



RI OSPREY REPORT

Volume 4 · 2013



The Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring Project by Eric Walsh



Photo by Jack Kelly

Welcome to The Audubon Society of Rhode Island’s annual Osprey report! Initiated by the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) in 1977, the Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring Project records the breeding success of Ospreys and documents the population’s recovery from the effects of the pesticide DDT. With the cooperation of RIDEM, Audubon assumed management of the project in 2010.

2013 Project Highlights

In 2013, Osprey monitors reported 168 successfully fledged young slightly down from 2012. In our region, studies have estimated that the breeding rate needed to balance adult mortality is 0.8-1.0 fledged young per active nest. Rhode Island had 1.2 fledged young per active nest in 2013, slightly down from 1.4 in 2012, still indicating that population growth is likely to continue. We added 14 new nest sites for a total 209 sites monitored, which was the greatest number of sites we have moni-

tored.

You may notice the graphs include nesting results from 1977 and the number of Active nests in 1978 has been changed to 14 from the 12 listed in previous newsletters. These changes are a result of a review of the original nesting reports, which was part of my research on the Osprey population trends in RI. The complete monitoring results can be seen on page 2.

This year we kicked off the season with the second annual Osprey monitoring orientation. This is always an exciting event, because it marks the anticipated return of Ospreys and Spring.

The Osprey Monitoring Project has a website www.riosprey.info with all the information on the program, including the monitoring training manual, Google Earth map with nest sites, and the online data submission tool. In 2014, the website will include a convenient form for reporting new nest sites.

The Rhode Island Osprey monitoring program would not be possible without the volunteer monitors who provide detailed reports on each nest. We are very thankful to them for their dedication to Osprey conservation.

Did You Know?

- OSPREYS ARE FOUND ON EVERY CONTINENT EXCEPT ANTARCTICA
- OSPREYS LIVE ON AVERAGE 30 YEARS IN THE WILD
- OSPREYS HAVE A 6' WING SPAN

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2013 Monitoring Results by Eric Walsh

In 2013, over 70 volunteers monitored 209 known nest sites. Of the 138 active nests, 96 produced at least one fledgling. A total of 168 young Ospreys successfully fledged. The RI breeding population produced an average of 1.75 fledglings per successful nest and 1.22 fledglings per active nest.

There were 50 inactive nest sites and 8 “housekeeping” nests. A “housekeeping nest” is a nest with Ospreys present but no observable incubation. Often these nests are built by sub-adult Ospreys.

The town with the greatest number of fledglings (27) was Barrington and Warren had the second greatest number of fledglings (24) recorded within its borders. However, South Kingstown had the greatest number of Active nest sites (17) and produced 20 fledglings.

