

# NEW JERSEY OSPREY PROJECT REPORT



# 2025

*Abandoned osprey nest built on a salt-marsh island w/ unhatched egg. High Bar Harbor, NJ. July 2, 2025.*



Ben Wurst,  
Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ  
Kathleen Clark,  
NJDEP Fish and Wildlife

The 2025 nesting season for ospreys started out like most others. Breeding birds returned on schedule in March and into April. Established pairs returned to rekindle pair bonds and spruce up nests. We were prepared, as maintenance to wooden nest platforms occurred in fall and again in early spring, when weather permitted. It appeared to be a normal nesting season, but results from our surveys show the opposite.

Females began incubation in April and early May when weather was mainly calm. Then a nor'easter hit the coast during the third week of May. It lasted for around 72 hours and brought high winds, increased wave action and rain, which made it much more difficult for coastal nesting ospreys to forage. The increased water turbidity, high winds, flooding and excess runoff that come along with storms play a role in the availability of osprey prey. Direct observations from live-streaming osprey cams allowed us to witness what played out. As observed in previous years, when these storms impact the coast, they often lead to brood reduction or nest abandonment due to food stress.

Beyond the impact of storms, however, a deficit of fish was a condition faced by coastal New Jersey ospreys. In particular, Atlantic menhaden, the single most important fish for ospreys and other coastal marine species, was in low abundance all season, resulting in a precipitous drop in osprey nest success and chick survival. The average number of young produced per nest was the lowest recorded

in the modern monitoring period (1995–present). In this report, we present the results of the 2025 surveys and discuss what they may indicate about the current health of New Jersey’s osprey population, which was reclassified by NJDEP as a stable species on January 6, 2025.

An overarching question is why one of the primary prey species for ospreys, Atlantic menhaden, which the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has determined to be not overfished and not experiencing overfishing, has appeared to become less available in nearshore waters of New Jersey. The abundance of this forage fish has played a crucial role in the recovery of ospreys over the past 50 years. However, with indications of reduced local availability, our 2025 surveys documented widespread challenges with prey availability for ospreys along the coast.

## **BACKGROUND AND SURVEY METHODS**

Survey methods remained the same between the 1970s and 2009, which consisted of aerial censuses conducted by helicopter (1993–2009) and fixed-wing aircraft prior to 1993. Surveys were performed annually along the coast until 1988, biennially in 1988–2003, and then triennially in 2003–2009. The surveys were conducted twice each season: once in mid-May when ospreys were incubating, and again in mid-June when most nests had young visible in nests. The use of helicopters for aerial surveys allowed efficient monitoring of most coastal colonies, from near Manasquan Reservoir south to Cape May and then west along the Delaware Bayshore to Salem.

These surveys made it possible to estimate the total size, distribution and nest success of ospreys by determining the number of occupied nests and those that successfully produced young. Some of the most densely populated nesting colonies were surveyed by staff and dedicated volunteers who visited nests by boat or on foot. Data collected during these surveys have been used to estimate the overall health of the state population by measuring their productivity (# young produced/active nest). Colonies that have been surveyed for decades include Sandy Hook (Gateway NRA), Barnegat Bay (including Sedge Islands WMA and Island Beach State Park); Tuckerton - Great Bay; Avalon - Stone Harbor, Wildwood and the Maurice River. During ground surveys, young were banded for future tracking by licensed bird banders. Nests that were abandoned or empty during ground surveys were recorded, but the combination of aerial and ground survey data helped estimate actual failed attempts.

Since 2009, no aerial surveys have been conducted to determine the overall size and health of the osprey population in New Jersey. Instead, all osprey nests have been mapped online, on [www.Osprey-Watch.org](http://www.Osprey-Watch.org), a global osprey watching community, allowing biologists to engage with citizen scientists to record nesting activity. This was the first time that nests for a threatened species were publicly mapped online, encouraging the public to seek them out. We believed it could be successful, as ospreys are a highly visible species with nests located near residential development along the coast.

Today, ground-based nest surveys are conducted by staff and specially trained volunteers primarily in late June and early July, when ospreys have nestlings that are typically around 3–4 weeks old. During this time they are usually highly visible, yet unable to fly. This is also the perfect age when they can be



*An osprey delivers nesting material April 2025.*

banded for future tracking. Like the historic surveys, all major colonies from Point Pleasant south to Cape May and west along the Delaware Bayshore are surveyed (see table 1 for a list of all colonies). Other regions are surveyed by partners, consultants and many volunteer “Osprey Watchers” who report nest observations online on Osprey-Watch.org.

