



RHODE ISLAND OSPREY REPORT

Volume 12 · 2021

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**Audubon Society
of Rhode Island**

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 Osprey Monitoring Program was initiated in 1977 by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM). The goal was to monitor the state Osprey population as it recovered from the effects of the pesticide DDT used in 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 took 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 parts of Massachusetts, and carefully recorded data on the number of checks fledged and status of each nest.

In 2010 RIDEM passed management of the project to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. Today, over 70 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 are interested in learning more about the program please contact Jon Scoones at rhodeislandosprey@gmail.com



Photo 1: Wood River Golf Course,
Bonnie Turano, 2020



Rhode Island Osprey Report

Summary of 2021 Monitoring Results

Rhode Island

Throughout the 2021 Osprey breeding season 75 Osprey monitors from Audubon Society of Rhode Island volunteered 934 hours while monitoring 222 nests across 22 communities in Rhode Island.

Of the 222 nests that were monitored, 24 sites had no nests, 36 were classified as inactive (no breeding activity), and 7 were classified as housekeeping (breeding attempted but not sustained). Of the 154 nests showing breeding activity, 123 were successful, producing a total of 226 fledglings.

For details regarding the breeding status of each nest in Rhode Island, refer to pages 6-16.

Rhode Island Osprey Program Data 2010-2021

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Monitors	60	64	70	70	66	96	108	110	93	80	87	75
Hours Monitored	*	*	*	*	819	1359	1358	1340	1066	1016	1528	934
Sites Monitored	168	187	200	209	199	229	236	267	193	238	239	222
Inactive Sites	52	62	59	50	54	26	64	57	21	63	66	36
Housekeeping	*	16	15	8	5	11	13	24	6	4	6	7
Active	*	108	126	138	127	156	159	145	166	123	176	154
Successful **	116	91	96	96	105	122	150	121	144	118	151	123
Fledglings in RI	171	159	178	168	186	239	297	226	275	212	303	226

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

Glossary of Monitoring Terms

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

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

Active: Mating, incubation or other breeding 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) was observed.

