


# AMOY BNA Account Revision

**THE BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA**  
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## American Oystercatcher

*Haematopus palliatus* Issue No. 062  
Order CHARADRIIFORMES – Family HAEMATOPODIDAE Authors: Nol, Erica, and Robert C. Humphrey

Articles **Multimedia** References


**Articles**

- Introduction
- Distinguishing Characteristics
- Distribution
- Systematics
- Migration
- Habitat
- Food Habits
- Sounds
- Behavior
- Breeding
- Demography and Populations
- Conservation and Management
- Appearance
- Measurements
- Acknowledgments
- About the Author(s)

### Introduction


The American Oystercatcher is a large, conspicuous shorebird, common in coastal salt marshes and sand beaches throughout the central part of its range. One of the few birds to specialize on bivalve mollusks living in saltwater, this species is completely restricted to marine habitats. Two races breed in North America—the eastern nominate race along the Atlantic coast from Massachusetts south, and a second race along the Pacific coast from northwestern Baja California south. While the eastern race has been studied both in winter and during the breeding season, the biology of the western race is poorly known. Eastern oystercatchers regularly winter in large flocks, from Virginia south along the Atlantic coast.

Although this oystercatcher inhabits coastal areas where human encroachment, habitat loss, and destruction are threats, the recent establishment of large coastal reserves (particularly in Virginia and North Carolina) helps to protect the center of its abundance. This species adapts well to dredge spoil islands, and is often the most common breeder in such locations. Its future success, however, depends on its coexistence with humans in salt marshes and dunes areas, and possibly on the mitigation of factors affecting any rise in sea level.



Enlarge

Adult American Oystercatcher.



Enlarge

Figure 1. Distribution of the American Oystercatcher.

[Distinguishing Characteristics](#)

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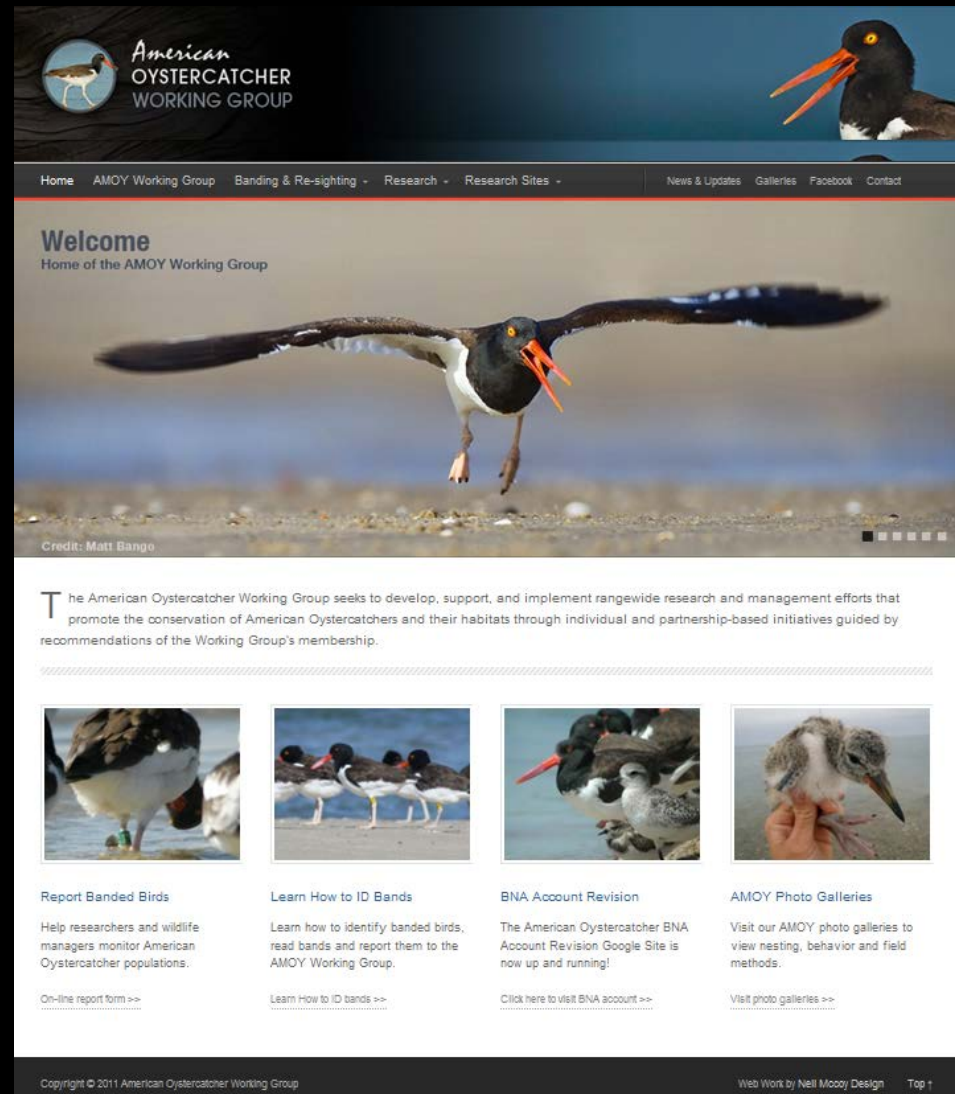
# How do we make the BNA dynamic?

