



RHODE ISLAND OSPREY REPORT

Volume 8 · 2017

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The Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring Program

The Osprey Monitoring Program was initiated in 1977 by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM). The goal was to carefully follow 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 was still having 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, bioaccumulating 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 2010 RIDEM passed management of the project to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. Today, over 100 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 RI Osprey Monitoring Program.



Photo #1: School Street, Pawtucket, September 2017, Rufus Abdullah



Photo #2: Upper Narrow River, April 2017, Ross Gardner

Rhode Island Osprey Report

2017 Summary of Monitoring Results

Thanks to the efforts of over 100 volunteers the 2017 Osprey monitoring season was a success in the number of observations and the amount of data obtained.

However, the number of fledglings observed dropped significantly from 2016. One factor for the lower number is purely administrative. For many years we tracked observations from a few nests in Massachusetts along with those in Rhode Island. This year we decided to separate the results.

Poor weather could also have impacted the decline in observed fledglings. Spring of 2017 saw a lot of rain during the time when Osprey would be incubating.

Audubon is pleased to announce that Courtney Conklin, an intern from Salve Regina University, will look for correlating weather trends in Rhode Island with observed fledglings using past Osprey Monitoring data as a resource. Refer to page four for more information on project.

2017 Rhode Island Osprey Data at a Glance

Monitors	110
Hours Monitored	1,340
Nest sites with Insufficient Data	38
Nest Sites with Data	264
Inactive Nest Sites	57
Housekeeping Nests	24
Active Nests	145
Successful Nests *Subset of Active	121
Fledglings in Rhode Island	226

During the 2017 Osprey breeding season a total of 274 nests were successfully monitored across Rhode Island and in two areas of Massachusetts. Following is observational data from each state:

Rhode Island:

Across 32 communities in Rhode Island, 264 monitored nests were monitored. An additional 38 nests were not monitored or not enough data was obtained. Twenty four (24) nests were classified as **housekeeping** and another 57 were classified as **inactive**. Of the 145 nests deemed **active**, 121 were **successful**, producing at least one fledgling. For details regarding nests in Rhode Island refer to pages 6-14.

Massachusetts:

A total of 10 nests were monitored in Seekonk and Swansea, Massachusetts. An additional nest was classified as providing **insufficient data**. Of the ten nests, one was classified as **housekeeping** and 9 were classified as **successful**. A total of 18 fledglings were observed from these nests. For details regarding these nests refer to page 14.

Glossary of Monitoring Terms

Historic Site: Not monitored due to history of inactivity

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

Inactive: No breeding-related behavior observed

Housekeeping: Osprey observed at nest but breeding behavior not sustained.

Active Nests: Mating and/or incubation behavior observed

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

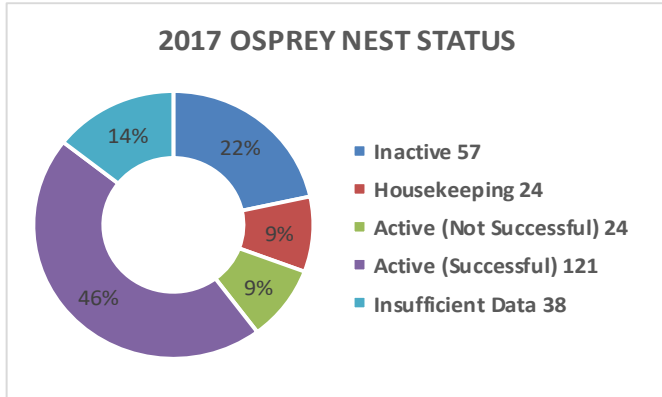
Fledgling: Young bird with flight feathers



Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nest Status

One goal of the Osprey Monitoring program is to determine the status of Osprey nests across Rhode Island. Graph #1 below shows the breakdown of the nests in 2017 while graph # 2 shows the breakdown of active versus successful nests.

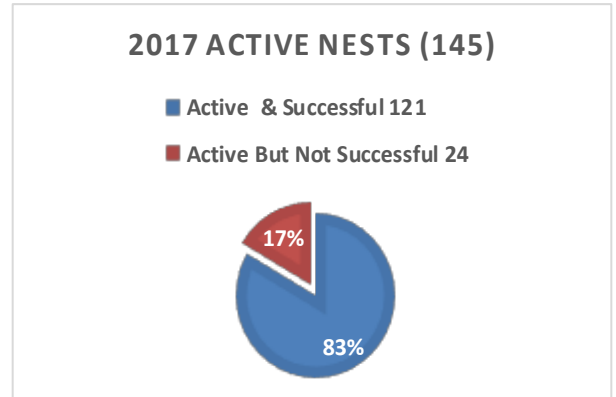


Graph #1: 2017 Status of Osprey Nests in Rhode Island

Graph #3 compares Osprey nest observations over the life of the monitoring program. The number of **active** nests, **successful** nests and number of **fledged young** are included in the comparison.

Several factors such as the number of monitors, their time in the field and knowledge level can affect the results generated from citizen science programs. Therefore, one must be careful when making assumptions from the data.

The longevity of the program, monitor training and consistent results indicate a clear pattern regarding the breeding success of the Osprey population in Rhode Island.



