



# AMOY Productivity and Banding at Monomoy NWR



## Sponsors





## Range of the American Oystercatcher in the United States



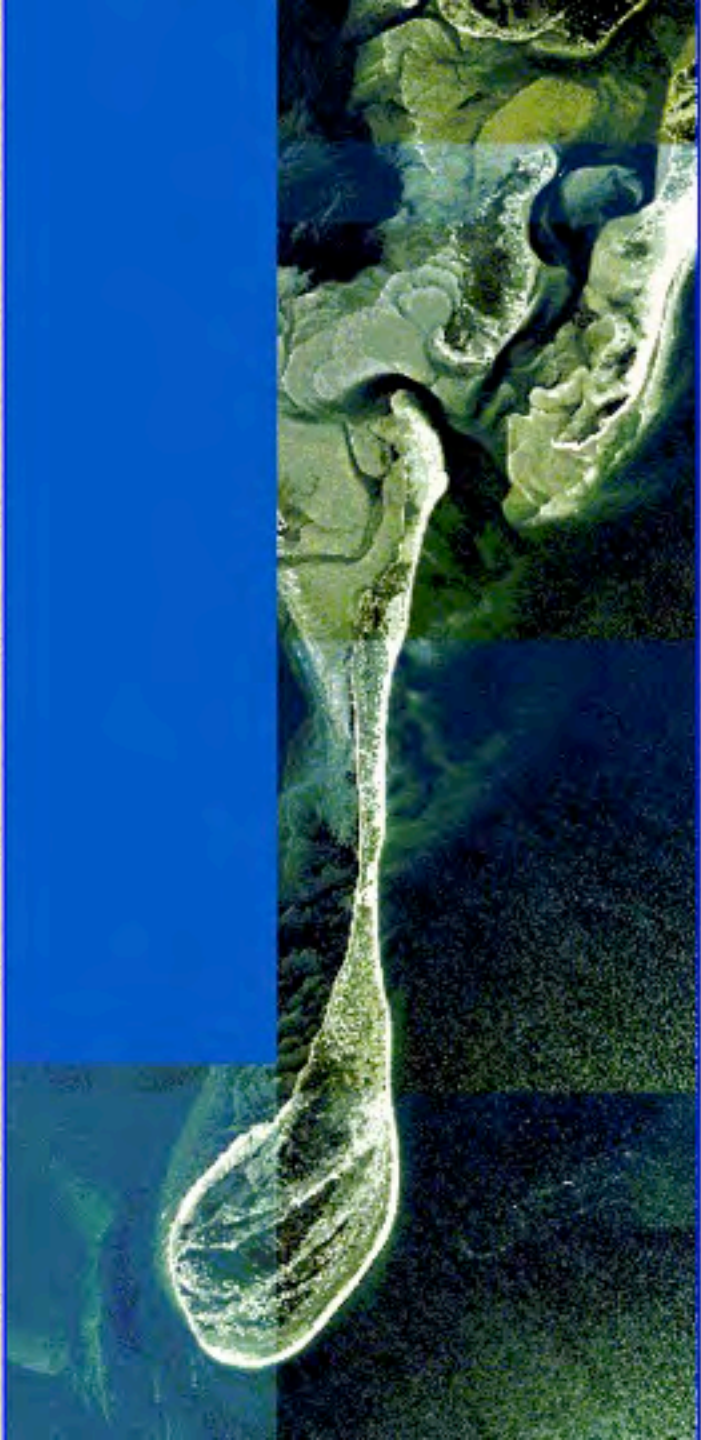
In 2003 we initiated the first AMOY study in the Northeast since the early 1980s

Recent evidence of population decline prompted monitoring and research efforts in the Southern and mid-Atlantic states

-  Summer Range
-  Year-round Range



Monomoy  
National Wildlife Refuge







# Project Goals

- **Determine current productivity and causes of nesting failure for American Oystercatchers nesting on Monomoy NWR**
- **Initiate a six-month radio telemetry project and contribute to rangewide Oystercatcher banding efforts to determine conservation needs and migration and dispersal patterns.**



