



# Rhode Island American Oystercatcher Update 2025

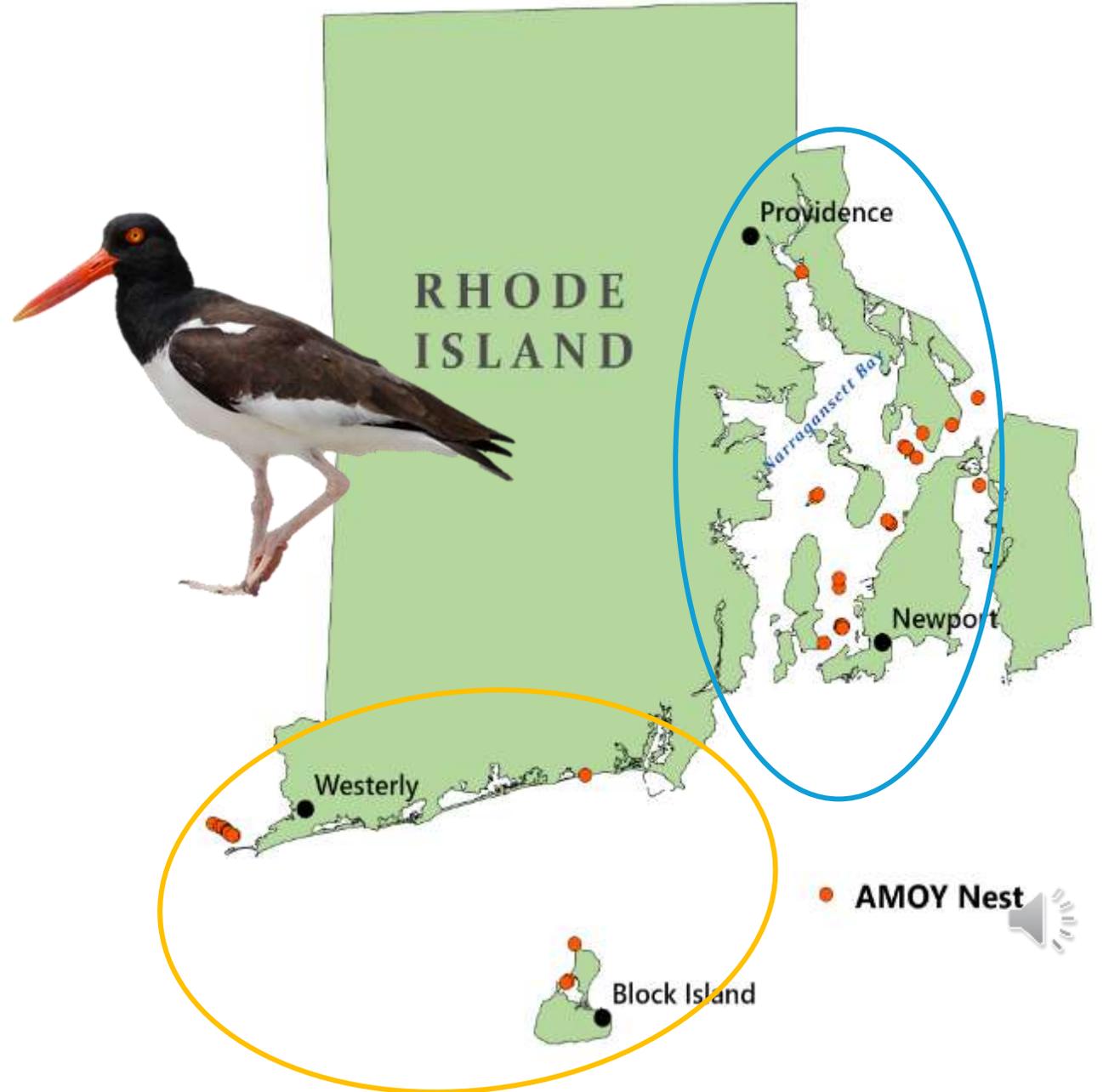
Maureen Durkin, USFWS  
Sam Miller, Rhode Island DEM  
Mary Bertschi, USFWS



*Photo: Mary Bertschi*

# 2025 Coverage

- USFWS monitors South County pairs
  - *Abundance + productivity*
  - *Busy beaches- symbolic fencing and outreach efforts*
- RIDEM surveys Narragansett Bay during annual state-wide colonial waterbird census in May



