1-4 Eggs
- Number of Broods: 1 brood
- Egg Length: 2.2-2.7 in (5.5-6.8 cm)
- Egg Width: 1.6-2.0 in (4.2-5 cm)
- Incubation Period: 36-42 days
- Nestling Period: 50-55 days

Source: Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds



# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

South Kingstown	Fledgling Count					2020 Breeding Status
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Billington Cove	2	2	3	3	1	Successful
Broadrock Athletic Field						Historic
Buttonwood Pt	2	U				Historic
Factory Pond	3	1	2	2		Not Active
Garrison Acres					3	Successful
Great Swamp IMP #1 (Water)			U			Not Active
Great Swamp IMP #2 (Water)	1		U			Active
Great Swamp IMP #3 (Water)	2		U			No Nest
Great Swamp IMP #4 (Water)			U			Not Active
Great Swamp IMP #5 (South)	3		U			Active
Great Swamp IMP #6 (South)			U		1	Successful
Great Swamp IMP #7			U			Not Active
Great Swamp IMP #8	-	-	-		2	Successful
Great Swamp IMP 1A	1		U			Historic
Great Swamp IMP 1B	1	1	U			Historic
Great Swamp Range	-	-	-			Historic
Great Swamp Substation	1	1	U	1		Historic
Jerusalem Lab	3	2	2	3	2	Successful
Matunuck School House Rd.					2	Successful
Narrow River Gooseberry						Historic
Old Mountain Field	3	2	3	2	3	Successful
Paul Masse 2909 Tower Hill Road	1	2	2	1	1	Successful
Pettaquamscutt Cove West	3	U	U			Historic
Pt. Judith Pond Smelt Brook		2				Unknown
Pt. Judith Pond Sunnybrook Farm					1	Successful
Pond St.	3	3	2	3	2	Successful
Potter Cove, SK	U	U	U			Historic
Potter's Pond	1	2	2	1		Not Active
Potter's Pond East		2	2	2	2	Successful
Prospect Road	2	U	U		1	Successful
Ram Pt. Marina	2	2	3	3	1	Successful
Rose Hill	1			1	1	Successful
Shannock Rd			U			Not Active
South County Hospital	1		1	1	1	Successful
Succotash Water Tower	1	1	1	1	1	Successful

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2016-2020

### Osprey Nest Building

According to Alan Poole, Osprey's choice of nest materials depends on the stage of the nest building process. The first layer typically consists of sticks and branches. Once the base is in shape, flatter and softer material are used to line the nest in preparation for the eggs. Just before the eggs are laid another layer of soft material such as kelp, grass, cardboard or plastic bags are brought to the nest. *Poole, Ospreys, 1989 p96*

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

South Kingstown	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding
Theatre by the Sea	1	1	2			Historic
Trustom Pond Osprey Point	2	3	3			Active
Trustom Pond Otter Point		2		1		Active
Trustom Pond Otter Point 2	-	-	-			Historic
Turner Cove 1						Historic
Turner Cove 2		1	1			Historic
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Active (But not</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>13</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>1</b>

Tiverton	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
DPW Cell Tower	NA	NA	1			Active
Fogland Marsh	U					Historic
Quicksand Pond						Historic
Ruecker Refuge					3	Successful
Tiverton Landfill	-	-	-			Historic
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Active (But not</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Successful)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2016-2020



