



2019 Osprey Nation Report
The Connecticut Audubon Society
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Introduction

The sixth season of the Osprey Nation citizen science project saw increases in the total number of Osprey nests in Connecticut, the number of active nests, and the number of volunteer stewards submitting data to the Connecticut Audubon Society. However there was a decline in the number of young Ospreys that fledged from nests, from 725 in 2018 to 650 in 2019. The previous five years all showed increases in the number of fledglings.

The reasons for the decline are not clear; several years of data might be necessary to determine if a trend is occurring or if the change in 2019 was random or the result of some other cause such as a change in the amount of volunteer time and effort expended.

Connecticut Audubon started Osprey Nation in 2014, in association with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, to monitor the state's Osprey population using volunteer citizen scientists. The goal is to gather enough data over the long term to determine the health of Connecticut's Osprey population and to spot trends that might be indicators of environmental issues that need to be addressed.

Volunteer stewards are assigned to observe a nest of their choosing. They collect data, generally several times a month, including activity at the nest, nest type and condition, number of nestlings, and number of fledglings. The data are recorded on a spreadsheet and on the interactive Osprey Nation map.

Because Ospreys feed exclusively on fish they catch, a stable or increasing population could mean that fish are plentiful and that the waters of Long Island Sound and of Connecticut's lake and rivers are healthy enough to sustain them. A population that declines over several years or more could mean the opposite.

Osprey History

Ospreys are migratory raptors widely distributed throughout the world. Osprey populations began to fall worldwide shortly after the introduction of DDT, a toxic organochlorine pesticide, in 1948. DDT interfered with calcium deposition, which resulted in brittle eggs that broke during incubation. DDT was banned in the United States in 1972, when Ospreys were at an all-time low. Soon after, Osprey populations started increasing with the help of government agencies, environmental organizations and citizens. To encourage Ospreys to nest, these groups and individuals have built

and erected wooden platforms, which have proved successful.

The 2019 Osprey Nation Season

2019 saw increases in the number of nests, nests with data, and active nests, shown in Table 1, below. However, the number of fledglings declined in 2019, from 725 to 650 – or 0.93 per nest to 0.81. The reasons are unclear. A one-year drop might simply be random. Fledglings per nest from 2015 through 2018 were 0.69, 0.8, 0.89, and 0.93.

Table 1

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Stewards	100	146	224	287	314	342
Nests	414	515	606	680	775	799
Nests with data	174	322	420	540	603	732
Active nests	210	250	337	394	416	501
Fledglings	N/A	356	490	607	725	650
Average Fledglings per Nest	N/A	.69	.80	.89	.93	.81

Active nests are nests that were occupied; inactive nests were never occupied. Nests with data are those that were monitored by Osprey Nation stewards; nests with no data were unmonitored through the season.