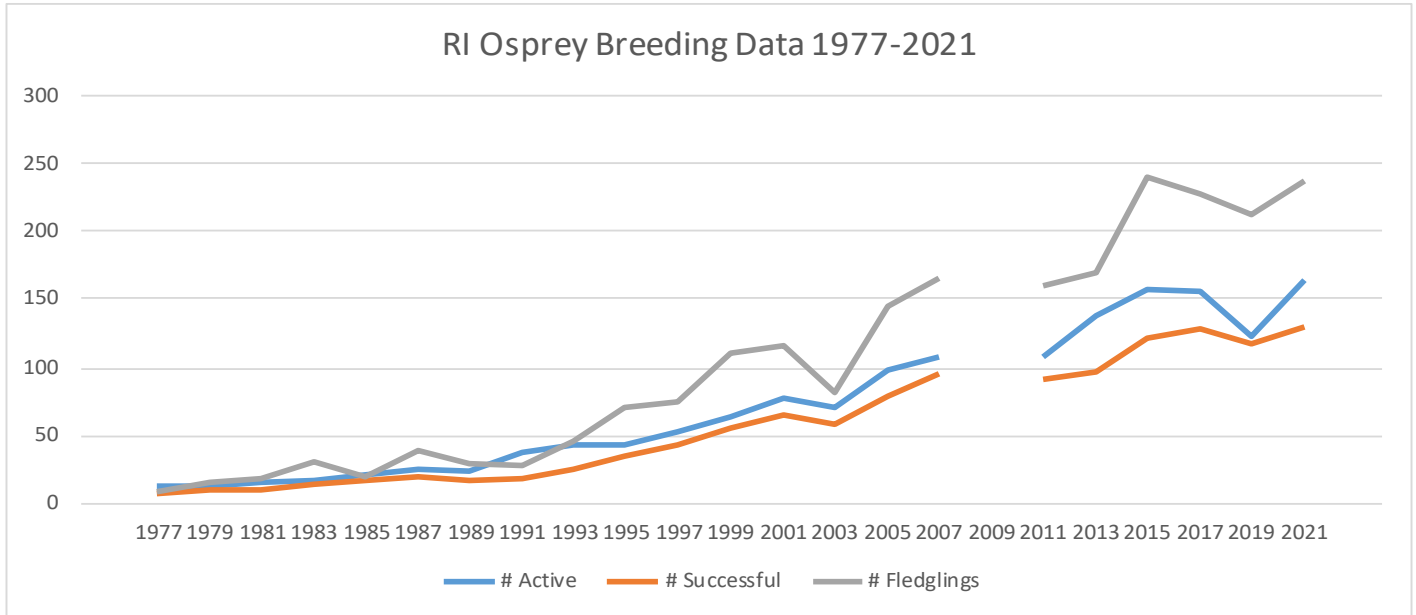


Photo 2: Sachem Pond,
Carol Mars, 2021



RHODE ISLAND OSPREY REPORT

The following graph compares the number of active nests (showing breeding activity), successful nests (fledgling observed) and the number of fledglings observed over the life of the monitoring program. Given the volume of data, only the odd years of the program have been displayed in the graph. There is no data available for 2009, which was the year before Audubon Society of Rhode Island began managing the program.



Graph 2: Osprey Breeding Data 1977-2021

Two young Osprey were rescued by the great guys at the Misquamicut Club! The nest had fallen, so the guys carefully put it, and the two fledglings, back on the platform under the watchful eyes of the parents. Bonnie Turano, who monitored the process, reports that she observed both birds fledge at the end of the season! What a great effort by these heroes!!