Graph #2: Active versus Successful Osprey Nests

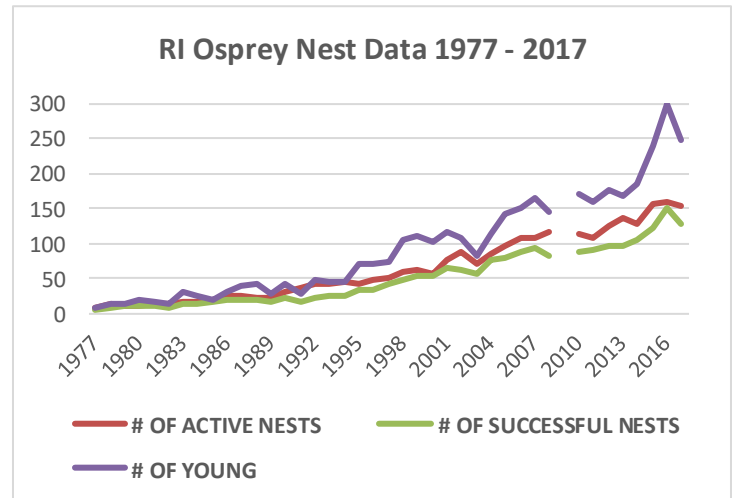


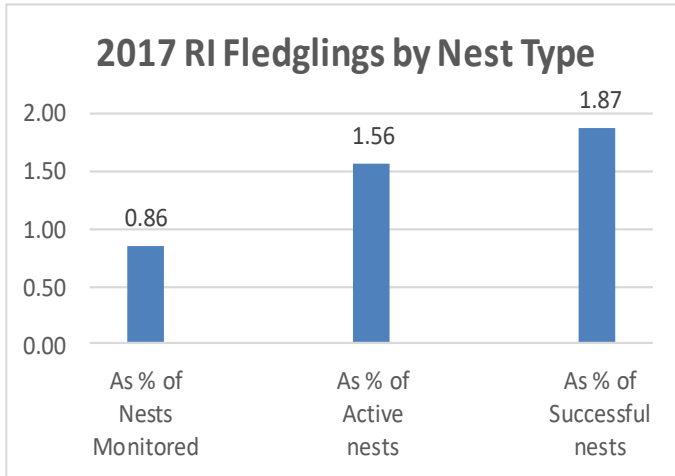
Photo # 3: Autoparts International, March 2017, Kevin Winn



Photo #4: Sprague Bridge, April 2017, Ross Gardner

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Fledglings



Graph #4: Fledglings as a percent of monitored nests.

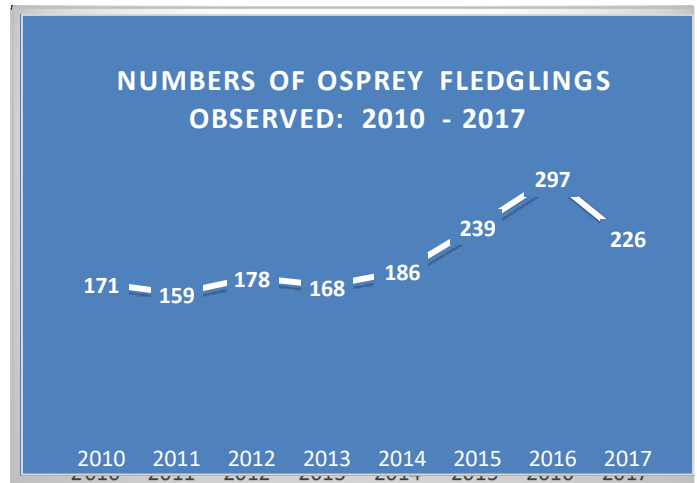
Tracking the number of fledglings produced from year to year is vital.

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. (Spitzer and Poole 1980)

In 2017 the state had 0.86 fledglings per all nests monitored, and 1.56 fledglings per active nest, indicating that the population of Osprey should continue to grow in Rhode Island.



Photo 5: Escape Road, September, 2017, David Briggs



Graph #5: Number of fledglings observed since Audubon began managing the program.

Weather and Osprey Fledgling Production



Photo 6: Courtney Conklin

Is there a correlation between weather and the number of fledglings hatched each year? As a conservation intern with the Audubon Society of Rhode Island, Courtney Conklin will be researching this subject. Conklin will be using data from the Osprey Monitoring program and comparing it to reported weather trends across Rhode Island.

Conklin is currently a senior majoring in biology with an environmental science concentration at Salve Regina University. Prior to becoming an Audubon conservation intern Conklin was a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellow in the prestigious Rhode Island National Science Foundation program.

We look forward to working with Courtney on this important project.

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Volunteer Osprey Monitors in 2017



Throughout the 2017 breeding season, 110 volunteers monitored 274 nests from April through August, and in some cases through September.

Monitors submitted over 3,700 observations and tallied a total of 1,340 hours in the field. Most monitors spent between 13 and 25 hours in the field, while a few logged in over a hundred hours!

Volunteer hours in 2017 were similar to those recorded the previous year when 108 volunteers logged in 1,360 hours and submitted nearly 3,000 observations. It is important to note that 90% of the 2016 monitor team stuck around for another season.

Audubon thanks all the volunteers for their continued support of the program.