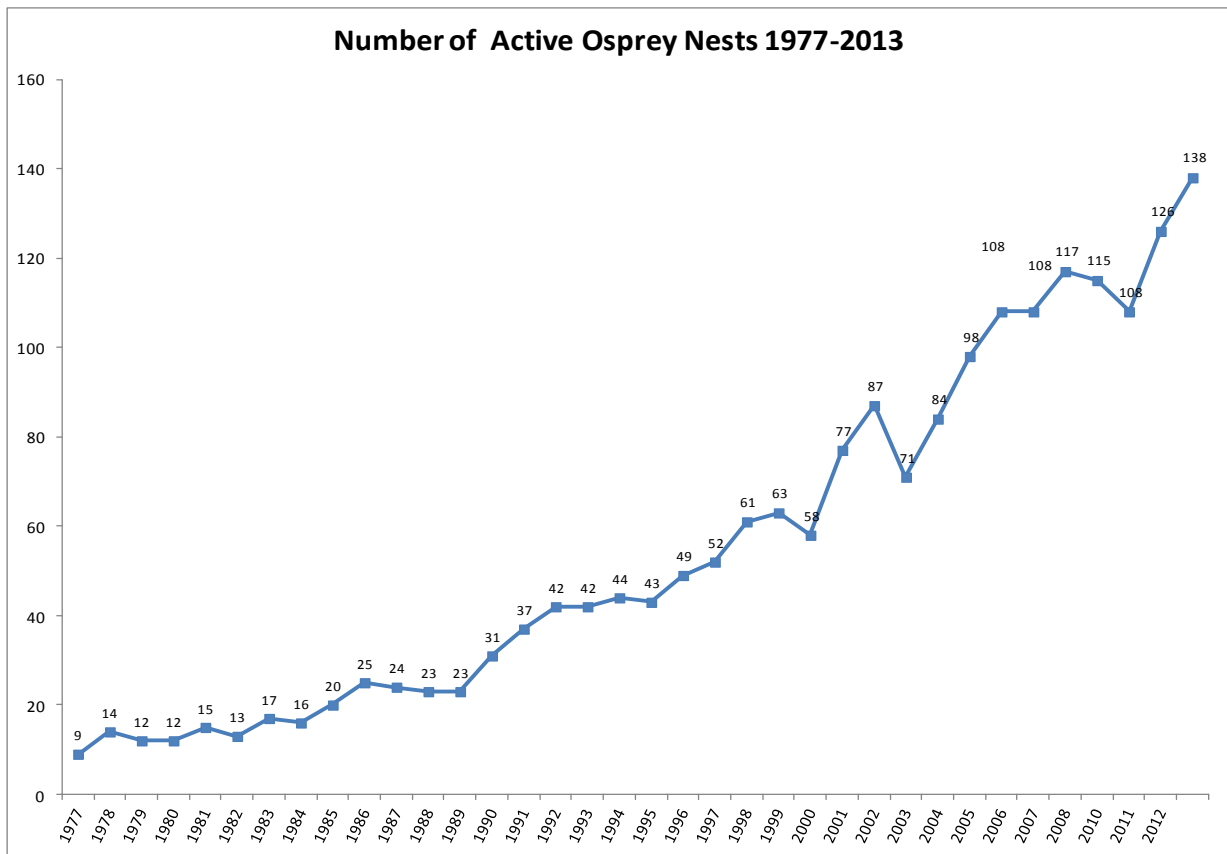


Figure 1. The total number of active osprey nests since the RI Osprey Monitoring Project began.

