



Audubon | CONNECTICUT

2025 Breeding Season

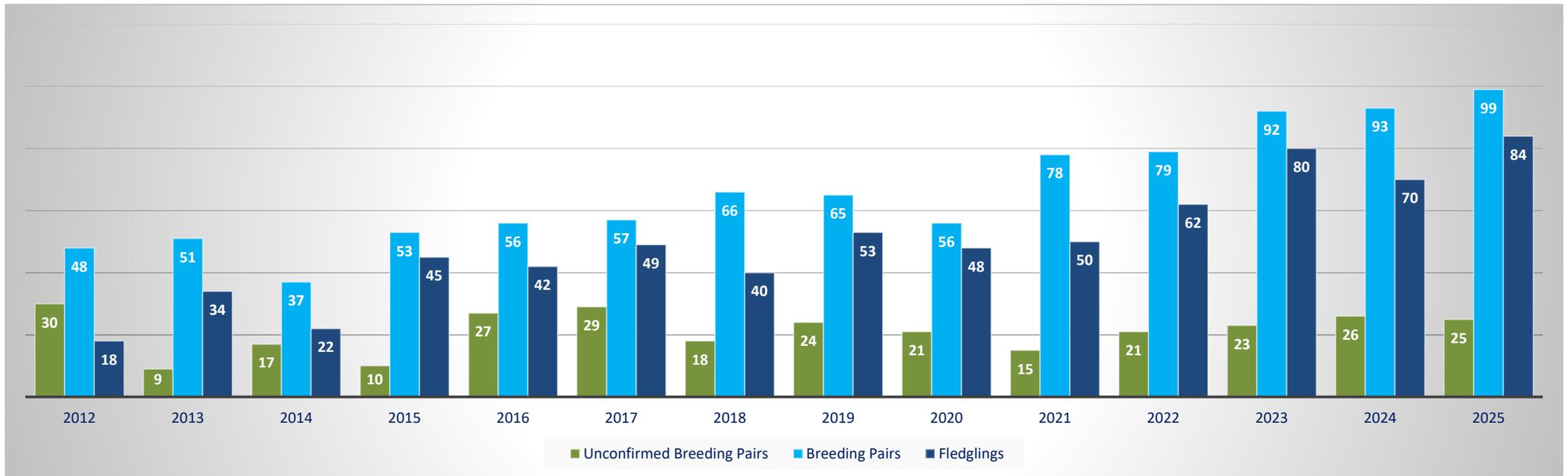
AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER
MONITORING & MANAGEMENT