Photo #7: Marsh Meadows, July 2017, David & Fran Bergeron

David Anderson	Laura DeAngelis	Jessica Kiamco	Teresa Sarli
Mark Anderson	Cindy Dibble	Keelyn Kotecki	Sandra Saunders
Mary Arakelian	Mary DiCecco	Maria Lambert	Aimee Savard
Cindy Benevides	Judy Doherty	Laura Landen	Erin Scales
Fran Bergeron	Debra Eubank	Richard Larrivee	Barbara Sherman
Kathy Besette	Nature Explorations Group	Anna & Gary LeBlanc	Susan Silvia
Charlie Biddle	Lynda Fish	Lisa Leslie	Tracy Silvia
Jessica Bishop	Bill & Evelyn Flatley	Ann & George Lewis	Ihor Slabicky
Maura Bonafede	Val Fuchs	Butch Lombardi	John Spahn
Lucille Boyce	Nancy Fullerton	Jerry Macomber	Peter Stevens
Carol Brabant	Dave Fulton	Lynn Marcoux	Barbara Sullivan - Watts
Meredith Brady	Ted Furtado	Tara McDonald	Andy Thompson
David Briggs	Val Gardner	Bill McMullen	Roberto Tornatore
Jane Brockway	Ross Gardner	Luis Mendes	Ken Valiquette
Susan Brouillette	Michael Gerhardt	Bruce Murgo	Tami VanSteeden
Michael Browne	Amy Hagan	Bill Mussig	Charles Walsh
Finn Brudevold	Rick Hall	Tim O'Connor	Mike Warner
Mary Jane Burgess	Erin Heatherton	Jim O'Neill	Elliot Waterman
Nick Califano	Jana Hesser	Susan Orban	Robin Weber
Gary Carlson	Jeanne Hoxsie	Garrett Paquette	Jean Whatley
Jane Carlson-Pickering	Bob Hughes	Elizabeth Paquette	Susan Williamson
Marianne Chronley	Maris Humphreys	Margie & Mark Peppercorn	Kevin Winn
Courtney Conklin	Kristian Jeanloz	Erica Perry	David Winsor
Barbara Costa	Pedro Johnson	Hershel Poe	Barbara Wrona
Amanda Cowam	Lori Jones	Debby Pratt	Sandra Wynacht
Rachel Crafford	David Jones	Matt Ruscher	
George Cunha	Shannon Kelley	Paul Sanromá	

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island for 2017

Table #2 provides the activity data of every Osprey nest monitored in 2017.

Nests with an asterisk (*) will be classified as “historic” and not actively monitored in 2018.

A glossary of status-related terms is located on page 2.



Photo #8: Pt. Judith Pond, March 2015, Prentice Stout



Photo #9: Galilee Escape Road, 2017

TOWN	NEST NAME	STATUS FOR 2017	FLEDGED IN 2017	FLEDGED IN 2016
Barrington	100 Acre Cove (Cove Ave)	Housekeeping	0	1
Barrington	100 Acre Cove (Isl)	Successful	1	2
Barrington	100 Acre Tongue S	Successful	1	1
Barrington	131 Adam's Point Road	Housekeeping	0	0
Barrington	Adam's Pt.	Successful	1	0
Barrington	Allins Cove E	Insufficient Data	-	0
Barrington	Allins Cove W	Successful	2	4
Barrington	Barrington H.S.	Successful	1	2
Barrington	Barrington YMCA	Successful	2	3
Barrington	Bourne Lane	Successful	3	3
Barrington	Brickyard Pond	Active	0	3
Barrington	Brickyard Pond 2 *	Inactive	0	0
Barrington	Cranesbill *	Insufficient Data	-	0
Barrington	Johannis Farm Midway	Successful	2	2
Barrington	Johannis Farm N	Successful	2	3
Barrington	Johannis Farm S	Successful	3	1
Barrington	Little Mussachuck Creek 1	Successful	3	3
Barrington	Little Mussachuck Creek 2	Inactive	0	0
Barrington	Nagtegaal Nest	Active	0	0
Barrington	Osamequin	Successful	2	0
Barrington	Palmer River Tree Nest	Successful	3	1
Barrington	Rumstick Pt.	Active	0	2
Barrington	Smith's Cove	Inactive	0	2
Barrington	Sowams Tree Nest	Successful	3	2
Barrington	WPRO Radio Tower	Insufficient Data	U	0
		TOTAL	29	39
Block Island	Block Island Power	Successful	2	2
		TOTAL	2	2
Bristol	Audubon Environmental Education Center Tree Platform	Inactive	0	0
Bristol	Audubon Environmental Education Center	Successful	2	2
Bristol	Bristol Transfer Station	Housekeeping	0	2
Bristol	Mill Cove	Successful	3	2
Bristol	Mill Gut	Successful	2	3
Bristol	Mill Gut Tree Nest	Successful	2	1
Bristol	Mount Hope HS	Successful	2	1
Bristol	Musselbed Shoals Light	Successful	2	2

Table #2: 2017 Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity for 2017 – Continued