Photo by Joseph dePaquale



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Photo by Barbara Bucci

Osprey Nesting Results Over Time

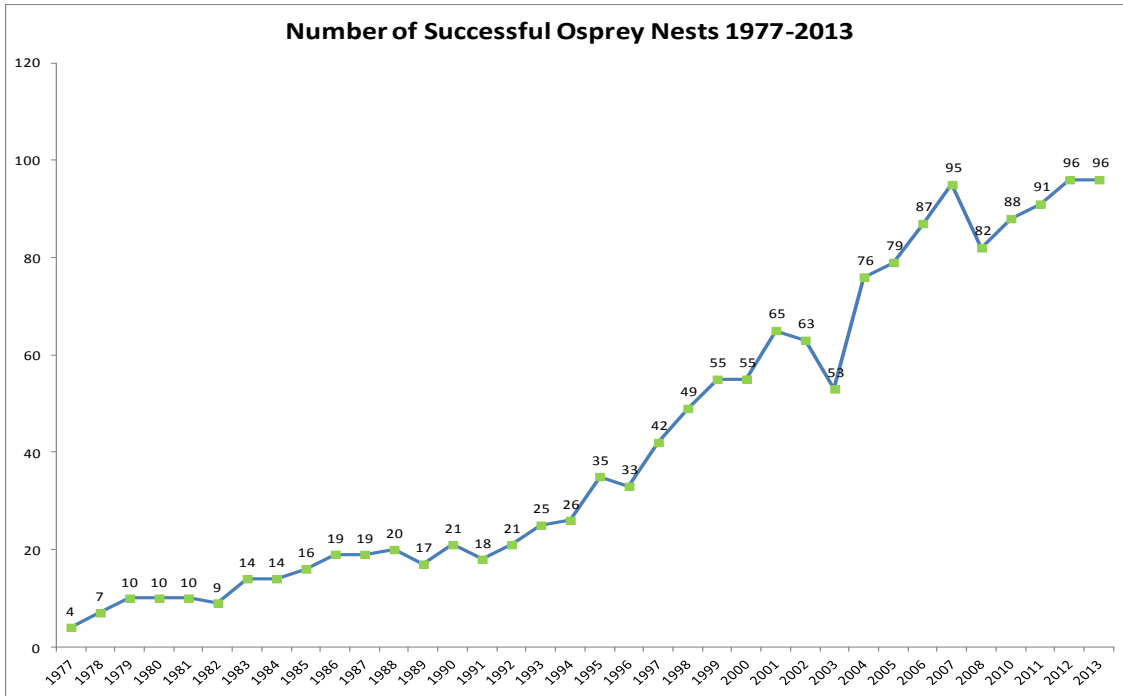


Figure 2. The total number of successful nest sites documented each year since the RI Osprey Monitoring Project began.

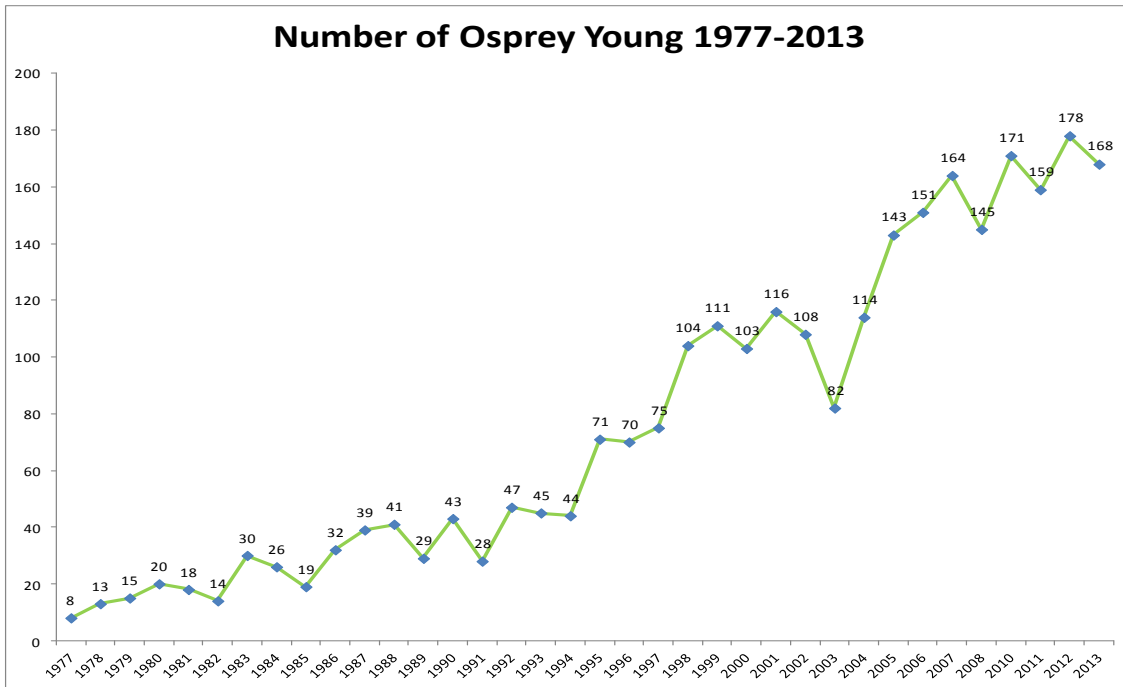


Figure 3. The total number of fledged ospreys documented each year since the RI Osprey Monitoring Project began.

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Rhode Island Osprey Nesting Activity 2013