## North Monomoy

- 12 Nesting Pairs
- 13 Re-nests
- 1 Chick Fledged





## South Monomoy

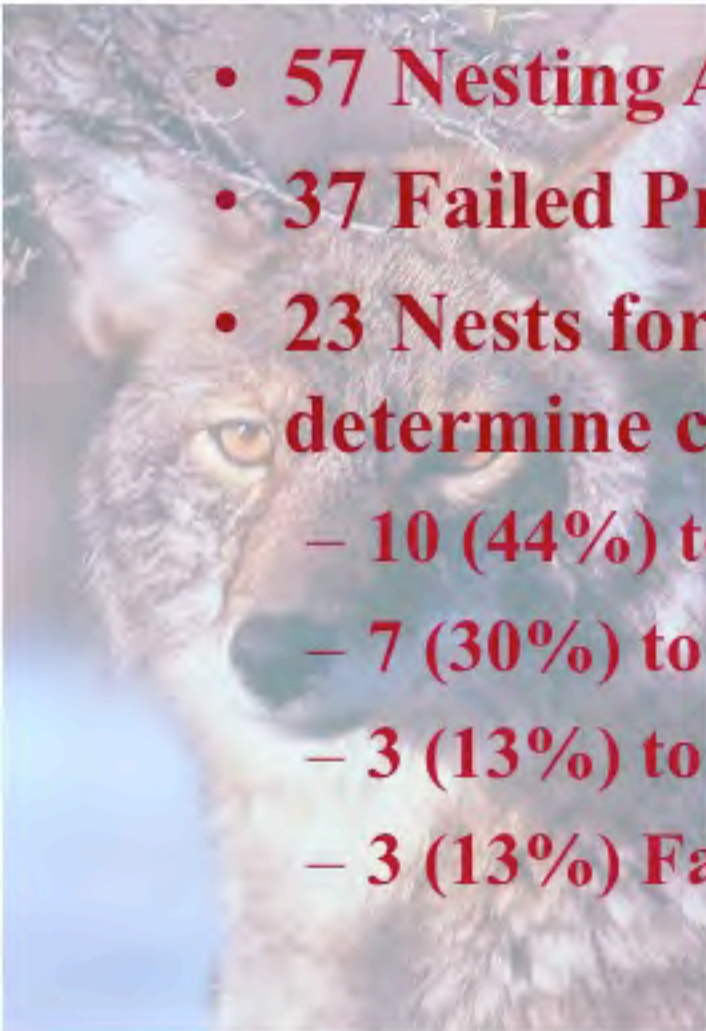
- 17 Nesting Pairs
- 11 Re-nests
- 6 Chicks Fledged

## Minimoy

- 4 Nesting Pairs
- No known re-nests
- 5 Chicks Fledged

# Reasons for Nest Failure

- **57 Nesting Attempts**
- **37 Failed Prior to Hatching**
- **23 Nests for which we were able to determine cause of failure**
  - **10 (44%) to Coyotes**
  - **7 (30%) to Storm Events**
  - **3 (13%) to Gulls**
  - **3 (13%) Failed to Hatch**



# Chick Mortality



- 57 Nesting Attempts
- 20 Successful attempts – 41 chicks hatched
- 12 Chicks survived to fledging from 10 nests
- Very difficult to determine causes of chick mortality
  - Coyotes killed at least three chicks
  - GBBG observed killing one chick near fledging, and Gull predation strongly suspected in many other cases.
  - Starvation was a factor in at least one death and one chick presumed dead of complications from a broken wing.

# Summary of 2003 AMOY Productivity

- **33 Nesting Pairs**
- **1.17 Eggs Hatched per Pair**
- **0.36 Chicks Fledged per Pair**
- **12 Chicks Fledged from Study Area**

# AMOY Banding!

- **16 birds banded - 9 adults and 7 chicks**
- **All birds banded with Monomoy site identifier and individual color combo**
- **Five of the adults and all seven chicks also received radio transmitters**
- **Radios designed to last at least 6 months and fall off after 1 year**