TOWN	NEST NAME	STATUS FOR 2017	FLEDGED IN 2017	FLEDGED IN 2016
Bristol	Peter Road Cell Tower	Successful	2	2
Bristol	Poppasquash Point	Successful	1	0
Bristol	Siembab Nest	Successful	3	2
Bristol	Silver Creek Thomas Park *	Inactive	0	0
Bristol	Tupelo Street Cell Tower	Successful	2	2
		TOTAL	21	18
Charlestown	Burdickville East	Insufficient Data	-	0
Charlestown	Burdickville West	Insufficient Data	-	0
Charlestown	Burdickville Westest *	Inactive	0	0
Charlestown	Quonochontaug Pond	Active	0	2
Charlestown	Rt. 2 & Rt. 112	Successful	1	2
Charlestown	Shumankunuc Rd. *	Inactive	0	0
Charlestown	West Pond	Inactive	0	0
		TOTAL	1	4
Coventry	Center of New England BJ's	Active	0	1
Coventry	Waterman Hill *	Inactive	0	0
		TOTAL	0	1
East Greenwich	American Legion Post	Successful	1	3
East Greenwich	Netop Court	Successful	1	-
East Greenwich	Quonset Point Marsh	Inactive	0	-
East Greenwich	Scalloptown Park	Inactive	0	-
East Greenwich	Spink's Nest Beach *	Inactive	0	0
East Greenwich	Uncle Bob's Self Storage	Successful	1	1
		TOTAL	2	4
East Providence	Bold Point	Successful	2	2
East Providence	Bold Point 2*	Inactive	0	-
East Providence	Bucklin Hill	Successful	3	0
East Providence	Charleton Ave	Successful	1	0
East Providence	Bucklin Hill North	Successful	3	4
East Providence	Bucklin Point	Successful	1	0
East Providence	Catamore Blvd.	Successful	1	0
East Providence	East Bay Manor	Insufficient Data	-	0
East Providence	Hasbro	Successful	2	2
East Providence	Marnoch Drive	Active	0	1
East Providence	Mobil Tank Farm 1	Successful	1	1
East Providence	Mobil Tank Farm 2	Insufficient Data	-	2

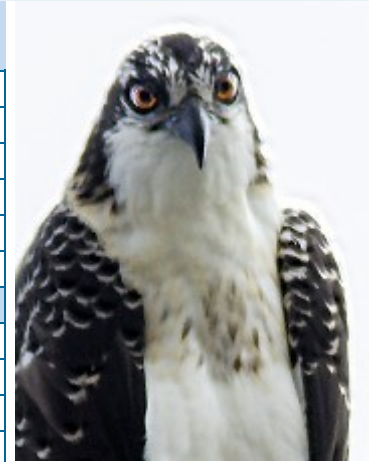


Photo #10: Max Read Field, Pawtucket, July 2017, Rufus Abdullah

Osprey monitors are needed for 2018.

See page 16 for information.



Photo #11: Westerly Police Station, July 2017, Claire Gruneberg

Table #2: 2017 Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity for 2017 – Continued



Photo#12: 100 Acre Cove, 2016, Unknown



Photo #13: Hazard Nest, May 2017, Jess Bishop



Photo #14: Galilee Escape Road, June 2017, David Briggs

TOWN	NEST NAME	STATUS 2017	FLEDGED 2017	FLEDGED 2016
East Providence	Mobil Tank Farm 3	Successful	1	U
East Providence	Mobil Tank Farm 4	Insufficient Data	-	2
East Providence	Omega Pond	Housekeeping	0	1
East Providence	Prospect Ave Fish Co	Insufficient Data	-	2
		TOTAL	15	17
Exeter	Ladd School *	Not Active	0	0
Exeter	Metcalf Marsh	Insufficient Data	-	2
		TOTAL	0	2
Hopkinton	Dow Memorial Field	Successful	2	2
Hopkinton	Hopkinton ACO/DPW	Inactive	0	0
Hopkinton	Narragansett Way N	Insufficient Data	-	-
Hopkinton	Narragansett Way S *	Insufficient Data	-	-
Hopkinton	Potter Hill East	Active	0	1
Hopkinton	Potter Hill West	Housekeeping	0	0
Hopkinton	Potter Hill Wester	Successful	1	3
Hopkinton	Tomaquag	Successful	1	2
Hopkinton	Wood River Golf Course #4	Active	0	2
Hopkinton	Wood River Golf Course #5	Inactive	0	-
		TOTAL	4	10
Jamestown	Beavertail	Successful	1	2
Jamestown	Dutch Island Lighthouse *	Insufficient Data	-	2
Jamestown	Fort Getty Road	Housekeeping	0	-
Jamestown	Fox Hill Farm	Successful	1	1
Jamestown	Jamestown South Pond	Successful	2	2
Jamestown	Lawn Ave. School	Successful	1	2
Jamestown	Marsh Meadows	Housekeeping	3	0
Jamestown	Neale Farm	Successful	1	1
Jamestown	North Bayview Drive *	Inactive	0	0
Jamestown	O'Farrell Farm	Successful	2	3
Jamestown	Palmieri Property *	Inactive	0	2
Jamestown	Petrie Property	Insufficient Data	-	0
Jamestown	Petrie Property 2	Insufficient Data	-	-
		TOTAL	11	15
Lincoln	Valley Falls Pond *	Inactive	0	0
		TOTAL	0	0

Table #2: 2017 Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity for 2017 – Continued