Photo 3: Misquamicut West, 2021

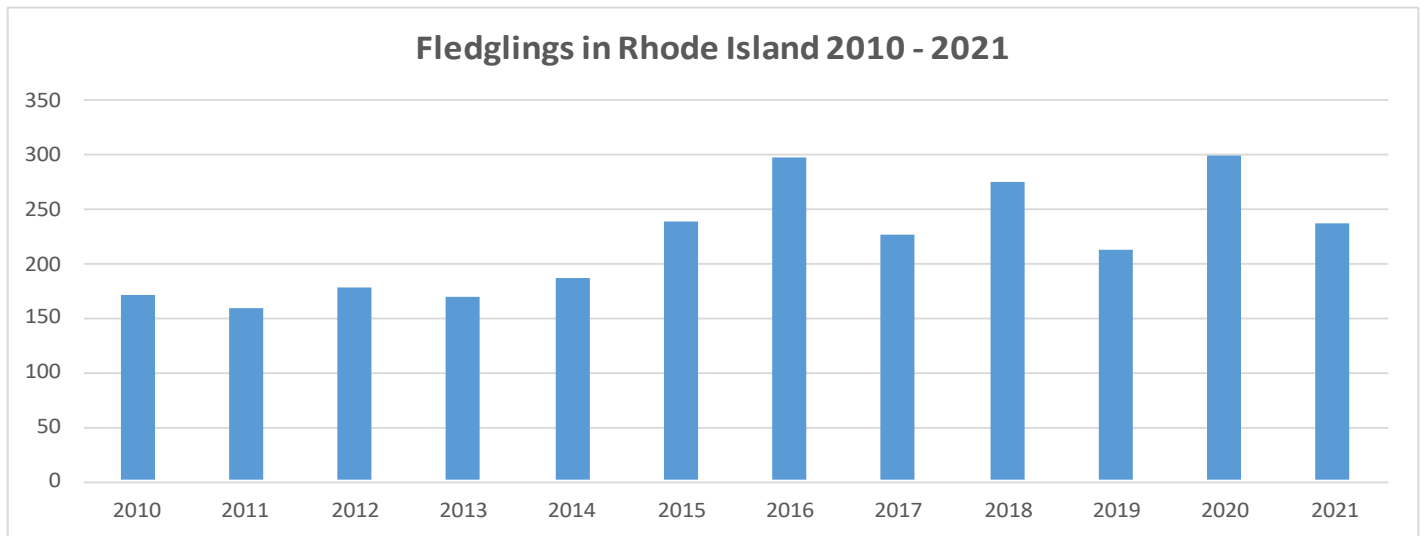


Photo 4: Misquamicut West, 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

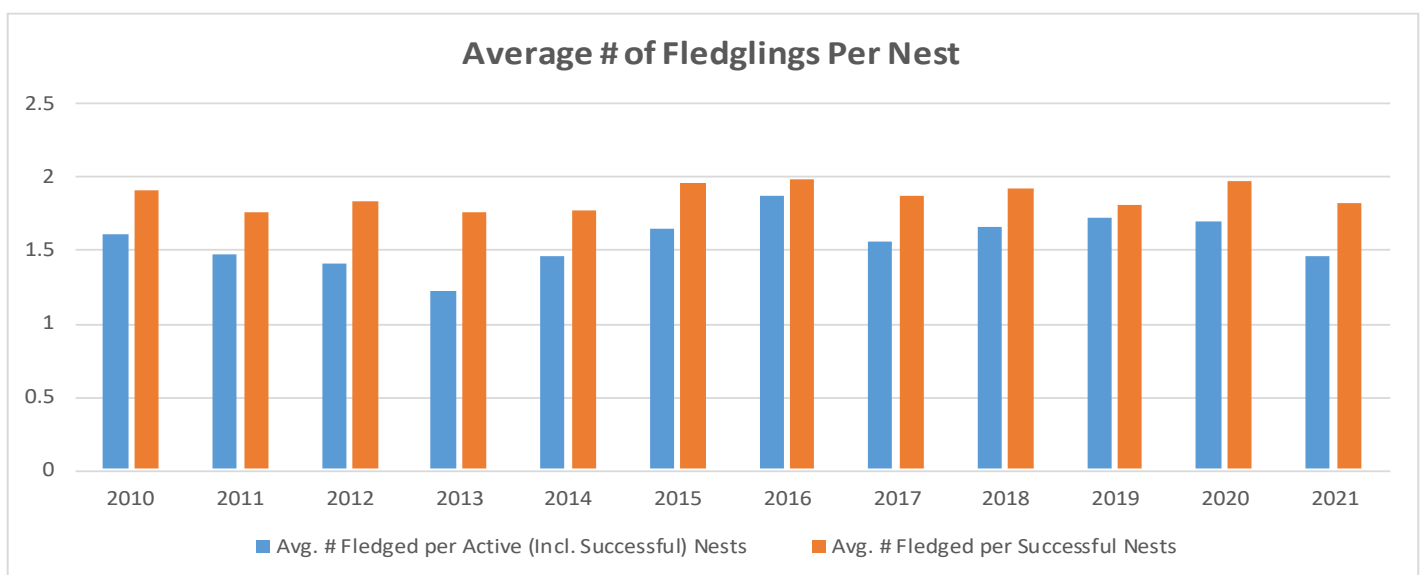
Osprey Breeding Status

In 2021 monitors observed 226 fledglings in Rhode Island. This number is dependent on several factors, including the levels of available food (fish) and nesting locations. Other factors include the number of monitors, their access to the nests, and their time spent observing the nests. This year both the number of monitors and hours spent monitoring were down slightly over recent years. That said, the number of fledglings observed (226) remains consistent with the average of 220.5 fledglings per year since Audubon began managing the program.



Graph 3: Total number of Osprey fledglings observed by year.

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 2021 there were 1.7 fledglings per active nest and 1.8 per successful nest. These results indicate that the Osprey population in Rhode Island is not only self-supporting, but growing.