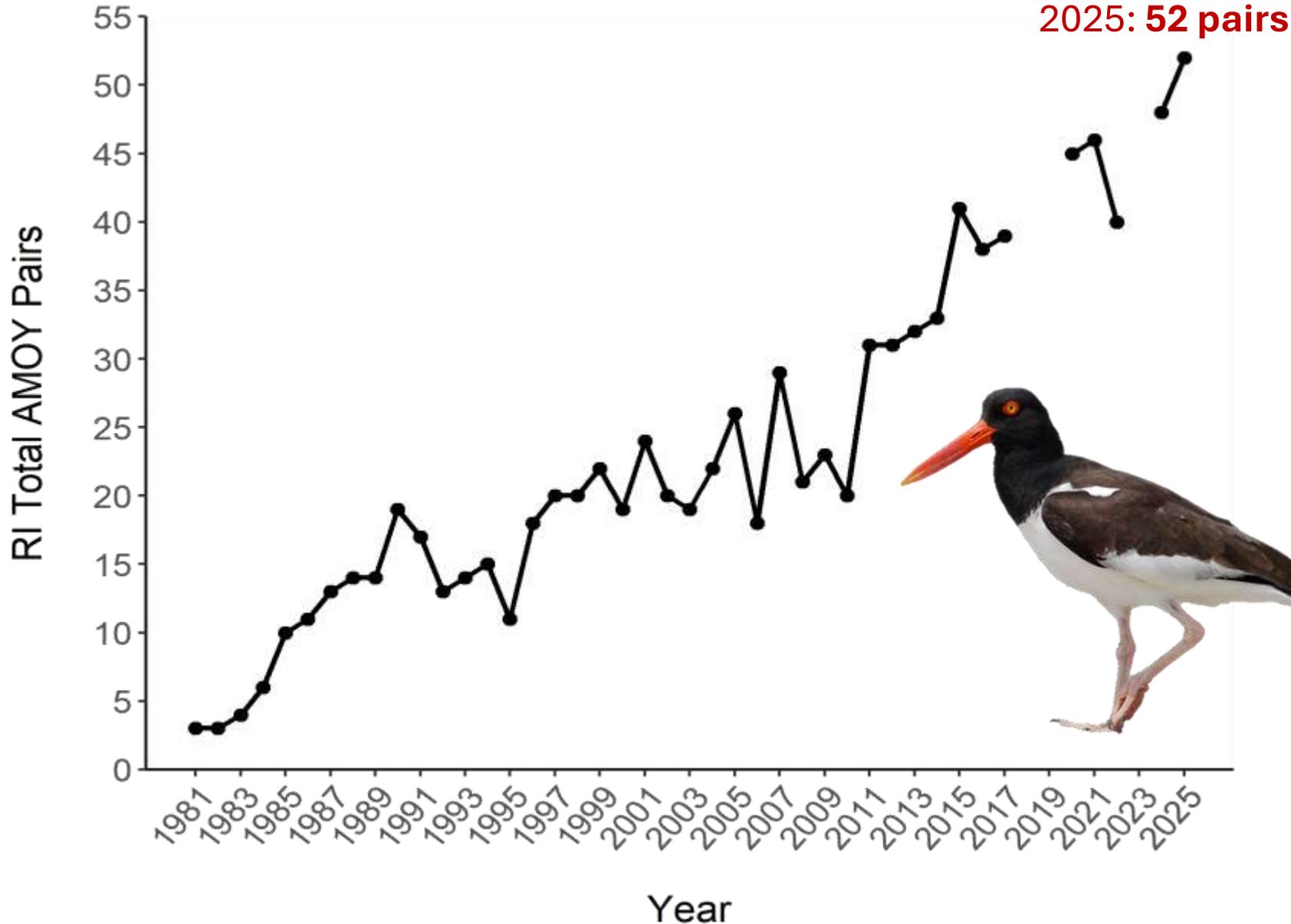
# 2025 Rhode Island Breeding Summary

Area	Pairs	Fledged	Productivity
Sandy Point Island-RI Side	14	9	0.64
Block Island	4	4	1.0
Quonnie Beach*	1	0	0.0
Trustom Pond NWR*	1	1	1.0
Quonset Airport*	1	1	1.0
<b>South County Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0.71</b>
<b>Narragansett Bay + Islands (RIDEM census)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total RI Pairs</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