- Link appendices to annual updates
  - Population estimates
  - Productivity estimates
  - Resight summaries
- Periodic (3 yr?) section revisions
- Add media (audio/video/images)
- Suggestions?

# Working Group Web Page

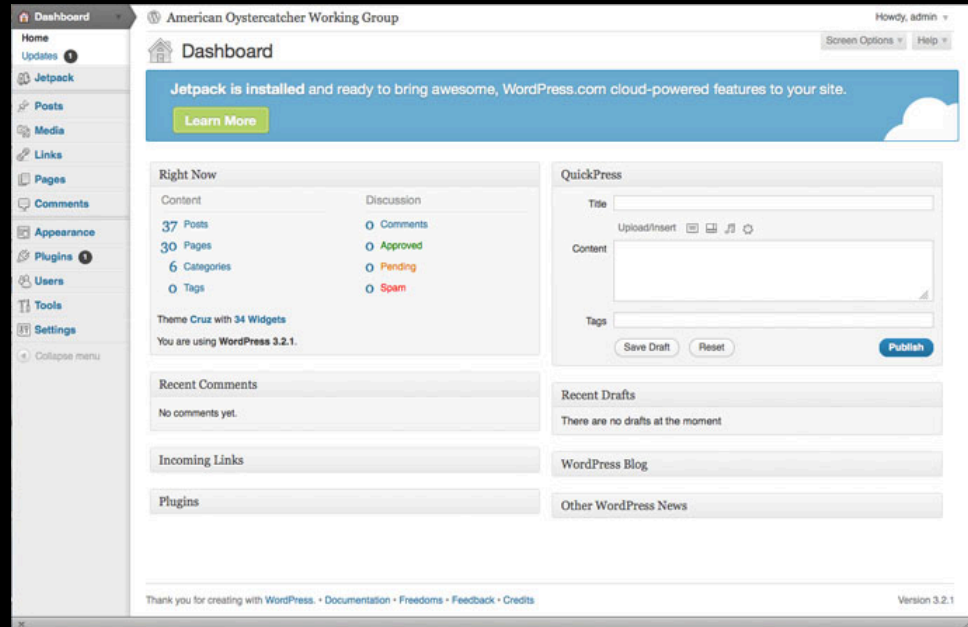
<http://amoywg.org>

- A Working Group Web page created in 2002 provides:
  - A summary of Working Group objectives, activities, and contact information
  - Access to the Working Group list server
  - Banding protocols, banding summaries by state, banded bird reporting form
  - Descriptions of field methods
  - Updated November 2011