Photo credit: Chris Chrispy, 7/9/20

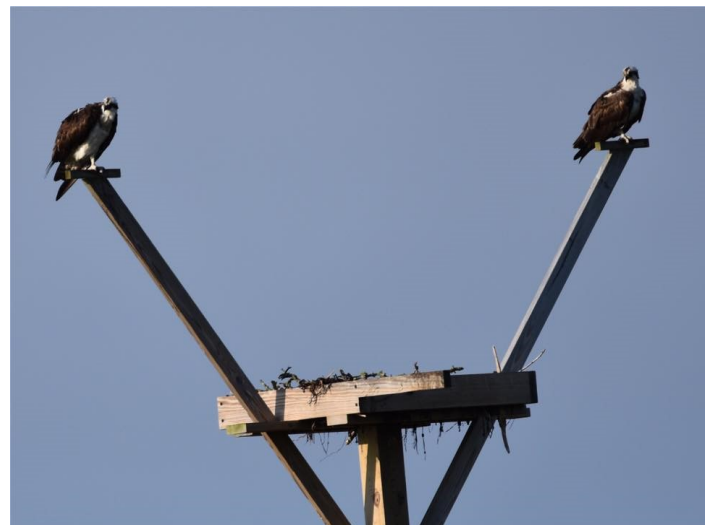


Photo credit: Barbara Seith, 7/1/20

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

Warren	Fledgling Count					2020 Breeding Status
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
47 Serpentine Road	2	2		1	2	Successful
Alcatraz, Belcher's Cove						Historic
Batchelor Pad 2					2	Successful
Belcher Cove						Unknown
Belcher Cove Middle	2	2	U		2	Successful
Belcher Cove N	2	2	U		3	Successful
Britto Field Warren Conservation						Active
Brown St.			2		3	Successful
Cell Tower Near FedEx						Not Active
Charley's Platform	U			1	2	Successful
Fatima High School (Previously)	1	U	1		2	Successful
First Student Nest	2	2	1	2	2	Successful
Haile Farm						Housekeeping
Jacob's Point	2	3	1	2	3	Successful
Jamiel's Park Light Tower		1	2			Housekeeping
Jamiel's Park Line Nest					2	Successful
Kickemuit Backwater Nest					2	Successful
Kickemuit Middle School		2	1		0	Housekeeping
Market St. Land Nest	2	U		2	0	Active
Merriman's Pond Dam Road						Unknown
National Grid Substation					2	Successful
Palmer River Tree Nest	1	3	1	2	0	No Nest
Siembab Nest	2	3			3	Successful
Veteran's Field Nest	4	3	3	1	1	Successful
Warren River Green Marker II	3	2	2	3	3	Successful
Wujick Farm Nest	3	2	2		1	Successful
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>35</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	16	<b>Active (But not</b>	2	<b>No Nest</b>	1
	<b>Fledglings</b>	35	<b>Housekeeping</b>	3	<b>Historic</b>	1
	<b>Total Sites</b>	26	<b>Not Active</b>	1	<b>Unknown</b>	2

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2016-2020

### Osprey Migration

"Some Osprey are permanent residents in southern Florida; migratory elsewhere (as in Rhode Island and Massachusetts). Migrants travel singly, not in flocks, often following coastlines, lake shores, rivers, or mountain ridges."

Source: [Audubon.org/fieldguide](http://Audubon.org/fieldguide)



Photo credit: Betsy Staples, 4/13/20

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

Warwick	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding Status
2628 West Shore Road					1	Successful
CCRI		1	1	1		Not Active
Confreda Sports Complex					2	Successful
Dogpatch Beach						Historic
Mickey Stevens Front	2	U		1	2	Successful
Mickey Stevens Back	-	-	-	1		Unknown
Netop Court	NA	U	U	2	3	Successful
Pawtuxet River-Electronics Drive	Unknown	U			2	Successful
Rocky Hill School	3		U			Historic
Sleepy Hollow Farm			U			Housekeeping
Warwick Police Cell Tower					3	Successful*
Washington Trust Bank			3		2	Successful
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<i>Successful</i>	7	<i>Active</i>	0	<i>No Nest</i>	0
	<i>Fledglings</i>	15	<i>Housekeeping</i>	1	<i>Historic</i>	2
	<i>Total Sites</i>	12	<i>Not Active</i>	1	<i>Unknown</i>	1

West Greenwich	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding
American Welding						Historic
Big River Mgt. Area			U			Historic
Super 8 Motel			1		2	Successful
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<i>Successful</i>	1	<i>Active (But not</i>	0	<i>No Nest</i>	0
	<i>Fledglings</i>	2	<i>Housekeeping</i>	0	<i>Historic</i>	2
	<i>Total Sites</i>	3	<i>Not Active</i>	0	<i>Unknown</i>	0

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity



Photo credit: Maura Sheldon Bonafede, 4/15/20



Photo credit: Chris Chrispy, 6/18/20

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## Osprey Nesting Activity

West Warwick	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding
Bucci Insurance	2	2	2	2	2	Successful
Riverpoint Park	-	-	-	2	2	Successful
West Warwick Civic Center			U			Historic
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>

Westerly	Fledgling Count					
Nest Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020 Breeding
577 Atlantic Ave						Housekeeping
Avondale	2	1	3		1	Successful
Breen Road Island	2	1	1			Not Active
Misquamicut West	2	2	2	2	2	Successful
Napatree Pt. W	U	U	U			Not Active
Niantic Ave						Not Active
Old Carriage Road	NA	NA	1		2	Successful
Pee Wee Football			2	2	2	Successful
Rt. 78 & Rt. 91	2		2	1	2	Successful
Tom Harvey Rd.	2				1	Successful
Westerly Police		2	2	1		Active
White Rock Rd.		2	2	2	3	Successful
Winnapaug Atlantic Ave	2		2	2	3	Successful
Winnapaug Breach Dr.			1	2	2	Successful
Winnapaug Cove Road						Historic
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>2020 Summary</b>	<b>Successful</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Active (But not</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>No Nest</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Fledglings</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Housekeeping</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Historic</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Total Sites</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Not Active</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>0</b>