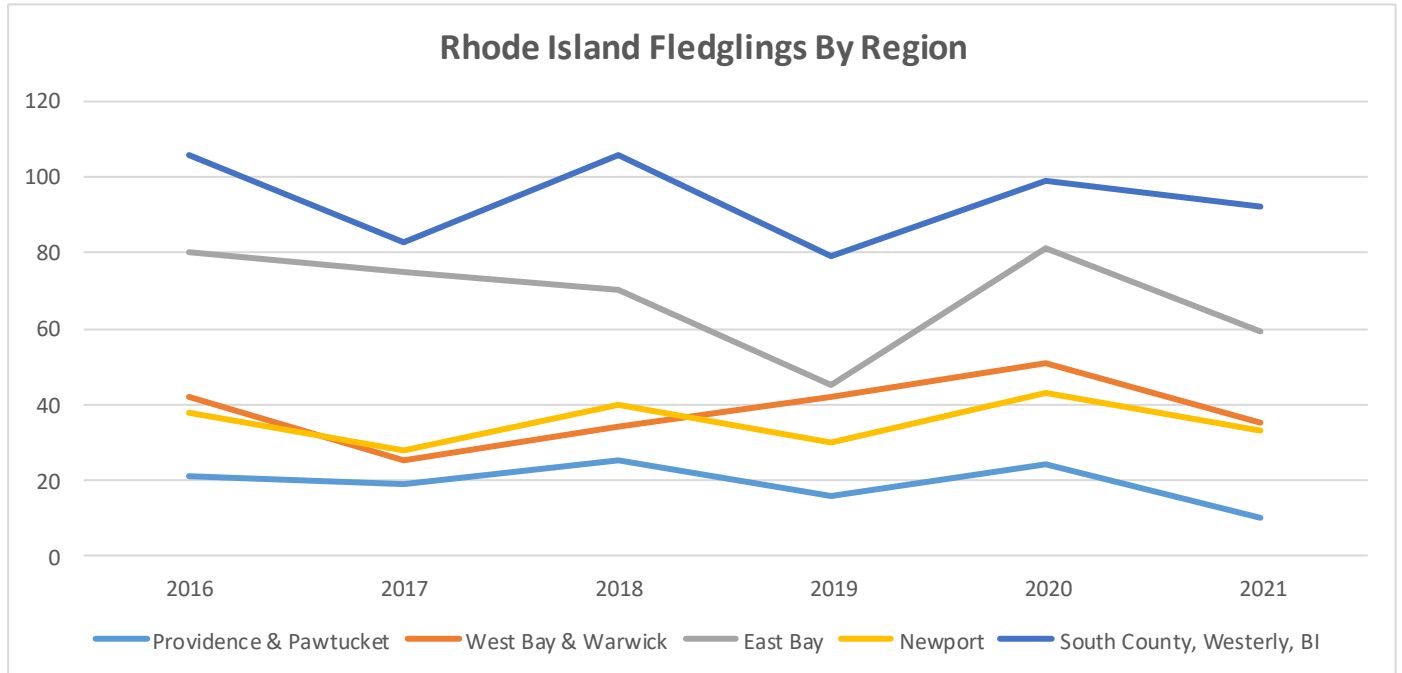
Graph 4: Average fledglings per Active and Successful nests.

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

Distribution of Osprey Fledglings Across Rhode Island

The graph below shows the distribution of Osprey fledglings across five regions of Rhode Island from 2016-2021. The northern region of Rhode Island has been omitted from this report because there have not been any sightings of Osprey nests in that area in the past several years.



Graph 5: Osprey Nesting Activity Across Rhode Island 2016-2021



Photo 5: 1 River Road, Linda Averill, 2021



Photo 6: Warwick Vets, Jean Whatley, 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

2021 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 2021

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
Barrington:			
100 Acre Cove (Isl)	Successful	2	Total Sites : 16
100 Acre Tongue S	Successful	2	Not Active: 3
Allins Cove E	Successful	3	Housekeeping: 0
Allins Cove W	Successful	2	Active: 1
Barrington H.S.	Successful	2	Successful: 12
Barrington YMCA	Successful	3	Fledglings: 28
Bourne Lane	NA		
Brickyard Pond	Successful	3	
Johannis Farm Midway	A		
Johannis Farm N	Successful	2	
Johannis Farm S	NA		
Little Mussachuck Creek 1	Successful	2	
Nagtegaal Nest	Successful	3	
Osamequin	Successful	2	
Police Cove Park		2	
Rumstick Pt.	NA		
Block Island			
Block Island Power	S	2	Total Sites: 7
Rodman's Hollow	NA		Not Active: 4
Ryan BI	NA		Housekeeping: 1
Sachem Pond	S	2	Successful: 2
Warden's Pond	NA		Fledglings: 4
Merk	NA		
Risom	H		

