

# American Oystercatcher Stewardship in Texas



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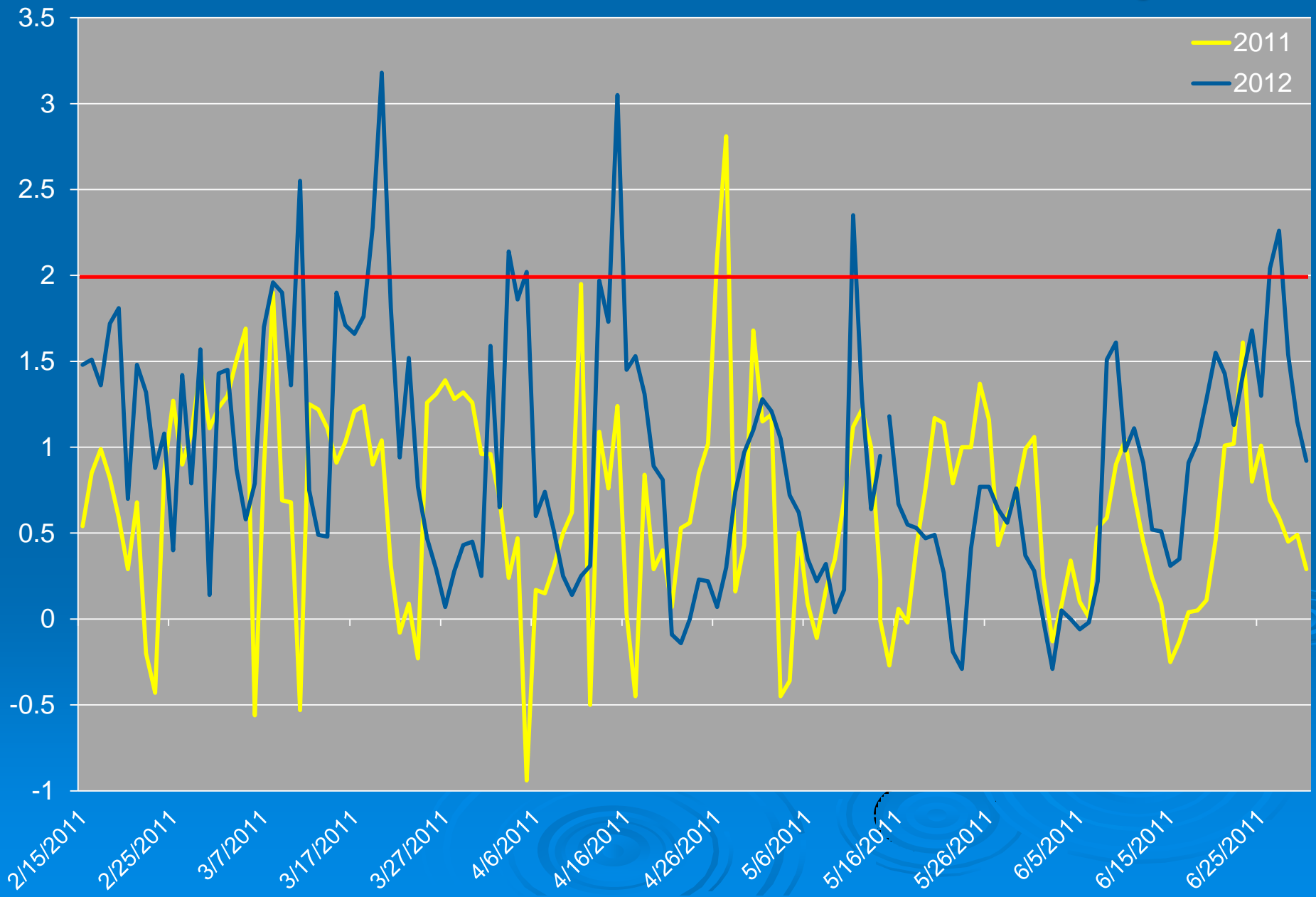
# A Tale of Two Field Seasons



- First nest found in February
- Last nest found in June
- Last chicks fledged in July/August

	Adults banded	Chicks banded	Breeding pairs	Nest attempts	% nests fledging chicks	Chicks fledged	Productivity
2011	58	37	46	58	50.00	36	.78
2012	54	14	47	81	12.35	13	.21

# Tide Data - Galveston Bay





# Nest Productivity By Site Type



Nesting Location Type	Breeding Pairs (N)		Nest Attempts		% nests fledging chicks		Chicks fledged (C)		Productivity (C/N)	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
Small islands/spits not connected to mainland	28	23	33	36	63.64	11.11	28	4	1.00	.17
Small islands/spits connected to mainland	3	4	3	5	33.33	20.00	2	1	.67	.25
Large islands	13	18	19	36	26.32	13.89	5	5	.38	.28
Mainland	2	2	3	4	33.33	0.00	1	0	.50	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>46.55</b>	<b>12.35</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>.78</b>	<b>.21</b>



# Nest Productivity By Bay System



Bay System	Breeding Pairs (N)		Nest Attempts		% nests fledging chicks		Chicks fledged (C)		Productivity (C/N)	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
West Galveston Bay	20	25	27	45	40.74	11.11	11	5	0.55	0.20
Virginia Point/Swan Lake	8	7	9	12	44.44	8.33	6	1	0.75	0.14
Dickinson Bay/Moses Lake	8	8	10	8	60.00	37.50	9	3	1.13	0.38
East Matagorda Bay	10	7	12	16	66.67	6.25	10	1	1.00	0.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>12.35</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0.78</b>	<b>0.21</b>



# Nest Statistics



	nest attempts		% of pairs making 1, 2, or 3 nests		% of nests successful	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
1 nest	41	47	74	42.5	49	17
2 nests	12	27	26	42.5	33	7
3 nests	0	7	0	15	N/A	0
Total	53	81	100	100	82	24





San Antonio

Houston

Galveston Bay

Upper Texas Coast

Central Texas Coast

Lower Texas Coast

Monterrey  
Nuevo León

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27°40'00.86" N 96°21'26.61" W elev -273 ft

Google

Eye alt



# Central Texas Coast



- Two field seasons (2012, 2013)
- Matagorda Bay south to Corpus Christi Bay

	Adults banded	Chicks banded	Breeding pairs	Nest attempts	% nests fledging chicks	Chicks fledged	Productivity
2012	8	7	49	67	17.91	12	.24





# Box Trap





# Box Trap



- Caught 17 incubating adults from 17 pairs
- Average time 19 minutes (range 4 – 35 min)
- 5 of 17 (29%) fledged a chick
- Mills, J.A. and Ryder, J.P., A trap for capturing shore and seabirds, Bird-Banding 50(2):121-123



# What Do the Color Bands Tell Us?



- 48% of banded adults from 2011 were in our study areas in 2012
- 7 of 21 known pairs were on the same territory in 2012 (35%)
- 5 known males were on the same territory in 2012 with a different female
- 2 known females were paired with a different male on that male's territory



# What Do the Color Bands Tell Us?



- Of the 7 pairs that kept the same territory, 85% fledged a chick in 2011
- Of the 14 pairs that abandoned their territory, only 35% fledged a chick in 2011
- Conclusion – successful pairs are more likely to keep their territory





# Where Do We Go From Here?



- ✓ Expand monitoring to the central coast
- ✓ Follow on two-year grant for additional monitoring
- Post signs on nesting islands
- Public education seminars/Public Service Announcement
- Ground truth aerial survey winter 2013
- Participate in range-wide breeding survey spring 2014





# Major Sponsors



## Partners



## Supporting Organizations