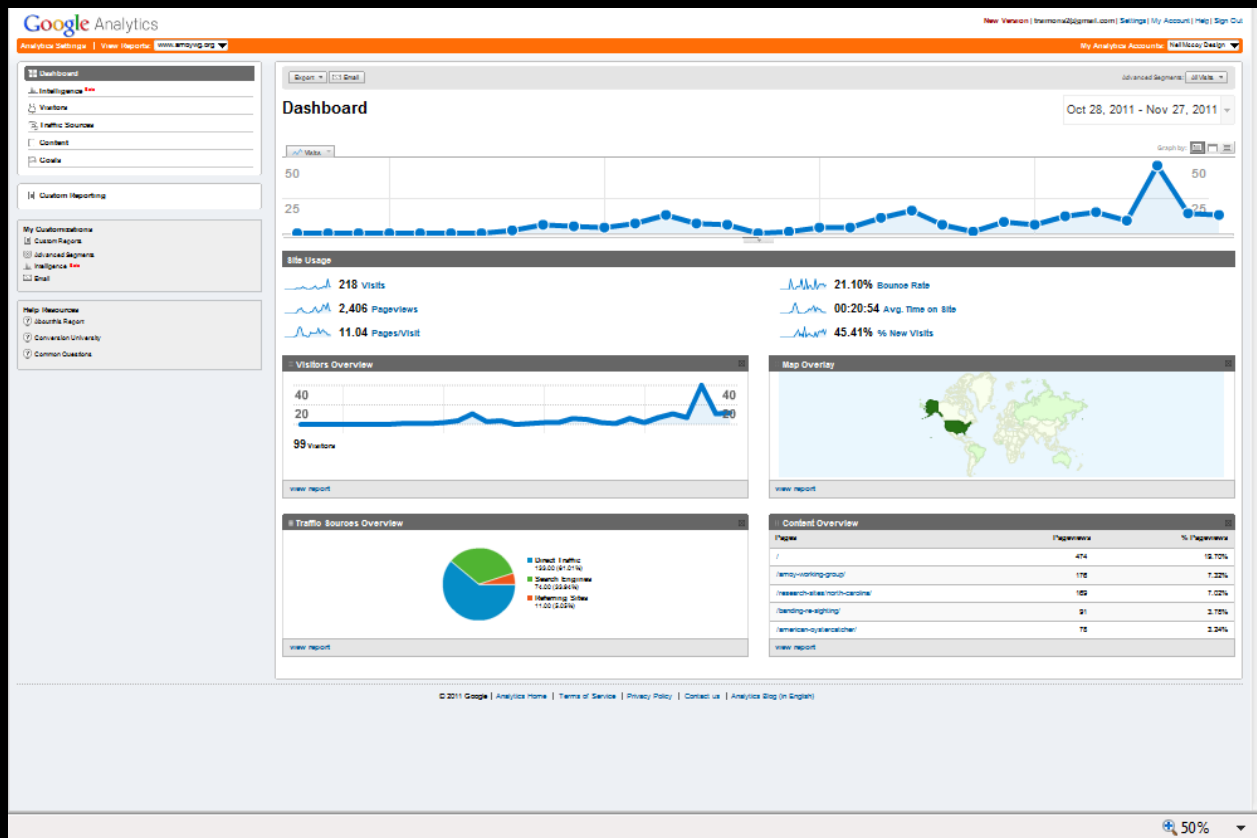
# WordPress

- Free, open-sourced software
- User friendly back end (dashboard)
- Allows multiple users to update and add content
- Low cost
  - Site hosting ~\$75/year
    - Media Temple
  - URL ~\$12/year