Table 3: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
Bristol			
Audubon NCAA	H		Total Sites: 14
Colt State Park Chimney	S	1	Not Active: 4
Columban Fathers	S	2	Housekeeping: 1
Fish Hawk Farm (Prev. Griswold)	S	1	Active: 2
Mill Cove	S	2	Successful: 7
Mill Gut CSP	NA		Fledglings: 10
Mill Gut Peninsula CSP	NA		
Mill Gut Tree Nest CSP	NA		
Mount Hope HS	A		
Musselbed Shoals Light	A		
Peter Road Cell Tower	S	1	
Poppasquash Point	S	1	
Roger Williams University	S	2	
Tupelo Street Cell Tower	NA		
Charlestown			
Burdickville West	NN		Total Sites: 4
Charlestown Police Dept.	S	3	No Nest:: 2
Quonochontaug Pond	NA		Not Active: 1
Shumankunuc Road	NN		Successful: 1
			Fledglings: 3
Coventry			
Center of New England BJ's	Successful	2	Total sites: 1
			Successful:1
			Fledglings: 2

Table 3 Continued: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
East Greenwich			
American Legion Post	S	1	Total sites: 3
Eldridge School Field	S	2	Active: 1
Uncle Bob's Self Storage	A		Successful: 2
			Fledglings: 3
East Providence			
100F Commercial Way	S	2	Total sites: 3
404 Old Wampanaug Trail	S	2	Successful: 3
Catamore Blvd.	S	1	Fledglings: 5
Hopkinton			
Dow Memorial Field	NA		Total Sites: 6
Potter Hill East	A		No Nest: 1
Potter Hill West	NN		Not Active: 1
Potter Hill Wester	A		Active: 3
Tomaquag	A		Successful: 1
Wood River Golf Course Hole 5	S	2	Fledglings: 2

Table 3 Continued: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
Jamestown			
Beavertail	NN		Total sites: 10
Dutch Island Lighthouse	NA		No Nest: 1
Fort Getty Road	S	1	Not Active: 2
Fox Hill Farm	S	3	Active: 2
Jamestown South Pond	A		Successful: 5
Lawn Ave. School	S	3	Fledglings: 9
Mackeral Cove	S	1	
Marsh Meadows	A		
O'Farrell Farm	S	1	
Petrie Property 2	NA		
Little Compton			
Adamsville Landing	NN		Total sites: 5
Haefenreffer 1	S	1	No Nest: 1
Round Pond	NA		Not Active: 2
Watch House Pond		1	Successful: 1
			Fledglings: 1
Middletown			
Coddington Cove	NA		Total sites: 2
Jepson Road Substation 3	S	1	Not Active: 1
			Successful: 1
			Fledglings: 1

Table 3 Continued: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
Narragansett			
267 Sand Hill Cove Road	A		Total sites: 19
86 Harbor Island Drive	S	2	No Nest: 4
BI Ferry Parking Lot - Coned	NN	1	Not Active: 1
Canonchet Farm	S	1	Successful: 10
Canonchet Farm 2	A		Fledglings:18
Christofaro Park	NN		
Christofaro Park 2	S	1	
Galilee Bird Sanctuary	A		
Galilee Escape Rd.	S	2	
Galilee Escape Rd. Watertower	S	2	
Indian Rock Rd.	S	2	
Lake Canonchet	S	3	
Narrow River Mouth	S	1	
Narragansett Sand and Salt	NA		
Narragansett Elem. School	S	1	
Salt Pond Plaza	A		
Sprague Bridge	S	2	
Wastewater Treatment Facility	NN		
Wastewater Treatment WEST	NN		
Newport			
Freebody Park	S	2	Total sites: 3
Gooseberry Beach	S	1	Successful: 3
Hazard Marsh	S	2	Fledglings: 5

