

American Oystercatcher Research and Conservation in New York 2020
January 21, 2021

- Statewide census: The Long Island Colonial Waterbird Survey counts the number of breeding AMOY pairs on Long Island and in NYC every three years. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) coordinates the survey and collects and summarizes survey data. Staff from over 20 organizations, municipalities, and state and federal agencies (including NYS DEC) survey ~170 sites once between May 17 and June 9 and report the number of breeding pairs at each site. AMOY were last counted statewide in 2019.
- Productivity monitoring and stewardship: Some land managers/stewardship coordinators count and monitor the productivity of breeding AMOY every year. Survey effort varies from site to site and not all sites are regularly monitored each year. The level of stewardship and other AMOY conservation measures also varies in New York; not all land managers/stewardship coordinators protect AMOY nests with symbolic fencing. Monitoring in 2020 varied substantially due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The list of NY organizations/agencies/municipalities that currently steward AMOY and monitor productivity include:
 - Audubon New York: monitored PIPL at several site, no AMOY
 - Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways: AMOY were monitored when staff was available from March-May, beginning in May AMOY were monitored daily as staff monitored plover. Symbolic fencing was set up for AMOY who nested in the parking lot and at areas on the beach with high pedestrian traffic. The program Nest Story was used to keep track of nesting pairs, nesting attempts, nest locations, bands, fledges, and productivity.
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Long Island Field Office: AMOY monitoring took place at Breezy Point Co-op opportunistically during Plover monitoring (exact number of nests, eggs, loss and fate of all chicks is missing data)
 - New York City Parks: AMOY were monitored opportunistically as time allowed during piping plover monitoring. Exact number of nests, eggs, loss and fate of all chicks is missing data. Productivity represents a minimum for the season.
 - New York City Audubon: At Breezy Point NPS did not grant research permits due to Covid but beaches were open, so AMOY were monitored from outside symbolic fencing.
- Banding: NYC Audubon and Town of Hempstead lead AMOY banding efforts in NY with help from partners. AMOY typically takes place at the following sites:
 - Town of Hempstead Beaches: 49 AMOY banded. (35 L-U & 14 ASY)
 - Breezy Point and Arverne by the Sea: No banding took place due to the Covid-19 pandemic