Most osprey colonies are surveyed by boat, since most nests on wood platforms are located within saltmarsh habitat. Nest occupancy is noted by the presence or absence of adults. To determine the outcome, nests are either climbed via ladder, viewed with a mirror/GoPro on an extendable pole, camera with telephoto lens, or with a sUAS/drone (under permit). In more recent years the use of a GoPro is the primary means by project staff, as it reduces time spent at nests, which reduces disturbance to adults. However, nests with visible plastic marine debris are climbed to remove that risk of suffocation or entanglement. Nests are also climbed when the young are old enough to band with aluminum USGS bird bands (and red auxiliary bands on Barnegat Bay). Lastly, at nests where we band young, typically fresh frozen menhaden are left to offset disturbance to adults and young.

When first entering a colony and nest, it is viewed from a distance with optics. This is done to first determine occupancy. If adults are present then the nest is considered occupied. Their behavior is noted during this time. If an adult is sitting low in the nest with a flat back, then they are likely incubating eggs. If they are standing beside the nest bowl (shading young) or without a flat back, then they likely have young. When approaching a nest, if adults fly off their nest and actively defend it, then that is usually a sign that young are present. The presence of young is confirmed by the visual methods stated above. Documenting nest failures is based on behavior of the adults and inspecting nests for signs of current-season use.

As in recent years, we were able to determine more accurate nest outcomes by conducting several early (incubation) and follow up (pre-fledgling age) surveys. Thank you to Marlee Canale, the CWF Summer Field Technician who assisted with New Jersey Osprey Project last summer.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The majority of New Jersey’s ospreys nest along the Atlantic coast and range from the Meadowlands to Cape May Harbor. Most others nest along the Delaware Bay, its tributaries and further inland, along the upper Delaware River. The majority (~75%) nest on artificial nest platforms that are built specifically for ospreys and are located on coastal saltmarsh habitat; however, other structures are commonly used by ospreys, including channel markers, communication towers and utility poles. A total of 47 new nests were found in 2025.



*Locations of new nests found in 2025.*

The northern/inland colonies (NW New Jersey and Meadowlands Region) had the highest productivity, with 43 pairs producing 63 young with an average productivity rate of 1.46 young/active nest. As we move south and along the coast, productivity declines. For the Raritan Bayshore and Monmouth County colonies, 104 pairs produced 93 young with a productivity rate of 0.90 young/active nest. 36 pairs failed to produce young. During one survey of the Navesink River in July, we found 16 new nest

structures that were located near private residences along the waterfront, many of which were on boat lifts that had nest boxes attached and pilings that supported nests. This was the first time we have surveyed this waterbody and are planning to conduct a survey of both the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers in 2026, where we expect to find additional nests.

On Barnegat Bay, a total of 121 pairs produced a total of 36 young for a productivity rate of 0.30. 92 nests failed in this colony. This region had the lowest productivity rate throughout all coastal colonies. This is likely an indication of how dependent coastal nesting ospreys are on abundant menhaden (continued below). Other coastal colonies in Burlington, Atlantic and Cape May counties had similar results. From Great Bay to Great Egg Harbor, 100 pairs produced 79 young. Here 54 nests failed to produce young. In Sea Isle, 13 pairs produced a total of 23 young. The productivity rate was 1.77 young/active nest and only 2 nests were recorded as failed; however, no surveys were conducted prior to June 25, so nest failures were underrepresented. The normal number of active nests is about 30.



*Remains of three dead hatchlings in an established nest. High Bar Harbor. June 13, 2025.*

In Cape May County, including Avalon, Stone Harbor and Wildwood, 69 pairs produced only 30 young for an average of 0.50 young/active nest. In this region, 50 nests failed to produce young. Results from Avalon and Stone Harbor were the second lowest recorded in the state, behind Sedge Island, a section of Barnegat Bay, with a 0.19 productivity rate. Similar to Sedge Island, this colony has very dense nesting of ospreys in a small area with around 40 +/- pairs in less than 2 square miles.

Finally, along the Delaware Bayshore, a total of 73 pairs produced 28 young for a productivity rate of 0.49 young/active nest. A total of 38 nests failed to produce young. It should be noted that this is the first year that this colony had a productivity rate that was below the level needed to sustain the

population. There is a need to investigate the diet of ospreys nesting in this region to determine key prey species during peak nestling period from late May through July.

