



South Carolina American Oystercatchers



Felicia Sanders
South Carolina Department of
Natural Resources



Nest Protection

Location	2003 Pairs	Shell Rakes	Beach/Shell Island Protected	Beach Not Protected
AIWW McClellanville-Isle of Palms ¹	61	61		
AIWW Isle Palms-Charleston	9	9		
Beaufort River	16	16		
Bird Key	5		5	
Broad River	16	16		
Bulls Bay NE ¹	1	1		
Bulls Bay SW ¹	9	1		
Cape and Lighthouse Islands ¹	38		20	28
Cape Romain Harbor ¹	17	17		
Charleston Harbor	35		35	
Deveaux Bank	20		20	
Edisto Rivers	10	10		
Five Fathom Creek ¹	3	3		
Hilton Head Island	22	12		10
Little River Inlet	*			
Marsh Island ¹	18		18	
Murrells Inlet	8	8		
North Inlet	14	8		6
North Santee Bar	*			
Raccoon Key ¹	51			51
Sand Island	*			
St Helena Sound	13	13		
Stono River	2	2		
Trenchards Inlet	0			
White Banks ¹	29		29	
Total	397	177 (45%)	127 (32%)	95 (23%)





Resighting Surveys

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- **Winter – throughout state (primarily Cape Romain)**
 - **Breeding Pairs**
 - Cape Romain Region
 - 220 pairs
 - Visit territories with banded birds 3X
 - **3425 Resights in SC to date**

HY Banded

- 113 banded
 - 28 remain in Cape Romain
 - 8 SC/GA border or FL (Pat and Dorris territory)
 - 5 breeding in Cape Romain close to natal site
 - 82 never seen



Resighting Data

- SC 387 banded birds
- Survival (Resident versus Migrants)
- Distance moved (high tide roosts)
 - Between winters
 - Between breeding and wintering sites

Site Fidelity

- High tide resightings in ArcGIS
- 263 birds, n = 2733 resightings
- MCP for resightings (High tide home range?)
 - Individual bird
 - Year
 - Season (breeding and winter)
 - Centroid (mean latitude and longitude of MCP)
- Breeding to Winter for resident only (mean 1.3 km \pm 0.4 SE)
- Winter to next Winter (mean 2.1 km \pm 0.3 SE)

Papers in Review

Foraging proficiency during the nonbreeding season: comparison between juvenile and adult American oystercatchers; Hand, Sanders and Jodice

Parental attendance and brood success in American oystercatchers; Thibault, Sanders and Jodice

Nest success of American oystercatchers in Cape Romain; Thibault, Sanders and Jodice

Problems/Needs

- Reproductive success very low on shell rakes due to flooding
- Reproductive success mostly unknown on beaches
- Predation
 - Raccoon trapping money is out in CRNWR
 - Mink reintroduced in CRNWR