Figures

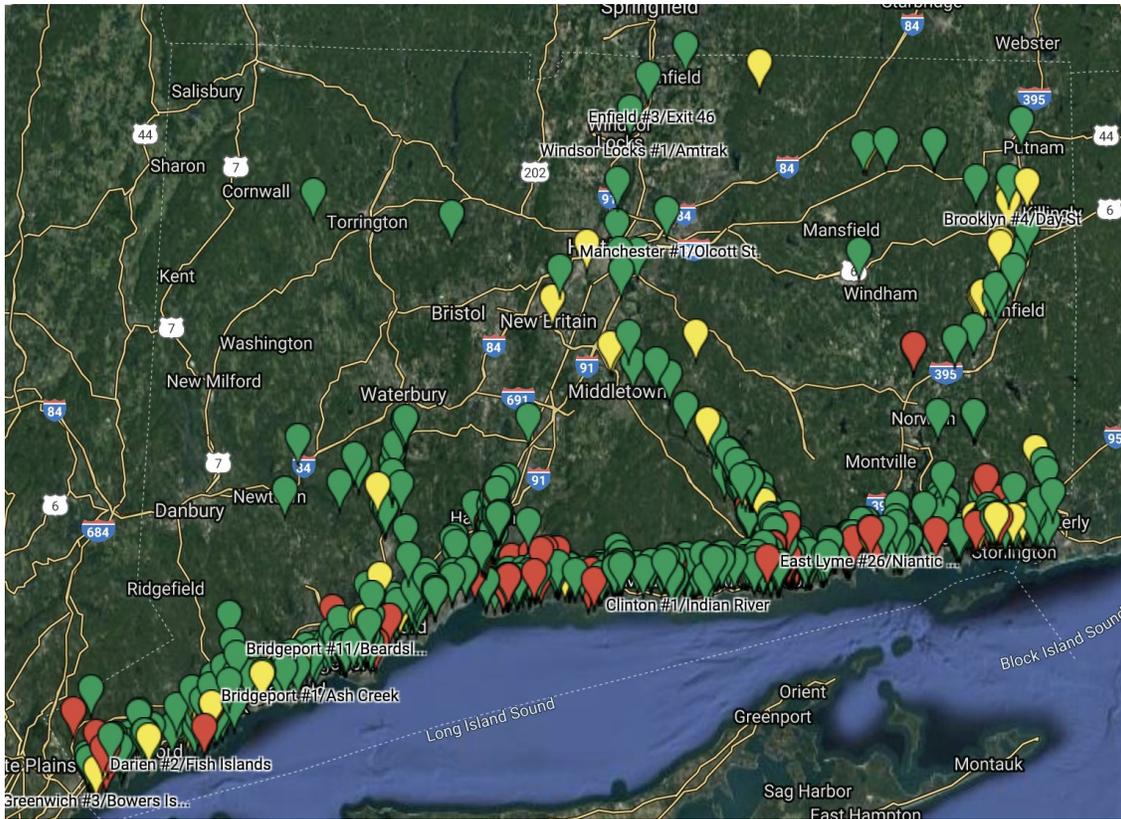


Figure 1. The 2019 Osprey Nation map. Each pin symbolizes a nesting location. Green pins are nests that were monitored this year and red pins were nests that were not monitored. Yellow pins are nests that are not located and will be removed from the map.

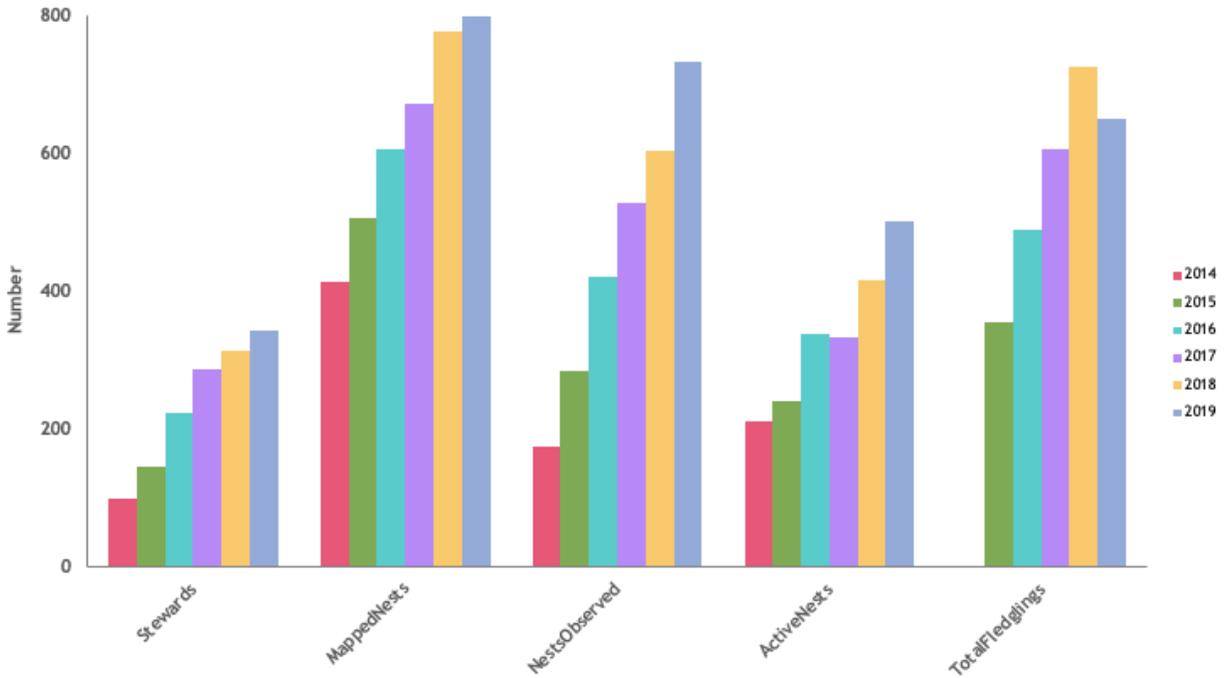


Figure 2. Osprey Nation data from 2014 to 2019. Data was not recorded for total fledglings in 2014. All categories continue to increase every year except the number of fledglings in 2019.