Overall, ospreys experienced their least productive year in recent history. A total of 689 nests were surveyed, which is slightly below the average 724 nests documented in the last five years. We were able to determine the outcome in 74% of these nests (n=507) to give us an estimate of the overall health of the population. These pairs produced a total of 352 young, which is a 56% decline from the recent 5-year average of 805 young produced annually.

As noted above, all but one colony (Sea Isle) had reduced productivity, as compared to the recent 5-year average. A total of 288 or 57% of active nests (w/ eggs or young) failed to produce young, which is well above the average over the past 10 years, where about 19.6% (~20%) fail each year. It should be noted that in 2022 and 2023, the nest failure rates were substantially higher compared to the long-term trend.



*Surveying a nest with a GoPro.*

In 2025, the statewide productivity rate was 0.69 young/active nest. This is below the 0.80 level needed to sustain the population and well below the 10-year average of 1.63 young/active nest documented in New Jersey.

Over the past several years we have witnessed the impacts of coastal storms on osprey reproduction, which has been noted in previous reports (2022-2023). Ospreys are affected by these storms in May and June, as the high onshore winds, precipitation, and flooding make it more difficult for them to locate and catch prey, especially in the Atlantic Ocean where coastal nesting birds are known to forage on dense schools of Atlantic menhaden. Prey scarcity and brood reduction become more common during and after these storm events. This year was no exception, as a nor'easter impacted the coast on May 21-23.

Given the impacts to ospreys and known issues with prey availability, this year we sought to collect more accurate nest outcome data in colonies which Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ surveys. These are nests located on Barnegat Bay, in Stafford

Township and near Long Beach Island. On May 20, we found 24 active nests where a pair was present and of those, 15 contained eggs. On follow-up surveys on June 30 and July 8, only four young were present at three nests. In the entire Barnegat Bay colony, 84 nests were found to have produced only 31 young, which is a quarter of the average number of young produced annually over the past five years.

The colony with the worst production in the state was Sedge Islands WMA, which is typically a very productive colony. We surveyed 37 active nests that produced just 5 young. Surveying the Sedge Islands colony more closely in 2025 was particularly important, as a pair of nesting bald eagles took over an osprey nest and produced one fledgling. Eagles are also known to parasitize ospreys for their prey (called kleptoparasitism), potentially adding another layer of disturbance to nesting ospreys in this colony. We conducted surveys of nests in Sedge Islands WMA on multiple occasions and did not witness any bald eagles harassing ospreys. During our survey of all nests at Sedge on July 2, we

found that most nests were abandoned and there were few adults present in the normal colony of 40 pairs. The majority failed to hatch eggs and the few that did experienced early nest failure or brood reduction. The presence of eagles within the Sedge colony in 2025 may have affected the outcomes of some nests but it is highly unlikely that they caused such high nest failure rates observed here and in most other coastal colonies. Given the fact that eagles have now occupied a nest in a dense osprey colony and successfully raised young, it gives us an opportunity to learn more about how these two top-tier predators interact with each other.



*Three abandoned osprey nests at Sedge Islands WMA. July 2, 2025.*

Overall, signs of reduced prey availability were apparent throughout most Atlantic coastal colonies that were surveyed from the Navesink River to Cape May. Brood reduction and nest abandonment were widespread and witnessed throughout July. At many nests that were surveyed on Barnegat Bay, we found many abandoned with eggs. Later in the season, bleached eggs or egg fragments were located in nests or on the ground, which clearly showed nests were once active, but abandoned shortly after the nor'easter impacted the coast. Unfortunately, we're missing data for many nests that may have been active, as only one nest survey was conducted. Moving forward, we will be conducting at least two surveys to better determine outcomes.

Additionally, data collected over the past decade indicates that food stress has increased, as reflected in the size of osprey broods. Since 2016, the average number of nests with three young has declined from over 100 nests to fewer than 100, while the number of nests that produced only one nestling has increased from 116 to 139. Over the same period, the average number of failed nests has almost tripled from 67 to 175.

Brood reduction is an indication of food stress in the population. In New Jersey, it has been witnessed firsthand by many viewers online who watch live-streaming osprey cams. Brood reduction and/or nest failures occurred at almost all cameras throughout the state, including the Pete McLain Osprey Cam at Island Beach State Park (two hatched; one fledged), Barnegat Light Osprey Cam (three eggs lost), Forsythe NWR Osprey Cam (three eggs lost), Wetlands Institute Osprey Cam in Stone Harbor (lost

both young ~ 2.5 wks), and the Cape May Meadows Osprey Cam - TNC (three eggs lost). Cameras on nests continue to play a vital role in detecting early season stressors on the population at large.