TOWN	NEST NAME	STATUS 2017	FLEDGED 2017	FLEDGED 2016
Little Compton	Goose Wing Beach	Inactive	0	U
Little Compton	Haeffenreffer 1	Active	0	3
Little Compton	Quicksand Pond	Housekeeping	0	-
Little Compton	Round Pond	Inactive	0	0
Little Compton	Watch House Pond	Inactive	0	0
		TOTAL	0	3
Middletown	Coddington Cove	Successful	1	0
		TOTAL	1	0
Narragansett	40 Barnacle Dr.	Active	0	0
Narragansett	267 Sand Hill Cove Road	Successful	3	-
Narragansett	Canonchet Farm	Successful	2	2
Narragansett	Christofaro Park	Successful	2	1
Narragansett	Christofaro Park 2	Inactive	0	0
Narragansett	Galilee Bird Sanctuary	Successful	1	2
Narragansett	Long Cove	Insufficient Data	-	0
Narragansett	Marine Drive *	Inactive	0	-
Narragansett	Narragansett Elem. School	Successful	2	2
Narragansett	Narragansett Sand and Salt	Successful	2	-
Narragansett	Narrow River Mouth	Successful	3	3
Narragansett	Salt Pond Plaza	Insufficient Data	-	2
Narragansett	Sprague Bridge	Successful	1	3
Narragansett	Sprague Park	Successful	1	3
Narragansett	Wastewater Treatment Facility	Successful	1	0
Narragansett	Wastewater Treatment WEST	Successful	1	1
		TOTAL	20	22
Newport	Freebody Park	Successful	1	1
Newport	Gooseberry Beach *	Inactive	0	0
Newport	Gooseneck Cove	Successful	2	1
Newport	Hazard Marsh	Successful	2	2
Newport	Navy Yard N *	Insufficient Data	-	-
Newport	Navy Yard S *	Insufficient Data	-	-
		TOTAL	5	4
North Kingstown	Allen Harbor Marina	Successful	2	0
North Kingstown	Bailey Rd. *	Inactive	0	0
North Kingstown	Mainsail Drive	Active	0	1
North Kingstown	McGinn Park	Inactive	0	0

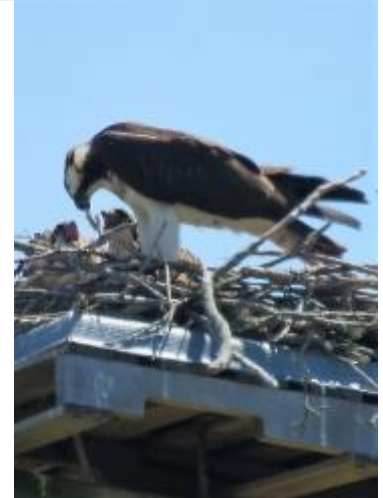


Photo #15 White Rock, Westerly, June 2017, Maura Bonafede



Photo #16: Brickyard Pond, March 2017, Jim O'Neil

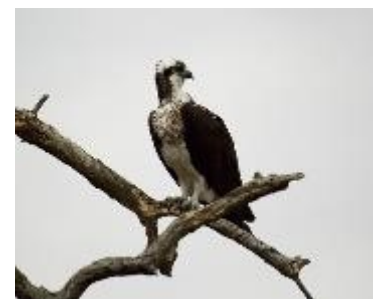


Photo #17: Audubon Education Center in Bristol, April 2016, George Cunha

Table #2: 2017 Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity for 2017 – Continued

* Historic Nests for 2018	TOWN	NEST NAME	STATUS 2017	FLEDGED 2017	FLEDGED 2016	
The following nests have been inactive or have not provided consistent data in the past. They will no longer be assigned to a monitor unless circumstances change.	North Kingstown	North Kingstown Dog Pound	Successful	2	-	
	North Kingstown	North Kingstown High School North	Successful	2	1	
	North Kingstown	North Kingstown High School South	Successful	1	2	
	North Kingstown	Northrup Road	Housekeeping	0	2	
	North Kingstown	Old Baptist Rd	Active	0	-	
	North Kingstown	Paul Masse Dealership	Successful	2	1	
	North Kingstown	Pendar Rd.	Inactive	0	3	
	North Kingstown	Rabbit Island, Wickford *	Inactive	0	0	
	North Kingstown	Ryan Park	Housekeeping	0	2	
	North Kingstown	Salt Water Farms, Davisville	Successful	2	1	
	North Kingstown	Snuff Mill Rd. & Rt. 1A	Inactive	0	-	
	North Kingstown	Wilson Park NK	Successful	3	3	
			TOTAL		14	16
Barrington:	Pawtucket	Max Read Field	Successful	2	1	
• Brickyard Pond 2			TOTAL	2	1	
• Cranesbill						
Bristol:						
• Silver Creek Thomas Park	Point Judith	BI Ferry Parking Lot *	Not Active	0	1	
Bristol:			TOTAL	0	1	
• Burdickville Westest						
• Shumankunuc Road						
Coventry:						
• Waterman Hill						
East Greenwich:						
• Spink's Nest Beach						
East Providence:						
• Bold Point 2						
Exeter:						
• Ladd School						
Hopkinton:						
• Narraganset Way S.	Portsmouth	Almy Thurston	Inactive	0	0	
Jamestown:	Portsmouth	Bay Point Inn/DPW Cell Tower	Housekeeping	0	0	
• Dutch Island Lighthouse	Portsmouth	Bristol Harbor Rock	Successful	2	3	
• North Bayview Drive	Portsmouth	Carr Point Left Field *	Inactive	0	0	
• Palmieri Property	Portsmouth	Carr Point Right Field	Successful	2	3	
Lincoln:	Portsmouth	Hog Island	Successful	3	2	
• Valley Falls Pond	Portsmouth	Jepson Road Substation	Housekeeping	0	2	
Narragansett:	Portsmouth	Jepson Road Substation 2	Active	0	-	
• Marine Drive	Portsmouth	Melville	Successful	2	3	
Newport:	Portsmouth	Patience Island Dock	Inactive	0	-	
• Gooseberry Beach	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Cement Company	Successful	1	2	
North Kingstown:	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Fire Department	Successful	3	2	
• Bailey Road	Portsmouth	Town Pond 1	Successful	2	3	
• Rabbit Island	Portsmouth	Town Pond 2	Successful	2	2	
• Calf Pasture	Portsmouth	Town Pond 3	Active	0	0	
Point Judith:			TOTAL	17	22	
• Block Island Ferry Parking						
Portsmouth:						
• Carr Point Left field						
Providence:	Providence	5 Shipyard Street	Successful	1	-	
• Port of Providence	Providence	Autopart International Broad Street	Successful	1	-	
• Roger Williams Park	Providence	Johnson & Wales Greenway*	Inactive	0	0	
Prudence Island:	Providence	Port of Providence *	Inactive	0	3	
• Sheep's Pen Cove	Providence	Roger Williams Park *	Inactive	0	0	
			TOTAL	2	3	