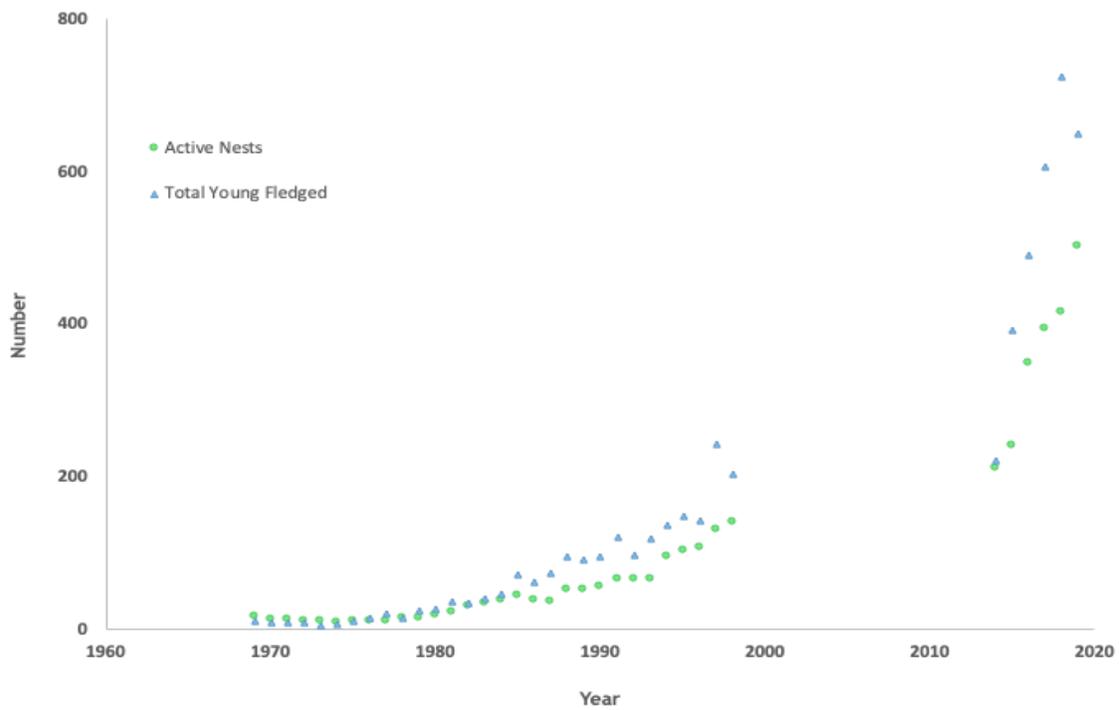


Figure 3. The Osprey population from 1969 until 2019. DEEP started monitoring the Osprey population in 1969. DEEP data of Osprey populations was not available from 1999 to 2013. The total active nests continue to increase.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the stewards of Osprey Nation who monitored and helped gather data that reflected the health of the Osprey population in Connecticut. Thank you to the members of the Connecticut Audubon Society and The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for supporting and coordinating this program. A special thank you to Menunkatuck Audubon for replacing Osprey platforms and assisting in the rescues of injured Ospreys. Another special thank you to A Place Called Hope and Christine's Critters for helping in the rescues of injured Ospreys throughout the season.