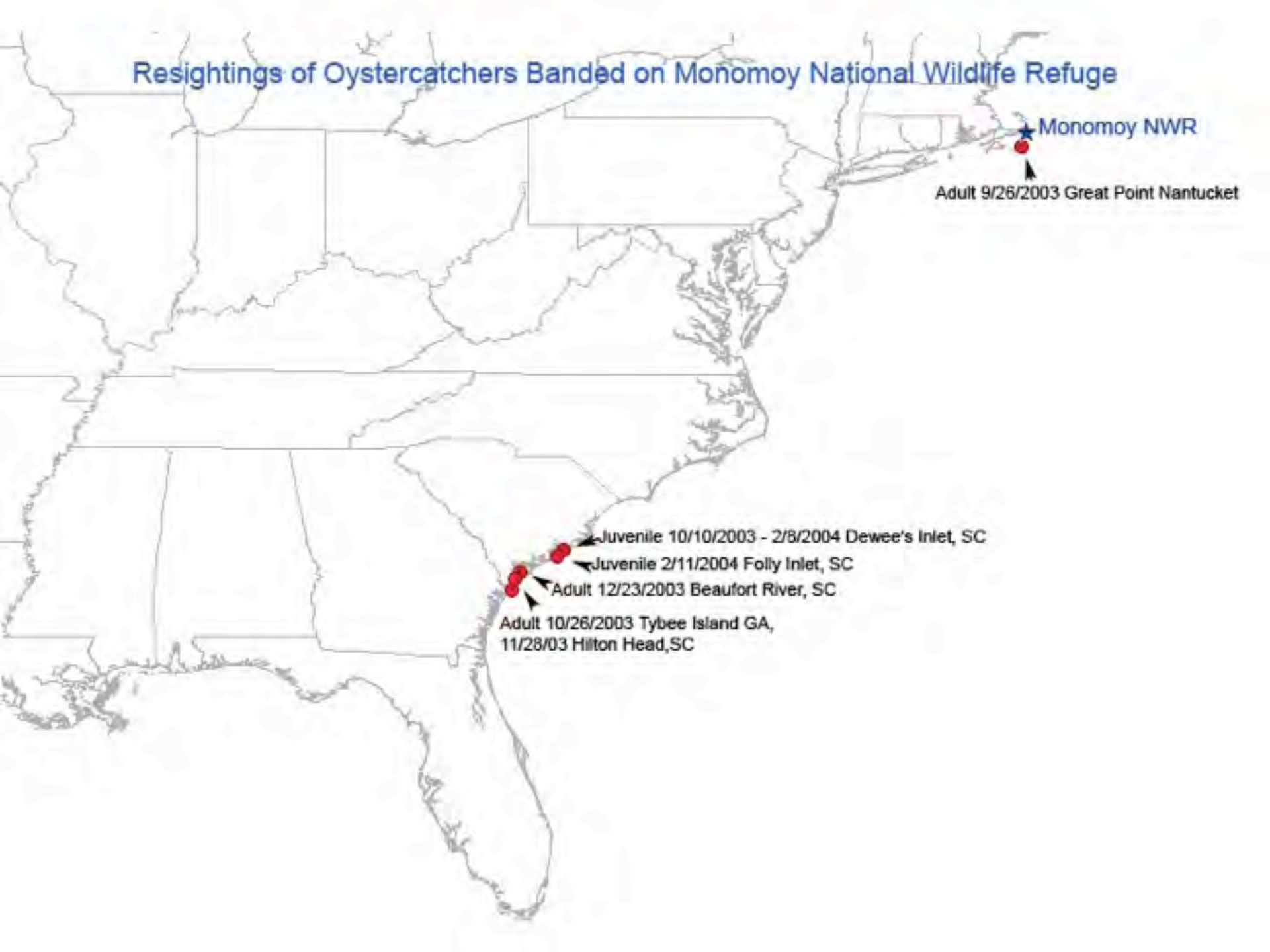








# Resightings of Oystercatchers Banded on Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge



Monomoy NWR  
Adult 9/26/2003 Great Point Nantucket

Juvenile 10/10/2003 - 2/8/2004 Dewee's Inlet, SC  
Juvenile 2/11/2004 Folly Inlet, SC  
Adult 12/23/2003 Beaufort River, SC  
Adult 10/26/2003 Tybee Island GA,  
11/28/03 Hilton Head, SC

- **The high rate of Nest and Chick loss is a serious problem for Oystercatchers on Monomoy**
- **Coyotes and Gulls are responsible for the majority of nest failures and probably most of the chick loss that occurs at Monomoy**
- **The predator management strategy on South Monomoy appears to result in higher productivity**
- **Banding and radio telemetry efforts were successful – 16 Banded, 12 with Radios**
- **Five birds re-sighted so far – All wintering birds were found in South Carolina or Georgia**