Table #2: 2017 Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity for 2017 – Continued

TOWN	NEST NAME	STATUS 2017	FLEDGED 2017	FLEDGED 2016
Prudence Island	Barrington Yacht Club PI	Insufficient Data	-	2
Prudence Island	Calf Pasture (PI) *	Insufficient Data	-	0
Prudence Island	Coggeshell Cove PI	Insufficient Data	-	2
Prudence Island	Gull Point PI	Successful	1	1
Prudence Island	Nags Creek N	Active	0	1
Prudence Island	Nags Creek S	Successful	2	0
Prudence Island	Potter's Cove Prudence Isle	Successful	2	1
Prudence Island	Sheep's Pen Cove Prudence Isle *	Inactive	0	0
		TOTAL	5	7
Richmond	Beaver River/Rt. 138	Active	0	1
Richmond	Buttonwoods Rd.	Successful	2	1
Richmond	RPE Waste Services Cell Tower	Successful	2	2
Richmond	Rt. 95 /Old Switch Rd.	Successful	1	3
		TOTAL	5	7
Scituate	Clayville	Insufficient Data	-	-
		TOTAL	-	0
South Kingstown	130 Sand Hill Cove *	Inactive	0	0
South Kingstown	86 Harbor Island Drive	Successful	2	2
South Kingstown	Billington Cove	Successful	2	2
South Kingstown	Broad Rock Athletic Field *	Inactive	0	0
South Kingstown	Buttonwood Pt	Insufficient Data	-	2
South Kingstown	Factory Pond	Successful	3	3
South Kingstown	Great Swamp IMP #1 (Water)	Housekeeping	0	0
South Kingstown	Great Swamp 1A	Active	0	1
South Kingstown	Great Swamp 1B	Successful	1	1
South Kingstown	Great Swamp IMP #2 (Water)	Active	0	1
South Kingstown	Great Swamp IMP #3 (Water)	Housekeeping	0	2
South Kingstown	Great Swamp IMP #4 (Water)	Active	0	0
South Kingstown	Great Swamp IMP #5 (South)	Active	0	3
South Kingstown	Great Swamp IMP #6 (South)	Active	0	0
South Kingstown	Great Swamp IMP #7	Inactive	0	0
South Kingstown	Great Swamp IMP #8 *	Inactive	0	0
South Kingstown	Great Swamp Range*	Inactive	0	0
South Kingstown	Great Swamp Substation	Successful	1	1
South Kingstown	Jerusalem Lab	Successful	2	3
South Kingstown	Narrow River Gooseberry Isl.	Insufficient Data	-	-
South Kingstown	Old Mountain Field	Successful	2	3

*Historic Nests for 2018 Continued From Page 10

South Kingstown:

- 130 Sand Hill Cove Road
- Broad Rock Athletic Field
- Great Swamp IMP #8
- Great Swamp Range

Tiverton:

- Tiverton Landfill

Warren:

- Brown Street



Photo #18: Marsh Meadows, April 2017, David & Fran Bergeron



Photo #19: Audubon Education Center, 2017, Jim O'Neill

Table #2: 2017 Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity for 2017 – Continued



Photo #20: Ryan Park, March 2017, Elliot Waterman



Photo #21: Bucklin Hill, 2017, Linda Fish



Photo #22: Prudence Isle, April 2017, Maureen Dewire

TOWN	NEST NAME	STATUS 2017	FLEDGED 2017	FLEDGED 2016
South Kingstown	Pettaquamscutt Cove West	Insufficient Data	-	3
South Kingstown	Point Judith Sunnybrook Farm	Insufficient Data	-	0
South Kingstown	Point Judith Smelt Pond Brook	Successful	2	-
South Kingstown	Pond St.	Successful	3	3
South Kingstown	Potter Cove, SK	Insufficient Data	-	-
South Kingstown	Potter's Pond	Successful	2	1
South Kingstown	Potter's Pond East	Successful	2	0
South Kingstown	Prospect Road	Insufficient Data	-	2
South Kingstown	Ram Pt. Marina	Successful	2	2
South Kingstown	Rose Hill	Active	0	1
South Kingstown	Shannock Rd	Inactive	0	0
South Kingstown	South County Hospital	Housekeeping	0	1
South Kingstown	Succotash Water Tower	Successful	1	1
South Kingstown	Theatre by the Sea	Successful	1	1
South Kingstown	Trustom Pond Osprey Point	Successful	3	2
South Kingstown	Trustom Pond Otter Point	Housekeeping	2	0
South Kingstown	Turner Cove 1	Inactive	0	0
South Kingstown	Turner Cove 2	Successful	1	0
		TOTAL	32	41
Tiverton	Fogland Marsh	Inactive	0	-
Tiverton	Ruecker Wildlife Refuge	Housekeeping	0	0
Tiverton	Tiverton Land Fill *	Inactive	0	2
		TOTAL	0	2
Warren	47 Serpentine Road	Successful	2	2
Warren	Alcatraz Nest	Insufficient Data	-	-
Warren	Belcher Cove Middle	Successful	2	2
Warren	Belcher Cove N	Successful	2	2
Warren	Brown St. *	Inactive	0	0
Warren	Cell Tower Near FedEx	Housekeeping	0	0
Warren	Charley's Platform	Housekeeping	0	-
Warren	Fatima High School	Insufficient Data	-	1
Warren	First Student Nest	Successful	2	2
Warren	Jacob's Point	Successful	3	2
Warren	Jamiel's Park Light Tower	Successful	1	0
Warren	Kickemuit Middle School	Housekeeping	2	0
Warren	Market St. Land Nest	Insufficient Data	-	2
Warren	Palmer River Tree Nest	Successful	3	1
Warren	Touisset Wildlife Refuge	Inactive	0	-