2019 Osprey Stewards

Nina	Adams
Jane	Aldieri
Bill	Alletzhauser
Rick	Allison
Shane	Anderson
Lynn	Anderson
Nancy	Anderson
Jo	Ann Davidson
Martha	Asarisi
Kathy	Aubrey
JP	Babineau
Katie	Bachner

Amanda	Baker
Pam	Barber
John	Barber
Mary	Barravecchia
Heidi	Bartolotta
Jacqueline	
e	Bartram
Grace	Bartunek
Maureen	Bashaw
Lori	Bassett
Lori	Bassett
Laura	Bastien
Kirsten	Begg
Sonja	Bell
Janer	Belson
Mary	Bertini
Kate	Blacker
Joe	Blumberg
Antonette	Bolles
Maura	Bonafede
Carolyn	Book
Greg	Brenner
Eileen	Breslin
Dave	Brierley

Scott	Brinckerhoff
Donna	Brinckerhoff
Susan	Brooks
Patrick	Brown
Katherine	Butler
David	Cameron
Joe	Carney
Marilyn	Carolina
Tabitha	Carter
Mary	Casey
Bonnie	Castellani
Bridget	Cervero
Bill	Chantrell
Gary	Childress
Lee	Chontos
Jane	Ciarlone
Diana	Cirillo
Sarah	Coccaro
Deb	Cody
Gerald	Cohen
Naomi	Coleman
Kacey	Constable
Allison	Cook
Liz	Coolidge

Carol	Coyle
Lynn	Craska
Paul	Criscuolo
Evelyn	Cumberbatch
Glen	Cummings
Kimberly	Curry
Meghan	Czekaj
Kelly	D Barbieri
Victoria	Dahm
Barbara	David
Sarah	Davison
Barbara	De Rienzo
Diana	DeLisa
Peter	DeLisa
Cathy	DeMeo
Jim	Denham
Kathy	DePasquale
Laurie	Desmet
Melissa	Devaux
Dennis	Devaux
Dale	DiFronzo
Warren	Disbrow
David	Dodd
Judy	Doering

Susan	Donoghue
Gretchen	Dooley
Kathy	Doonan
Janice	Dowin
Rich	Dowin
Sue	Driscoll
Jerilyn	Duefrene
Carol	Dunn
Susan	Durant
Brenda	Dyson
Amy	Edwards
Gary	Effman
Cythina	Ehlinger
Maria	Ehrhardt
Cynthia	Ellis
Laura	Ely
Tim	Ely
Ken	Ewell
Lisa	Falasco
Joanne	Fasciolo
Kumu	Fernando
Mike	Ferry
Margaret	Fikrig
Woody	Fitzgerald

Sarah	Foley
Sharon	Foster
Jim	Frayer
Josh	Friedberg
Debbie	Fusco
Susan	Gagliardi
Jack	Gagne
Steve	Galkin
Wendy	Garcia
Melissa	Garthwait
Ray	Gaulke
Brian	Geddes
Mark	Geist
Ray	Gilbert
Dawn	Gilday
George	Giles
Emily	Glasfeld
Debbi	Goodman
David	Goodman
Erin	Gordon
Catherine	Graham
Dawn	Griswold
Marisa	Grittini
Paul	Groell

Samuel	Groves
Dottie	Gutaj
Julia	Gwen Rice
Betty	Hadlock
Janice	Hager
Karen	Hanscom
Richard	Hansen
Scott	Harris
Karen	Harris
Craig	Healy
Jennifer	Healy
Joan	Hedquist
William	Herbert
Sharon	Hirsch
Greg	Hollingsworth
Steve	Hubbard
Diane	Hull
Angela	Hurzeler
Sandra	Ianello
Ed	Ianello
Helena	Ives
Nancy	James
Doreen	Jezek
Sue	Joffray

Lynn	Johnson
Sarah	Johnson
Sherry	Johnston
Francesca	Jones
Ann	Judd
Ayal	Kaffman
Moreson	Kaplan
Bill	Keefe
Scott	Kegley
Danelle	Kegley
Alan	Kendzior
Ellen	Kennedy
Amanda	Kennedy
George	Kenyon
Suzanne	Kerr
Barbara	Kil
Maggie	King
Chester	Kirby
Kathy	Kirkland
Bob	Klein
Stephanie	Kollet
Gerhard	Krauland
Grace	Krick
Michael	Lamothe