Beth Amendola, Senior Coordinator, Coasts



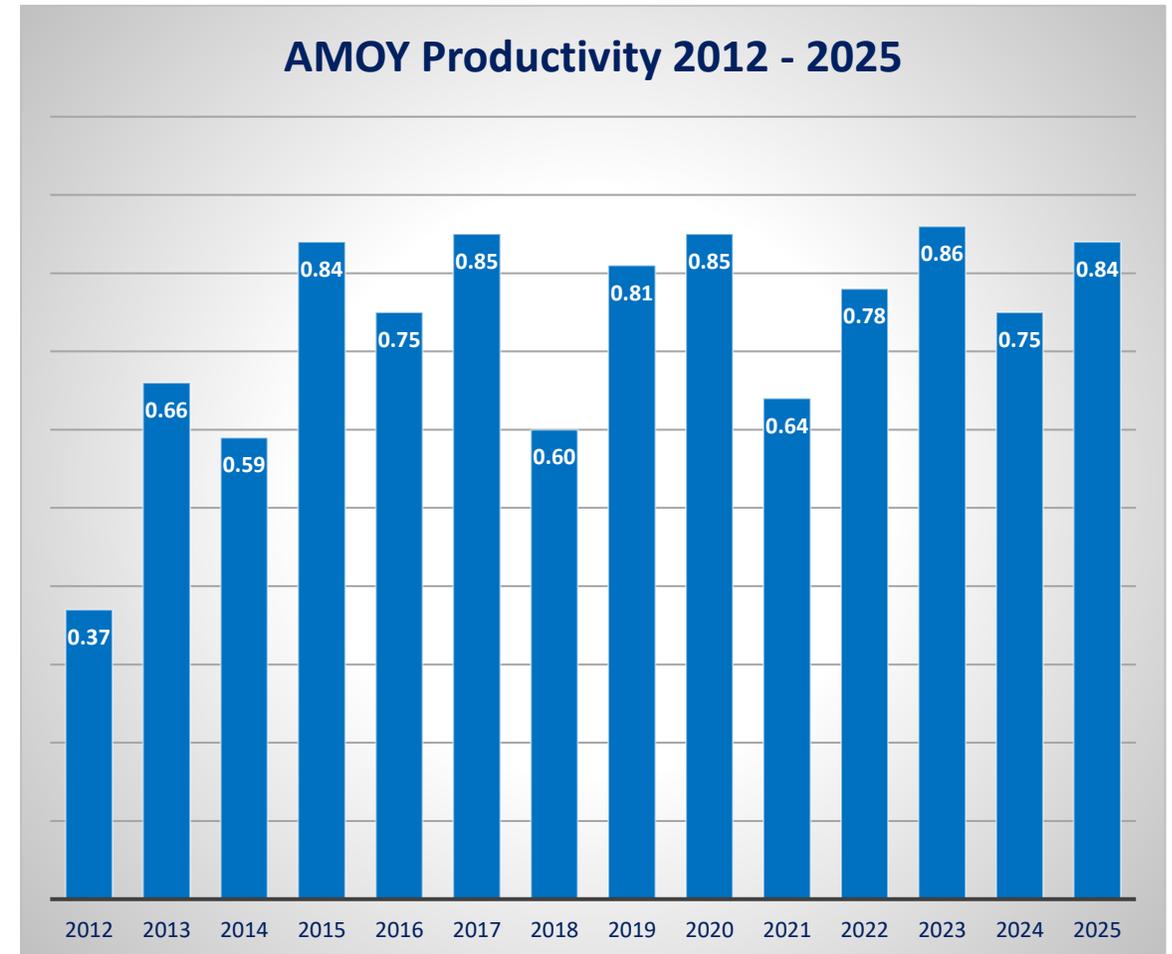
American Oystercatcher Breeding Population

- Total breeding season population of 248 individuals, population continues to steadily increase
- Confirmed breeding for 80% of the population, unconfirmed breeding pairs (25) held territories but nesting attempts were not confirmed
- Highest # of breeding pairs (99) and highest # of fledged chicks (84) since 2012