\*Mainland beach nesting site



# Rhode Island State Total



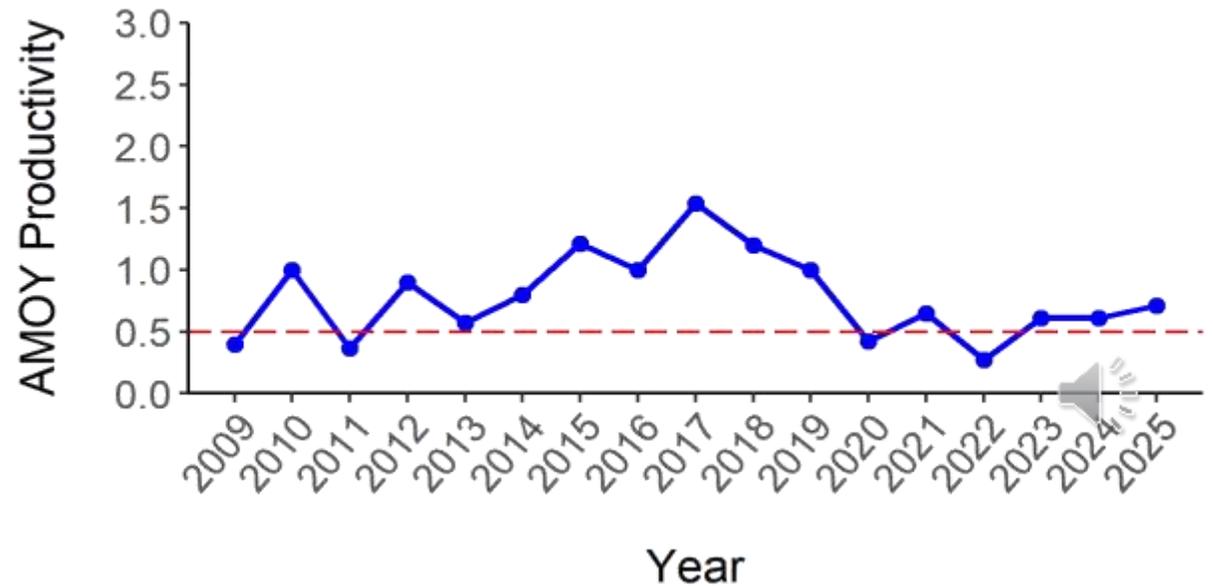
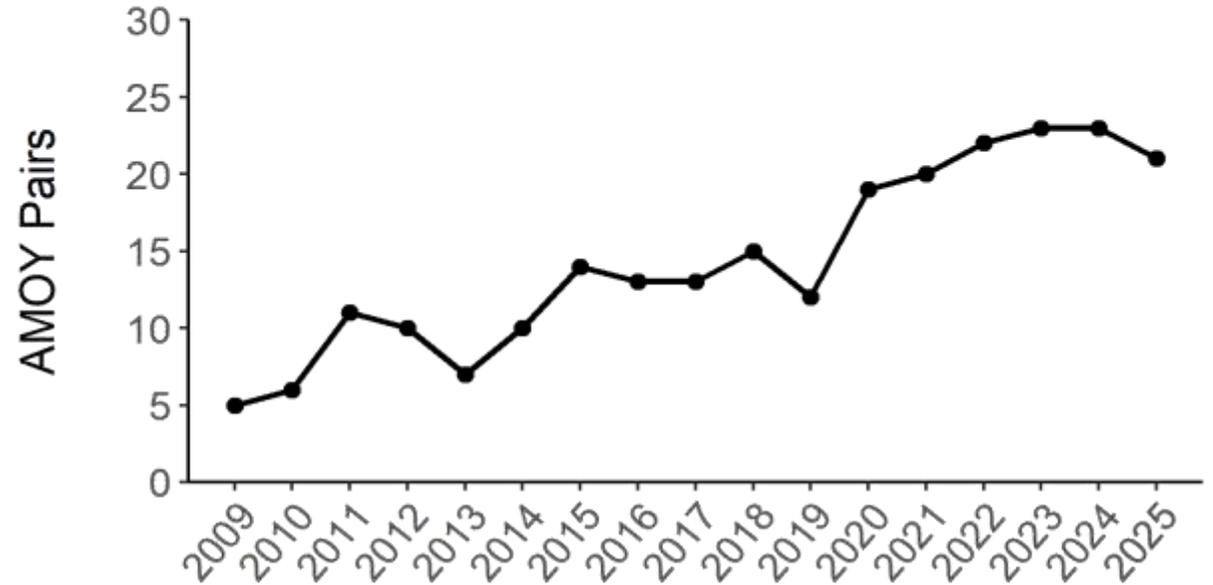
- Overall steadily increasing trend over 40 years
- Still low density on mainland beaches. Islands produce nearly all fledges
- Many areas of unoccupied suitable habitat



# South County- Closely Monitored Subset

- **0.71 chicks/pair**
- Abundance slightly down on south coast, but overall increasing statewide.
- Productivity above target for third year.
- Sandy Point Island- vegetation succession, large gull colony, Possibly in an inter-storm low period.

South County, RI Sites



# Season notes



- First fledge from Trustom Pond NWR, five years after recolonization of site. First mainland barrier beach fledge since monitoring began.
- **Behavior note:** AMOY pair on Block Island observed vigorously shaking stems of *Honckenya peploides*- seaside sandwort, then removing large grubs from sand at roots. Both members of pair engaged in this behavior. In this area, nearest mussel beds are a few miles away.



Thank you to many partners and volunteers!



Photo: Mary Bertschi