Table 3 Continued: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
North Kingstown			
123 Ocean State Drive (131)	S	2	Total sites: 18
Allen Harbor Marina	S	2	No Nest: 2
Allen Harbor Marina Entrance	NN		Not Active: 4
Mainsail Drive	A		Active: 2
McGinn Park	NA		Successful: 10
North Kingstown Dog Pound	S	1	Fledglings: 19
N. Kingstown High School North	NN		
N. Kingstown High School South	NA		
Old Baptist Rd	S	1	
Pendar Rd.	NA		
Quonset Point Marsh	S	1	
Rabbit Island	S	3	
Ryan Park	NA		
Salt Water Farms, Davisville	A		
Snuff Mill Rd. & Rt. 1A	S	2	
Tower Hill Road Substation	S	2	
Wickford Beacon	S	2	
Wilson Park NK	S	3	
Pawtucket			
Cod & Oil Fish Market	NN		Total sites: 5
Hasbro	S	2	No nest: 1
Max Read Field	NA		Not Active:2
Miller's Truck Repair	A		Active:1
Morley Field	NA		Successful: 1
			Fledglings: 2

Table 3 Continued: Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
Portsmouth			
Bay Point /DPW Cell Tower	A		Total sites: 18
Bristol Harbor Rock	S	2	No Nest: 2
Jepson Lane 350	NN		Not Active: 1
Jepson Rd. Substation	A		Active: 3
Jepson Rd. Substation 2	NN		Successful: 12
Lawton Valley H2O Plant	S	1	Fledglings: 25
Lawton Valley H2O Plant Entrance	S	2	
McMillin Boatyard	S	3	
Melville	S	3	
New England Boatworks	S	3	
Newport Car Museum	S	1	
Portsmouth Cement Company	A		
Portsmouth Fire Department	NA		
Town Pond 1	S	2	
Town Pond 2	S	3	
Town Pond 3	S	1	
Wick's Nursery	S	2	
Willow Lane Chimney Nest	S	2	
Providence			
5 Shipyard Street	NN		Total sites: 3
Autopart Intl. Broad Street	NN		No Nest: 2
Johnson & Wales Athletic Field	A		Active: 1

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
Prudence Island			Total sites: 2
Coggeshell Cove Prudence Isle	A		Active: 2
Potter's Cove Prudence Isle	A		
Richmond			
Buttonwoods Rd.	S	3	Total sites: 4
Harvest Acres	S	2	Successful: 4
Heritage Trail	S	2	Fledglings: 8
Charbert Mill	S	1	
South Kingstown			
1 River St - Thundermist	S	2	Total sites: 27
Billington Cove	S	2	No Nest: 6
Factory Pond	H		Not Active: 2
Great Swamp IMP #1 B	S	1	Housekeeping:3
Great Swamp IMP #1 (Water)	NN		Active: 1
Great Swamp IMP #2 (Water)	NN		Successful:15
Great Swamp IMP #3 (Water)	NN		Fledglings: 24
Great Swamp IMP #4 (Water)	S	2	
Great Swamp IMP #5 (South)	NA		
Great Swamp IMP #6 (South)	S	1	
Great Swamp IMP #7	S	1	
Great Swamp IMP #8	H		
Jerusalem Lab	S	2	
Matunuck School House Rd.	NA		
Old Mountain Field	S	2	
Paul Masse 2909 Tower Hill Road	S	1	
Pond St.	S	2	
Potter's Pond	NN		
Potter's Pond East	S	2	
Prospect Road	S	2	(Ctd. on next page)

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
South Kingstown, continued			
Ram Pt. Marina	S	2	
Rose Hill	S	1	
South County Hospital	A		
Succotash Water Tower	NN		
Theatre by the Sea	NN		
Trustom Pond Osprey Point	S	1	
Trustom Pond Otter Point	H		
Tiverton			
DPW Cell Tower	NA		Total sites: 3
Quicksand Pond	NA		Not Active:3
Ruecker Refuge	NA		
Warren			
47 Serpentine Road	S	2	Total sites: 21
Batchelor Pad 2	S	1	No nest: 2
Belcher Cove Middle	S	2	Not Active: 1
Belcher Cove N	A		Active: 6
Britto Field Warren Conservation	S	1	Successful: 12
Brown St.	A		Fledglings: 10
Cell Tower Near FedEx	A		
Charley's Platform	S	2	
Fatima High School (School Has New Name)	S	1	Ctd. on next page