Table 2: 2017 Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity for 2017 – Continued

TOWN	NEST NAME	STATUS 2017	FLEDGE 2017	FLEDGED 2016
Warren	Veteran's Field Nest	Successful	3	4
Warren	Warren River Green Marker II	Successful	2	3
Warren	Wick's Nursery *	Insufficient Data	0	-
Warren	Wujick Farm Nest	Successful	2	3
		TOTAL	21	23
Warwick	123 Ocean State Drive	Successful	4	3
Warwick	CCRI	Successful	1	0
Warwick	Dogpatch Beach	Inactive	0	0
Warwick	Mickey Stevens	Insufficient Data	-	2
Warwick	Pawtuxet River Electronics Drive	Insufficient Data	-	-
Warwick	Rocky Hill School	Inactive	0	3
Warwick	Sleepy Hollow Farm	Active	0	0
Warwick	Washington Trust Bank	Inactive	0	0
		TOTAL	5	8
West Greenwich	American Welding	Housekeeping	0	0
West Greenwich	Big River Mgt. Area	Inactive	0	0
West Greenwich	Super 8 Motel	Housekeeping	0	0
		TOTAL	0	0
West Kingstown	Liberty Lane	Inactive	0	0
		TOTAL	0	0
West Warwick	Bucci Insurance	Successful	2	2
West Warwick	West Warwick Civic Center	Inactive	0	0
		TOTAL	2	2
Westerly	Breen Road Island	Successful	1	2
Westerly	Cove Road Winnapaug	Insufficient Data	-	-
Westerly	Maschaug Pond	Inactive	0	0
Westerly	Misquamicut West	Successful	2	2
Westerly	Napatree Pt. W	Insufficient Data	-	-
Westerly	Palmer River Tree Nest	Successful	3	1
Westerly	Pee Wee Football	Inactive	0	0
Westerly	Rt. 78 & Rt. 91	Active	0	2



Photo #23: Unknown, 2017



Photo #24: White Rock, Westerly, July 2017, Maura Bonafede

Table #2: 2017 Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity for 2017 – Continued

TOWN	NEST NAME	STATUS 2017	FLEDGE 2017	FLEDGED 2016
Westerly	Tom Harvey Rd.	Inactive	0	2
Westerly	Westerly Police	Successful	2	0
Westerly	White Rock Rd.	Successful	2	0
Westerly	Winnapaug	Housekeeping	0	2
Westerly	Winnapaug Breach Dr.	Housekeeping	0	0
		TOTAL	8	12
Wickford	Wickford Beacon #1	Successful	2	-
		TOTAL	2	-



Table #2: 2017 Osprey Nesting Activity in Rhode Island

Osprey Nest Pole Repair

Three stalwart supporters of the Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring program are shown at right taking a break while installing a replacement pole and platform in Warren. Pictured from left are Finn Brudevold, Mike Gerhardt and Butch Lombardi.



Photo #25: Marnoch Drive, April 2017.

From time to time poles and platforms need to be repaired or installed. If you might be willing to help, please contact Jon at jscoones@asri.org.

Osprey Nesting Activity in Seekonk & Swansea Massachusetts for 2017

TOWN (MASS.)	NEST NAME	STATUS 2017	FLEDGED 2017	FLEDGED 2016
Seekonk	Mink Road	Successful	3	3
Seekonk	Leavitt/Runnin Road	Housekeeping	0	-
Swansea	Barneyville Road	Successful	1	1
Swansea	George St. / Nockum Hill	Successful	3	3
Swansea	Johannis North Tree Nest	Insufficient Data	-	-
Swansea	Palmer River (Silveria)	Successful	2	3
Swansea	Swansea Bachelor Pad	Successful	2	1
Swansea	Swansea Golf Club N	Successful	2	1
Swansea	Swansea Golf Club S	Successful	2	2
Swansea	Merriman's Pond #2	Successful	1	1 (2015)
Swansea	Merriman's Pond #3	Successful	2	0 (2015)
		TOTAL	18	15

Table #3: 2017 Osprey Nesting Activity in Massachusetts

Over the Border

Although the program is titled the “Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring Program” (RIOMP), historically a few nests located over the border in Massachusetts have been included in the survey.

The number of nests monitored in Massachusetts have increased in recent years, thereby skewing the population statistics for Rhode Island. To correct this the results for each state have been recorded separately.