Barbara	Landau
Rick	Landau
Steven	Lang
Robert	Langlois
Peter	Leary
Cindy	Lee
Liane	Leedom
melody	lehrman
Robyn	Leo
Mary	Leone
Deborah	Lepine
Gretchen	Levesque
Miriam	Levin
Bruce	Lighty
Tara	Lohman
Fiona	Lohman
Lauragene	Lyons
Janet	M Bourgault
Jeanne	M Raccio
Nick	Maiorino
Cathy	Malin
John	Malmros
Gary	Markowski
Susan	Marks

Robert	Marra
Joseph	Marszalek
Anna	Martino
Mick	Martucci
Michele	Masse-Allen
Susan	McCawley
Don	Mcgregor
Dianne	McHutchison
Bruce	McIntyre
Jim	McKay
Lisa	McKay
Hugh	McManus
Anne	McNulty
Carolyn	McPhee
Donna	Meadors
Sandra	Mello
Susan	Mercer
Janet	Messick
Denyse	Miller
Michael	Mishik
Kazuo	Mizoguchi
Nancy	Moon
Karen	Morley
Carol	Morris-Scata

Sue	Mullaney
John	Munro
Eileen	Murphy
Bob	Myers
Christophe r	Newlan
Rick	Newton
Ted	Norris
Gayle	Norris
Jill	Notar-Frances co
Maureen	O'Brien
Dave	O'Brien
Kathy	O'Brien
John	Ogren
Lesley	Orlowski
Ann	Orsillo
Denise	Palnitkar
Polly	Parker
Don	Parrott
Tanya	Patten
Steven	Peake
Lisa	Peake
Maggie	Peretto

Debra	Perez
Claudia	Pessagno
Margaret	Peters
Tom	Pfeifer
Ben	Philbrick
Ann	Phillip
Helen	Phillips
Patty	Pickard
Richard	Pikikero
Tina	Pilcher
Jenn	Place
John	Potter
Amy	Poturnicki
Nancy	Pratt
Jan	Prentice
Don	Presta
Bev	Propen
James	Proulx
Bennett	Pudlin
Jane	Purcell
Ryan	Quinn
Madeline	Raleigh
Eugene	Ralph
Robert	Raufeisen

Nancy	Ray
Barbara	Reck
Pamela	Reeser
Anna	Reiter
Brenda	Rich
Loralee	Richter
Patricia	Riley
Dennis	Riordan
Brian	Roach
Sandra	Robison
Dave	Roger
Lisa	Roger
Debbie	Rollins
Freyda	Rose
Trissie	Rost
Dan	Rottino
Sydney	Rowland
Kathleen	Ruby
Barbara	Ryden
Valerie	Salito
Laurette	Saller
John	Sargent
Priscilla	Scanlon
Lisa	Schramm

Marilyn	Schreiber
Anne	Semmes
Patty	Sghia
Mike	Shafnacker
Lorrie	Shaw
Bion	Shepard
Thomas	Shoemaker
Debra	Silber
Janice	Sina
Joe	Sina
Bob	Singer
Jen	Singer
Beth	Skudder
Betty	Slanetz
Thomas	Smith
Dana	Sonnenschein
Louis	Spann Jr
Lewis	Spero
Tony	Spinelli
Alice	Spinelli
Brian	Steady
Susan	Steady
Joan	Stern
Karen	Stigliano

Bob	Stout
Meredith	Sundman
Rob	Sundman
Janet	Sundman
Bob	Sundman
Christine	Sweeney
Susan	Taff
Beth	Taylor
Leanne	Theodore
Ann	Thomas
Tom	Thompson
Beryl	Thorpe
Lynn	Towill
Lisa	Tryon
Shane	Varnadore
Andy	Verderame
Diane	Volz
Diane	Von Schleusingen
Kathleen	Wadlow
Bill	Watts
Jean	Webber
Jared	Weber
Mike	Wehking

Dana	Wehking
Linda	Wenner
Linda	Werner
Angela	Werner
Morgan	Werner
Marla	Whalen
Holly	Whiting
Wendy	Wilke
Sonya	Williams
Heather	Williams
Amanda	Wilson
Kendra	Wingate
Sue	Winkler
Sarah	Wolcheski
Jim	Woodworth
Susan	Worboys
Michael	Zarotney
Kirche	Zeile
Anastasia	Zinkerman
Paul	Zwynenburg
Cole	Zwynenburg
Alison	Zyla