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
Warren			
First Student Nest	S	2	Total sites: 21
Haile Farm	NN		No nest: 2
Jacob's Point	S	2	Not Active: 1
Jamiel's Park Light Tower	S	1	Active: 6
Jamiel's Park Line Nest	NN		Successful: 12
Market St. Land Nest	A		Fledglings: 21
Merriman's Pond Dam Road	A		
National Grid Substation	S	3	
Palmer River Tree Nest	NA		
Siembab Nest	A		
Warren River Green Marker II	S	2	
Wujick Farm Nest	S	1	
Warwick			
2628 West Shore Road	S	1	Total sites: 9
CCRI 1	S	1	Not Active: 1
CCRI 2	S	2	Housekeeping: 1
Confreda Sports Complex	S	2	Successful: 7
Mickey Stevens Front	S	2	Fledglings: 11
Netop Court	H		
Rocky Hill School	S	1	
Sleepy Hollow Farm	NA		
Washington Trust Bank	S	2	
West Greenwich			
Motel 8	S	2	Total sites: 2
A & B Steel	S	2	Successgful: 2
			Fledglings: 4

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2021

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity

NEST NAME	NEST STATUS	# OF FLEDGLINGS	TOTALS
West Warwick			
Bucci Insurance		A	Total sites: 1
			Active: 1
Westerly			
577 Atlantic Ave	NA		Total sites: 16
Avondale	S	1	Not Active: 3
Breen Road Island	S	1	Housekeeping: 1
Griswold	S	3	Active: 1
Haversham Tavern	NA		Successful: 11
Maschaug Pond	S	1	Fledglings: 22
Misquamicut West	S	3	
Niantic Ave	H		
Old Carriage Road	S	3	
Pee Wee Football	S	1	
Rt. 78 & Rt. 91	S	4	
Tom Harvey Rd.	A		
Westerly Police	NA		
White Rock Rd.	S	1	
Winnapaug Atlantic Ave	S	2	
Winnapaug Breach Dr.	S	2	

Table 3 Continued: Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2021



Photo7: O'Farrell Farm, Gary Carlson, 2021

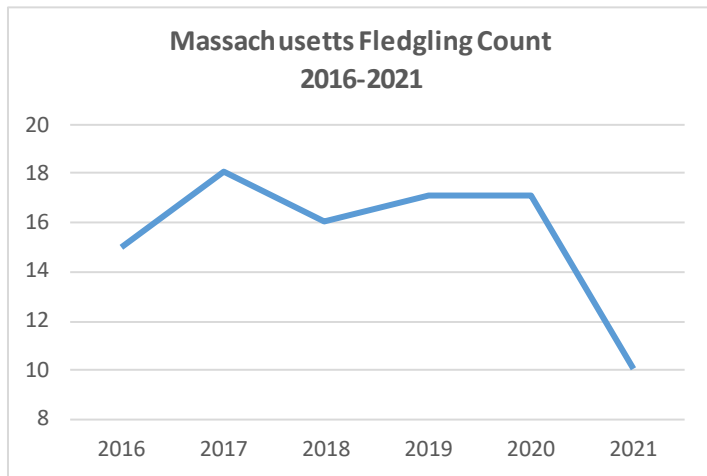
Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity in Seekonk & Swansea, Massachusetts

Although the primary mission of program is to survey nests in Rhode Island, for many years volunteer monitors have observed and reported on nests located in Swansea and Seekonk, Massachusetts. Starting in 2016, results for Rhode Island and Massachusetts have been recorded separately. A total of 8 nests were monitored in 2021. Of these 8 nests, 1 site had no nest, 7 nests were active. Of the 7 active nests, 5 were successful.