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2016-2020



Photo credit: Gary Carlson,  
4/14/20

Photo credit: David Anderson,  
6/9/20



# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## 2020 Osprey Nesting Activity in Seekonk & Swansea, Massachusetts

Although the program is titled the “Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring Program” several nests in Massachusetts have historically been included in the survey. Starting in 2016, the results for Rhode Island and Massachusetts have been recorded separately. The table below displays the results for those nests located in Massachusetts.

### Massachusetts:

A total of 12 nests were monitored in Seekonk and Swansea, Massachusetts. Of these 12 nests, one was classified as active, one was inactive and two had no nests. The remaining eight nests were successful, producing a total of 17 fledglings. Successful nests are a subset of Active nests.

NEST NAME	FLEDGED 2016	FLEDGED 2017	FLEDGED 2018	FLEDGED 2019	FLEDGED 2020	STATUS 2020
Leavitt/Runnin’s Road	0	0	2	2	1	Successful
Marnoch	1	0	1	0	0	Not Active
Mink Road	3	3	3	3	3	Successful
Barneyville Road	1	1	1	2	3	Successful
George St. / Nockum Hill	3	3	0	1	0	Active
Merriman’s Pond #2	1 (2015)	1	2	2	0	Successful
Merriman’s Pond #3	0 (2015)	2	1	2	0	Successful
Duebel 1 *	3	2	1		2	Unknown
Duebel 2					3	Successful
Bachelor Pad	1	2	3	3	1	Successful
Swansea Golf Club N	1	2	1	1	1	Successful
Swansea Golf Club S	2	2	1	1	3	Successful
<b>TOTAL FLEDGLINGS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	

Table 4: Osprey Nesting Activity in MA 2016-2020 \* Previously Palmer River / Silveria Nest



Photo credit: Jim O’Neill, 6/17/20



Photo credit: Bonnie Turano, 5/30/20

# Rhode Island Osprey Report

## The Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring Program



**Audubon Society  
of Rhode Island**

The Osprey Monitoring Program was initiated in 1977 by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM). The goal was to observe the state Osprey population as it recovered from the effects of the pesticide DDT used from the 1940s through the 60s in Rhode Island.

Although DDT had been banned in 1972 the chemical continued to have a negative effect on the raptor population. In 1976 Osprey were designated as an endangered species. The first statewide count by RIDEM in 1977 yielded only 12 active nests. In the 1940s, before DDT, it was estimated that there were over a thousand nests between Boston and New York. DDT had taken a major toll on the population of this fish-eating bird. The poison worked its way through the food chain, bio-accumulating in Osprey. The result was very weak eggshells which easily broke when incubated.

Since 1977 the Osprey Monitoring Program has been made possible by efforts of biologists, donors and volunteers who have observed all known Osprey nests in Rhode Island and carefully recorded data on the number of checks fledged and status of each nest.

In 2009 no results were available and in 2010 RIDEM passed management of the project to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. Today, over 80 volunteer monitors continue to observe the state's Osprey population. By watching these sentinels, we learn more about wildlife and natural habitats as well as the level of human impact on these special places and unique species. It is a great testament to the dedication of Audubon's volunteer monitors that this citizen-science program continues to thrive.

If you have questions regarding this report or the program please direct them to Jon Scoones, manager of the Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring Program.

## Support Osprey With Your License Plate

Show your support for Osprey with Rhode Island Osprey license plates for your car! Purchase of an Osprey plate supports environmental conservation through education. The cost is only \$42.50 with \$20 supporting environmental education programs and \$22.50 for production of the plates.



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**Connecting People  
with Nature**

## About The Audubon Society of Rhode Island

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island is a membership-based, independent not-for-profit conservation organization. It is dedicated to protecting birds, wildlife, and their habitats through environmental education, advocacy, and land conservation. The state's first environmental organization, Audubon now protects nearly 10,000 acres in a network of refuges, pristine properties and wildlife habitats. One of the largest private environmental educators in the state, in 2019 Audubon staff taught approximately 20,000 people across the region. Audubon Society of Rhode Island is not affiliated with National Audubon.