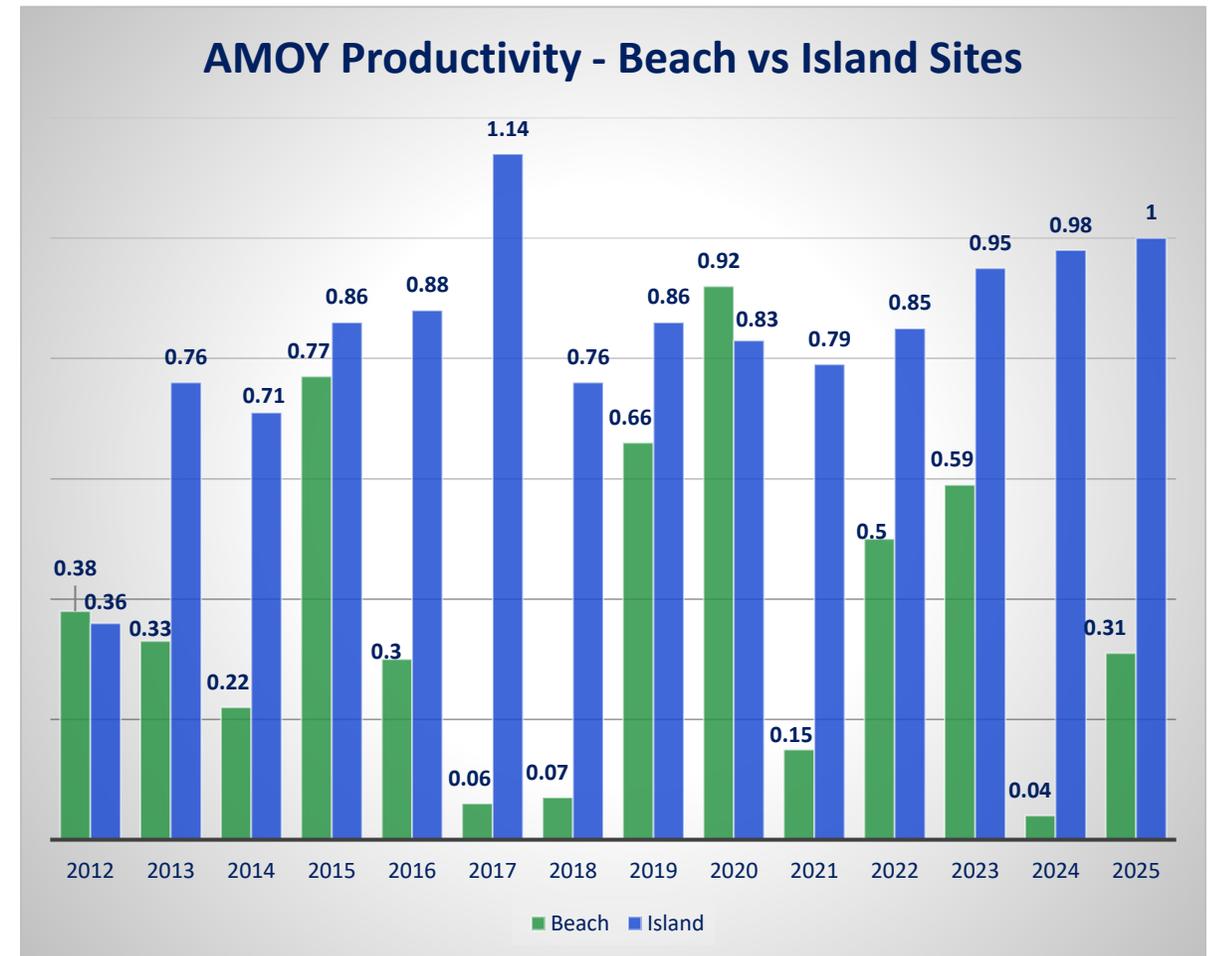
American Oystercatcher Productivity

- 2025 productivity 0.84 (fledglings /breeding pair)
- CT 10-year average 0.77
- Of the 135 known nesting attempts, 65 nests hatched for a 48% hatch rate
- Successful nesting attempts hatched 127 chicks and 66% survived to fledge



American Oystercatcher Breeding Population

- 75% of CT's breeding population nested on offshore islands
 - 95 pairs nested or held territories on 49 offshore islands, Cockenoe Island housed 19 breeding pairs
 - Birds are more successful on the islands (2025 Prod. 1.00) and consistently have a higher productivity than the mainland
- 25% nested on mainland sites
 - 29 pairs nested or held territories on 16 mainland beaches
 - The 22 breeding pairs made 47 nesting attempts. Many renests, some up to 4 times unsuccessfully
 - Five of the 47 nests hatched 9 chicks
 - Of the 5 pairs that hatched nests, 4 were successfully able to fledge 7 chicks, resulting in a 0.31 productivity
 - Predation and human disturbance is the leading cause of nest failure at mainland sites