Nest Name	Town	2016 Fledgling Count	2017 Fledgling Count	2018 Fledgling Count	2019 Fledgling Count	2020 Fledgling Count	2021 Fledgling Count	2021 Breeding Status
Leavitt / Runnins Road	Seekonk		0	2	2	1	0	Active
Marnoch Drive	Seekonk	1	0	1		0		Unknown
Mink Street	Seekonk	3	3	3	3	3	3	Successful
Barneyville Rd	Swansea	1	1	1	2	3	0	Active
George St./Nockum Hill	Swansea	3	3	0	1	0		Unknown
Merriman's Pond #3	Swansea	0	2	1	2	0		Unknown
Merriman's Pond #2	Swansea	1	1	2	2	0		Unknown
Duebel 1 *	Swansea	3	2	1		2	1	Successful
Duebel 2 *	Swansea					3	2	Successful
Swansea Bachelor Pad	Swansea	1	2	3	3	1	0	No Nest
Swansea Golf Club N	Swansea	1	2	1	1	1	1	Successful
Swansea Golf Club S	Swansea	2	2	1	1	3	3	Successful
Fledglings		15	18	16	17	17	10	

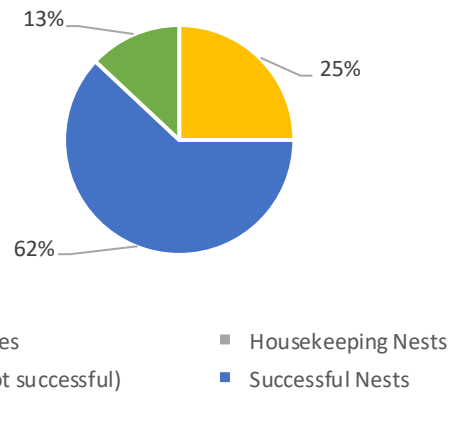
Table 4: Osprey Nesting Activity in Massachusetts 2016-2021 * Previously Palmer River / Silveria Nest



Graph 7: Overall status of monitored nests in Massachusetts in 2021.

Graph 6: Fledgling counts of monitored Massachusetts nests over the past six years. The decrease in fledglings in 2021 was due to the lack of observation data from several nests.

2021 Massachusetts Nest Status



Rhode Island Osprey Report

The Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring Program

Throughout the 2021 breeding season (April-August), 75 volunteers reported on 230 nests. (222 in Rhode Island and 8 nests in Massachusetts.) Monitors submitted over 2,536 observations and spent a total of 934 hours in the field, averaging 4 hours of monitoring per nest and 12 hours per monitor. The Audubon Society of Rhode Island thanks these dedicated volunteers for their continued support of the Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring program.

Julia Abbott	Sue Collins	Martina Graziano	Jim O'Neill	Tami Van Steeden
Dave Anderson	Barbara Costa	Claire Gruneberg	Elizabeth Paquette	Elliot Waterman
Mark Anderson	George Cunha	Gayle Hargreaves	Ron Pelletier	Birger Wernerfelt
Mary Arakelian	Cindy Dibble	Tyler Hertzwig	Jeanine Pelletier	Geoff Whan
Sophie Beauchense	Mary DiCecco	David Jones	Margie Peppercorn	Jean Whatley
Christine Benson	Donna DiGangi	Robin Label	Mark Peppercorn	Shawen Williams
Maura Bonafede	Jean Entezary	Sharyn Lawler	Teresa Sarli	Susan Williamson
John Breunig	Debra Eubank	Butch Lombardi	Jon Scoones	David Winsor
R. Michael Browne	Nature Explorations	Jerry & Donna Macomber	Barbara Seith	Steve Zambarano
Mike Browne	Sandy Fahey	Meredith McDonald	Barbara Sherman	Therese Zink
Gail Browning	David Fulton	Carol Mars	Susan Silvia	
Finn Brudevold	Ted Furtado	Bill McMullen	Betsy Staples	
Gary Carlson	Jeffrey Glidden	Luis Mendes	Lelia Stokes-Weinstein	
Frank Carroll	Heather Gordon	John Mooney	Barbara Sullivan-Watts	
Jameson Chace	Joan Gorman	Peter Muir	Roberto Tornatore	
Marianne Chronley	Zoe Gorman	Karen Nachin	Bonnie Turano	

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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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.