Table #3 to the left displays the results posted by RIOMP monitors for those nests located in Massachusetts.

Rhode Island Osprey Report

A Close Look at Rhode Island's Ospreys

Scott Ruhren, Director of Conservation, Audubon Society of RI

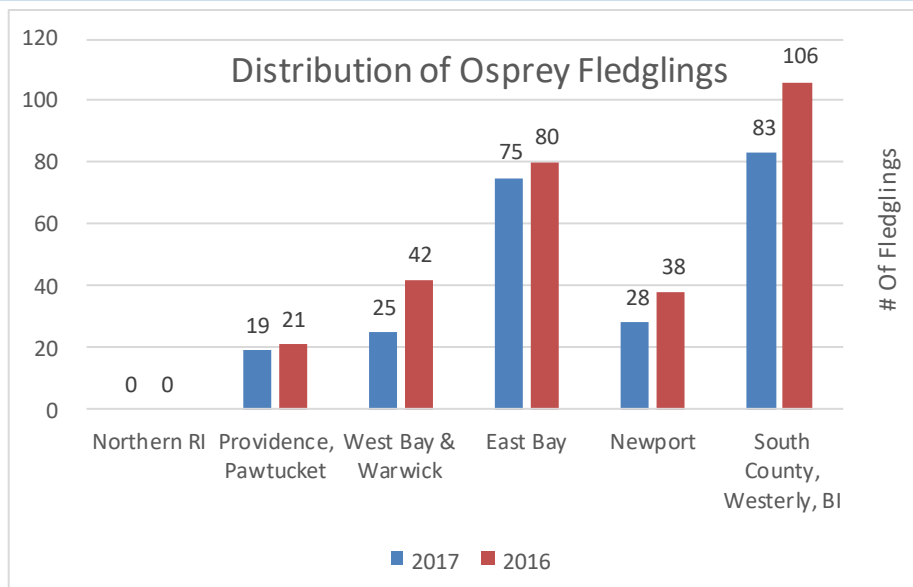
Ospreys have recovered so well in Rhode Island that many birders consider sightings ho-hum. Such is the price of becoming common. Still, many of us never tire of watching Ospreys hunt, build massive nests in some improbable places, and rear their offspring.

In Audubon's long-running monitoring program, the over-arching goal is determining "nest success." This can be tricky. Some nests are consistent performers while others are rarely, if ever, occupied. I have watched nest platforms at several spots over the years. One nest was unoccupied for over ten years. Then one spring I was surprised to see a pair build a nest and rear two young. For two years, the nest was active. Now it is vacant again and the platform is nearly bare above a saltmarsh. Is it the location? Is the surrounding vegetation too high? Did one or both tenants die?

We are at a point with the program where we have decades of reliable data. Now we are striving to separate anecdotes from science, hyperbole from cool, calm reasoning. If only we could come up with cause-and-effect conclusions. More often we look for correlations. For example, does unusual nest site selection relate to Osprey overcrowding? Could nest success and failure be influenced by weather?

Certainly, some Osprey monitors are disappointed by "no results" for their nests, but negative data can reveal something as well. The absence of data also triggers questions. What has changed in the past twenty years? What do active nests share, if anything? Why are nests abandoned or vacant for years? Is conventional wisdom about *the ideal nest location* accurate?

As we mine the data and look for trends, we hope to learn more about Ospreys, a Rhode Island success story with much yet to reveal.



Distribution of Osprey Fledglings

The graph to the left shows the distribution of Osprey fledglings across six regions of Rhode Island in 2016 and 2017. As the data illustrates, every region except Northern Rhode Island experienced a decline in fledglings from 2016 to 2017.

In terms of percentage decreases by region, the **West Bay & Warwick** region experienced a 40% decrease while the **Newport** region saw a 26% decrease and the **South County** region had a 22% decrease.

Graph #6: Distribution of Osprey Fledglings by Region of Rhode Island

These results indicate that the decline of fledglings was probably not related to a specific geographic factor. As referenced in the article "Weather and Osprey Fledgling Production" on page four, Audubon is looking into possible weather-related causes of the decline. When we have more evidence it will be shared on the program's website at www.riosprey.info.

Rhode Island Osprey Report

Monitor Osprey Nests With Audubon!



Photo #26: Ocean State Oil, Quonset, June 2017, Gary Carlson

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 \$41.50 with \$20 supporting environmental education programs and \$21.50 for production of the plates.



Visit our website at www.asri.org/services to learn more!

Help protect Rhode Island's natural resources:

Volunteer with Audubon's RI Osprey Monitoring Program!

Collect important information regarding the health of Rhode Island's Osprey population, as well as the state's ponds, rivers and bays. Create your own weekly schedule. We ask that you observe your assigned nest(s) once a week from April through August. (Allowances are made for vacations and such!) If this sounds interesting, you are welcome to attend one of our training sessions (held in the spring) and join the fun.

Please note that new monitors are required to attend one training session.

To RSVP for one of the training sessions contact Jon Scoones at: jscoones@asri.org.



**Audubon Society
of Rhode Island**

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Connecting People
with Nature

About Audubon Society of Rhode Island

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island is an independent not-for-profit environmental organization dedicated to protecting birds, wildlife, and their habitats through environmental education, advocacy, and land conservation. The state's first environmental organization, the Society 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 2015 Audubon staff taught approximately 20,000 people across the region. Audubon Society of Rhode Island is not affiliated with National Audubon.