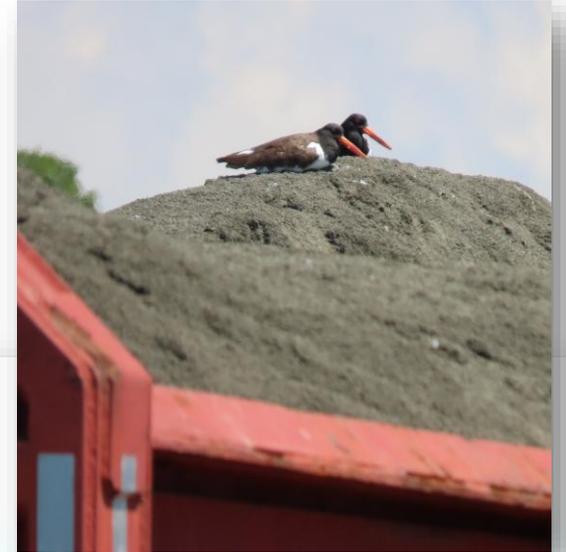
2025 BREEDING SEASON

➤ Barge Nesters

- Two pairs were regularly seen holding territories on large commercial barges
- Barges loaded with various types of crushed stone aggregate for transport
- Confirmed one unsuccessful nesting attempt during 2025
- State partner confirmed another occurrence over 15 years ago where the birds hatched two chicks on a similar barge. When the chicks were around 3 weeks of age the adults moved the chicks to the mainland

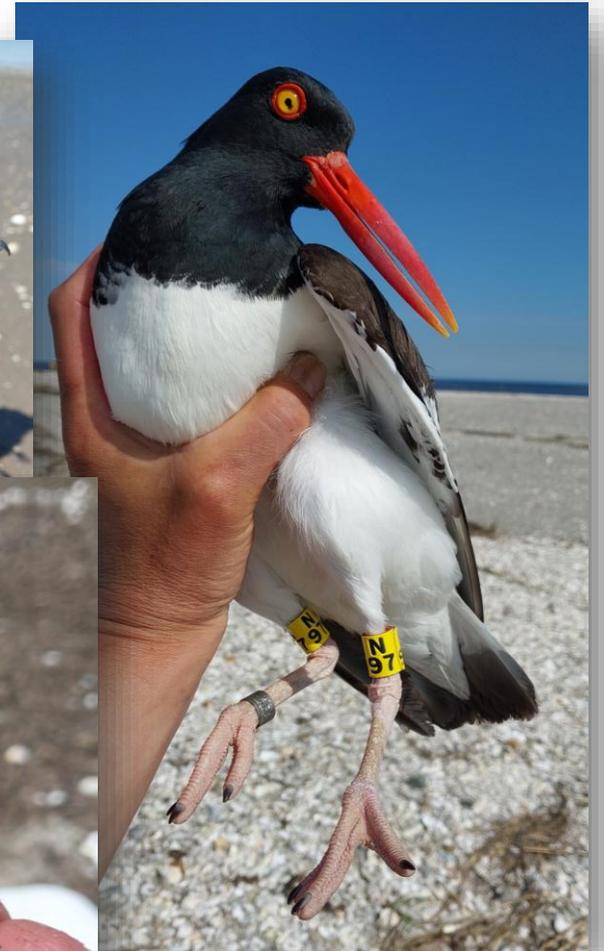
➤ Municipal Law Enforcement Program

- Providing funds to Municipal Law enforcement to increase coverage at important nesting sites with high human disturbance
- Expanded the program to a second municipal jurisdiction this season
- Officers covered 23 shifts between the two sites from Memorial day through mid July
- Held two workshops for municipal officials in partnership with CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental protection and the Environmental Conservation Police covering beach-nesting bird management regulations and municipal responsibilities



American Oystercatcher Banding

- Since 2018, 93 birds have been banded
 - 63 adults & 30 fledglings
 - Nonbreeding two and three-year-old birds are showing up in staging areas as early as June
 - Three and four-year-old bird returning to CT to make their first nesting attempts
 - Successfully captured a recently fledged chick to remove fishing line
 - First recapture in a couple years and noticed yellow band color is fading, almost the same color as the birds' legs. YE_N56 banded in 2021
- Deployed 5 solar powered GPS/GSM transmitters with State partner, more to come later!!!



Coastal Program Shorebird Monitoring Partners



➤ Audubon Alliance for Coastal Waterbirds

- Audubon Connecticut
- Connecticut Audubon Society
- Many Dedicated Volunteers

➤ Partners

- CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Local Municipalities



AUDUBON ALLIANCE FOR COASTAL WATERBIRDS



Connecticut
Department of Energy &
Environmental Protection



Thank You!!