# Google Analytics

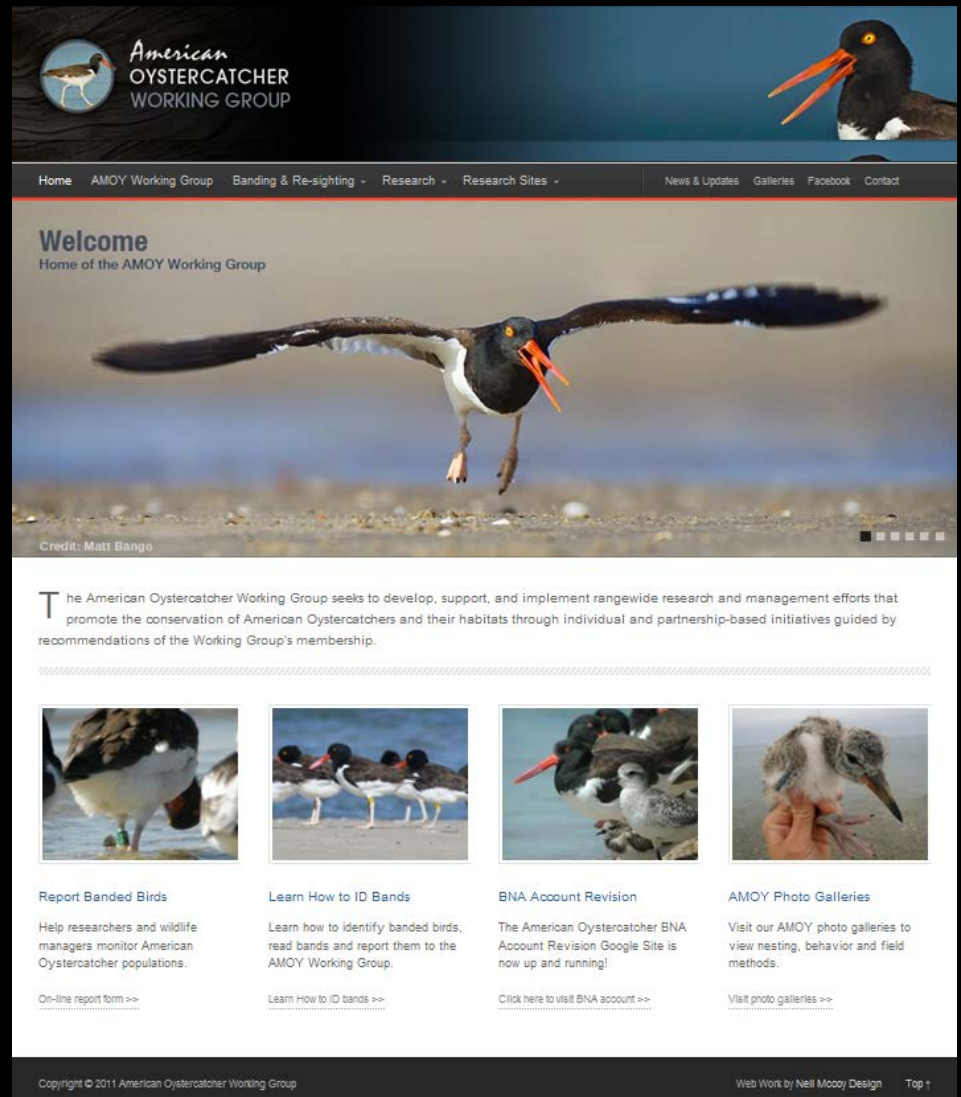
<http://www.google.com/analytics/>



# Web Page Evolution

<http://amoywg.org>

- Blog – list serve mirror
- Public front end for banding database
  - Band lookup
  - Smart phone ap
- More content
  - State pages
  - Images/video
- Live web cam (MA)
- Satellite/GPS tracking
- Facebook/Twitter
- Send your feedback



# Haematopology – collaborative focal species research and management in waterbird conservation

Ted Simons

USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Department of Biology, NC State University





# Lessons from the AMOY Working Group Experience

- Advances in digital information technologies and new paradigms about how we do science are providing unprecedented opportunities for biologists to synthesize, share, and disseminate information, and to work at scales relevant to our conservation and management goals
- Collaborating on achievable objectives has been the key to our success as a working group
- Progress fostered by
  - Bottom-up structure
  - Shared information
  - Individual initiative
  - Respect and inclusion
  - Peer pressure
  - Legacy of shared accomplishments