Nest Sites Observed: 209

Successful Nests: 96

Active Nests (eggs and incubation/includes Successful): 138

Housekeeping Nests (Osprey present no incubation): 8

Inactive Nest Sites: 50

Unknown: 13

Total Fledged Young: 168

Average Number fledged young per active nest: 1.22

Average Number fledged young per successful nest: 1.75

City	NestSiteName	Final	Fledged	
Barrington	100 Acre Cove (Cove Ave)	Active		
	100 Acre Cove (Isl)	Active		
	100 Acre Tongue S	Successful	2	
	Adam's Pt.	NotActive		
	Allins Cove E	NotActive		
	Allins Cove W	Successful	4	
	Barneyville Rd	Successful	1	
	Barrington H.S.	Successful	2	
	Bourne Lane	Housekeeping		
	Brickyard Pond	Successful	2	
	Cranesbill	NotActive		
	George St./Nockum Hill	Successful	2	
	Johannis Farm Midway	Successful	2	
	Johannis Farm N	Successful	3	
	Johannis Farm S	Successful	1	
	Little Mussachuck Creek 1	Successful	3	
	Little Mussachuck Creek 2	NotActive		
	Nagtegaal Nest	Unknown		
	Osamequin	Successful	2	
	Palmer River (Silviera)	Housekeeping		
	Rumstick Pt.	Active		
	Smith's Cove	Successful	3	
	Sowams Tree Nest	Active		
		Total		27
	Block Island	Block Island Power	Successful	3
			Total	3

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City	NestSiteName	Final	Fledged
Bristol	Audubon EEC	NotActive	
	Audubon EEC Tree Nest	NotActive	
	Bristol Transfer Station	Active	
	Mill Cove	Successful	2
	Mill Gut	Successful	2
	Mill Gut Tree Nest	Active	
	Musselbed Shoals Light	Successful	3
	Peter Road Cell Tower	Active	
	Tupelo Street Cell Tower	Active	
	Total		7
Charlestown	Burdickville East	Active	
	Burdickville West	Active	
	Burdickville Westest	NotActive	
	Quonochontaug Pond	Successful	1
	Rt. 2 & Rt. 112	Active	
	Shumankunuc Rd.	NotActive	
	West Pond	Successful	1
	Total		2
Coventry	Waterman Hill	Successful	2
	Total		2
Cranston	Niantic Ave Cell Tower	NotActive	
	Total		
East Greenwich	American Legion Post	Active	
	Uncle Bob's Self Storage	Successful	1
	Total		1
East Providence	Bold Point	Active	
	Bucklin Hill	Successful	3
	Bucklin Hill North	NotActive	
	Bucklin Hill Point	Successful	1

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City	NestSiteName	Final	Fledged
East Providence	Catamore Blvd.	Successful	1
	East Bay Manor	NotActive	
	Hasbro	Successful	2
	Marnoch Drive	Housekeeping	
	Mink Road	Successful	2
	Mobil Tank Farm 1	Successful	3
	Mobil Tank Farm 3	Unknown	
	Omega Pond	NotActive	
	Total		12
Exeter	Metcalf Marsh	NotActive	
	Total		
Hopkinton	Dow Memorial Field	Successful	2
	Hopkinton ACO/DPW	Housekeeping	
	Narragansett Way N	Unknown	
	Narragansett Way S	Unknown	
	Potter Hill East	Unknown	
	Potter Hill West	Unknown	
	Potter Hill Wester	Unknown	
	Tomaquag	Successful	1
	Wood River Golf Course	Successful	1
	Total		4
Jamestown	Beavertail	NotActive	
	Fox Hill Farm	Successful	1
	Jamestown South Pond	Successful	1
	Lawn Ave. School	Active	
	Marsh Meadows	Successful	1
	Neale Farm	NotActive	
	North Bayview Dr.	NotActive	
	O'Farrell Farm	NotActive	
	Palmieri Property	Successful	1
Petrie Property	NotActive		

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City	NestSiteName	Final	Fledged
		Total	4
Lincoln	Valley Falls Pond	NotActive	
		Total	
Little Compton	Goose Wing Beach	NotActive	
	Haeffenreffer 1	Active	
	Round Pond	NotActive	
		Total	
Middletown	Coddington Cove	Successful	1
		Total	1
Narragansett	50 Barnacle Dr.	Active	
	Canonchet Farm	Successful	3
	Christofaro Park	Successful	1
	Galilee Bird Sanctuary	Successful	2
	Galilee Escape Rd.	Successful	1
	Indian Rock Rd.	Successful	1
	Lake Canonchet	Active	
	Long Cove	Active	
	Marine Drive	NotActive	
	Narragansett Elem. School	Successful	2
	Narrow River Mouth	Successful	2
	Pt. Judith Pond Sunnybrook Farm	Unknown	
	Salt Pond Plaza	Active	
	South County Hospital	Successful	2
	Sprague Park	Successful	2
	Wastewater Treatment Facility	Successful	1
		Total	17
Newport	Freebody Park	Successful	2
	Gooseberry Beach	NotActive	
	Hazard Marsh	NotActive	

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City	NestSiteName	Final	Fledged
Newport	Navy Yard N	Successful	1
	Navy Yard S	Successful	1
	Total		
North Kingstown	Bailey Rd.	Successful	1
	Mainsail Drive	Active	
	McGinn Park	Active	
	North Kingstown Dog Pound	Unknown	
	North Kingstown High School North	Unknown	
	North Kingstown High School South	Unknown	
	Northrup Road	Successful	2
	Old Baptist Rd	Successful	1
	Pendar Rd.	Housekeeping	
	Quonset - Allen's Harbor	Active	
	Rabbit Island	NotActive	
	Ryan Park	Active	
	Snuff Mill Rd. & Rt. 1A	Successful	1
Total			5
Portsmouth	Bay Point Inn/DPW Cell Tower	NotActive	
	Bristol Harbor Rock	Successful	1
	Carr Point Left Field	Active	
	Carr Point Right Field	NotActive	
	Hog Island	NotActive	
	Jepson Rd. Substation	Successful	3
	Melville	Active	
	Portsmouth Fire Department	Successful	2
	Town Pond 1	NotActive	
	Town Pond 2	Active	
	Town Pond 3	NotActive	
Total			6
Providence	Port of Providence	Successful	1
	Roger Williams Park	NotActive	

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City	NestSiteName	Final	Fledged
		Total	1
Prudence Island	Coggeshell Cove	Successful	2
	Gull Point	Active	
	Nags Creek N	NotActive	
	Nags Creek S	Successful	3
	Potter Cove	Successful	2
	Sheep Pen Cove	NotActive	
	Total		7
Richmond	Beaver River/Rt. 138	Successful	2
	Buttonwoods Rd.	NotActive	
	RPE Waste Services Cell Tower	Successful	2
	Rt. 95 /Old Switch Rd.	Successful	2
Total		6	
Scituate	Clayville	Active	
Total			
South Kingston	Rose Hill	Active	
Total			
South Kingstown	Billington Cove	Successful	1
	Broad Rock Athletic Fields	NotActive	
	Buttonwood Pt	NotActive	
	Factory Pond	Successful	1
	Great Swamp IMP #1 (Water)	Successful	2
	Great Swamp IMP #2 (Water)	Housekeeping	
	Great Swamp IMP #3 (Water)	Successful	2
	Great Swamp IMP #4 (Water)	Successful	2
	Great Swamp IMP #5 (South)	Successful	1
	Great Swamp IMP #6 (South)	Active	
	Great Swamp IMP #7	NotActive	
Great Swamp IMP #8	NotActive		

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City	NestSiteName	Final	Fledged
South Kingstown	Great Swamp IMP#9	NotActive	
	Great Swamp Range	NotActive	
	Great Swamp Substation	Successful	2
	Jerusalem Lab	Successful	1
	Old Mountain Field	Active	
	Pettaquamscutt Cove West	Unknown	
	Pond St.	Successful	2
	Potter's Pond	Successful	1
	Ram Pt. Marina	NotActive	
	Shannock Rd	Unknown	
	Succotash Water Tower	Active	
	Theatre by the Sea	Active	
	Trustom Pond Osprey Point	Successful	2
	Trustom Pond Otter Point	Successful	1
	Turner Cove 1	NotActive	
	Turner Cove 2	Successful	2
	Total		20
Swansea	Merriman's Pond #3	Housekeeping	
	Merriman's Pond 2	Successful	1
		Total	
Tiverton	Fogland Marsh	NotActive	
	Ruecker Refuge	Active	
	Tiverton Land Fill	Successful	3
		Total	
Warren	Belcher Cove Middle	Successful	2
	Belcher Cove N	Successful	2
	Brown St.	NotActive	
	Cell Tower Near FedEx	Active	
	Charley's Platform	NotActive	
	Fatima High School	Successful	2
	First Student Nest	Successful	2

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City	NestSiteName	Final	Fledged
Warren	Jacob's Point	Successful	2
	Kickemuit Middle School	Successful	2
	Market St. Land Nest	Successful	2
	Palmer River Tree Nest	Successful	1
	Siembab Nest	Successful	3
	Swansea Golf Club N	Successful	2
	Swansea Golf Club S	Successful	1
	Veteran's Field Nest	Successful	1
	Wujick Farm Nest	Successful	2
	Total		24
Warwick	CCRI	Successful	1
	Mickey Stevens	Successful	1
	Pawtuxet River-Electronics Drive	Active	
	Rocky Hill School	Successful	1
	Sleepy Hollow Farm	Active	
	Washington Trust Bank	NotActive	
	Total		3
West Greenwich	Big River Mgt. Area	NotActive	
	Total		
West Warwick	Bucci Insurance	Successful	2
	Total		2
Westerly	Avondale	Active	
	Breen Road Island	Active	
	Maschaug Pond	NotActive	
	Misquamicut West	Successful	2
	Napatree Pt. W	Successful	2
	Pee Wee Football	Successful	1
	Rt. 78 & Rt. 91	NotActive	
	Tom Harvey Rd.	Active	
Westerly Police	Active		

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City	NestSiteName	Final	Fledged
Westerly	White Rock Rd.	Housekeeping	
	Winnapaug	Successful	1
	Winnapaug Breach Dr.	NotActive	
		Total	6
		Total	168

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Order an Osprey License Plate and Support Environmental Conservation through Education

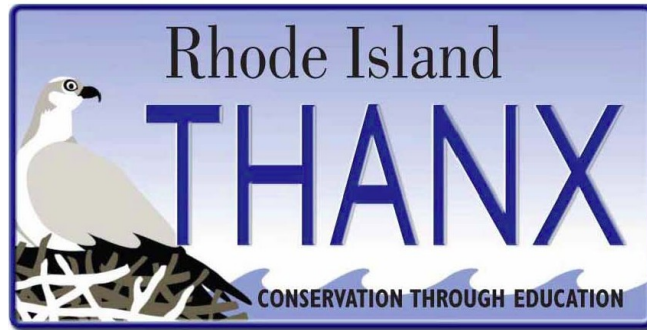


Plate Fee is \$41.50*

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

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

Visit www.asri.org and click on the Osprey plate for your form to order an Osprey plate.

GET INVOLVED :

Support the Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring Project!

Audubon needs your help to continue this important program.

- Volunteer to monitor an Osprey nest: Commit to observe one or more nests every two weeks from April through July. Monitors are especially needed in southern RI. Contact Jon Scoones to find a nest that needs a monitor: jlewis@asri.org or 401-949-5454 x3044.
- Donate supplies: Spotting scopes, binoculars, and GPS units are all very much needed to improve monitoring. Powerful computers that can efficiently run GIS software may also be needed; contact July Lewis for details.
- Become a member: Your tax deductible membership dollars help support not only the Osprey program, but education, conservation and advocacy programs across the state. A membership form is on the back page of this publication, or you can go to www.asri.org to join or donate online.

Rhode Island Osprey Monitoring Website

All monitoring forms, information, instructions, maps and updates can be found at: www.riosprey.info



AUDUBON SOCIETY OF
RHODE ISLAND
12 Sanderson Rd.
Smithfield, RI 02917

www.asri.org
Phone: 401-949-5454
E-mail: jlewis@asri.org

Connecting People with
Nature

The Audubon Society of Rhode Island was founded in 1897. Today, with 17,000 members and supporters, the Audubon Society of Rhode Island is dedicated to education, land conservation and advocacy. Audubon independently protects or owns almost 9,500 acres of woodlands and coastal property embracing diverse natural habitats. More than 33,000 students from area schools participate annually in our educational programs. A voice in statewide ecological issues, the Society actively fulfills its environmental stewardship through preservation and protection of Rhode Island's natural heritage.

Audubon is a donor-supported organization. Everything we do is made possible by the generosity of donors like you. If you value programs such as Osprey monitoring, the conservation of wildlife habitat, good environmental policy, and school programs that teach kids about the amazing natural world around them, then please join us and become a member today.

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