We know that Atlantic menhaden play a crucial role in the reproductive success of ospreys in New Jersey and surrounding mid-Atlantic states. They're an oil-rich forage fish that is normally found in large quantities along the coast, especially on the surface of nearshore waters — an easy meal for a predatory bird that primarily eats fish. What we have seen over the past several years (2022, 2023 & 2025), is that during and after a coastal storm, menhaden become scarce. During these storms, male ospreys have a very difficult time locating prey, specifically in the ocean where there is strong NE winds and high wave action.



*Adult male osprey with small Atlantic menhaden off Long Beach Island, June 2, 2025. Photo by Scott McConnell.*

For example, at our osprey cam, located in Barnegat Light, the 19 year old male, who should have plenty of experience with finding and catching prey, was absent for approximately 67 hours following the coastal storm in May after onshore winds subsided. During this period, his mate received no food and ultimately abandoned the nest, which contained three eggs. This abandonment allowed a Herring gull to predate two of the eggs. When the male eventually returned, one egg remained and failed to hatch.

Throughout May and June, reports of large schools of adult menhaden in nearshore waters were largely absent. Although ospreys were occasionally observed carrying menhaden, these fish were noticeably small (see photo on page 7). Local recreational and commercial fishermen and fishing guides also reported to CWF staff that menhaden were much less abundant.

During coastal storm events, menhaden are known to move offshore, as they swim (while feeding) into the current and deeper in the water column. Additionally, storms with heavy rainfall increase water turbidity and introduce stormwater runoff, which degrades water quality and negatively affects filter feeders like menhaden. In turn, this localized depletion in nearshore menhaden abundance appears to contribute to the reduced reproductive outcomes at coastal osprey colonies.



*Symmetrical brood, school of menhaden on Mullica River, whole fish in osprey nest. July 2015.*

When discussing the relationship with ospreys and their prey, it is useful to look back and compare data from previous years, as this provides insight into how ospreys benefit from healthy stocks of Atlantic menhaden. One such year was 2015, when a large school of adult menhaden became “trapped” in the Mullica River. That summer, 13 pairs produced 23 young, resulting in a productivity rate of 1.77 young/nest. In contrast, in 2025, 18 pairs produced just 11 young for a productivity rate of 0.61 young/nest. In 2025, 11 Mullica River nests that contained eggs or young failed to raise any young to banding age. Notably, photos from 2015 show more symmetrical broods (nestlings that are similar in size and development), and in 2025 broods were asymmetrical, with pronounced differences in size and development. Symmetrical broods are an indicator of abundant prey because all chicks, despite hatching 1-2 days apart, obtain sufficient food to grow, while asymmetrical broods are a well-recognized indicator of food stress.

Another dismal indicator in 2025 was the low number of nests in New Jersey with three young, which is well below the ten year average of 22.7% at only 4.3%. More alarming is the number of failed nests, which was 288 or 57% of active nests where the outcome was determined. The colonies with the most failed nests were located on Barnegat Bay and Great Bay. We have no doubt that this is due to a higher survey effort in these bays and suspect that many other nests suffered the same fate. A great number of nests that were surveyed in other areas were recorded as inactive because of the lack of adults present at the time of the survey in late June and early July.

Lastly, the very poor productivity in higher salinity areas of the Chesapeake Bay is a warning sign that ospreys in that region will decline. Since the Chesapeake Bay has long been considered to be an important nursery grounds for menhaden, it is alarming to see ospreys unable to reproduce at a rate needed to sustain the population. If there is not enough menhaden to sustain ospreys in this vital estuary, then it has widespread implications for the many species that depend on them.



*Osprey 93/H was re-sighted three separate times by three different photographers on Long Beach Island, NJ. Photo by Matt Reiting.*

## **OSPREY BANDING AND RE-SIGHTINGS**

CWF and volunteers banded 33 young ospreys for future tracking. Of those, 10 were banded with a “field readable” red band for identification in the field at nests on Barnegat Bay. Seventeen were banded on the Maurice River by Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River, 4 on the Mullica River, 1 in Stone Harbor and 1 in Barnegat Light (without a red band). During follow up surveys, three banded young were found dead beneath their nests, likely lost due to food stress.

A record number of banded birds (n=60) was encountered in 2025. 73% were identified because they had field-readable red bands. The remainder were identified by their federal band. Eleven were found dead with 6 of those found in New Jersey. One had a red band (44/M) and was found dead after being electrocuted in Ortleigh Beach. The others were found during migration or on their wintering grounds (Country/State, band code and year banded):

Ospreys that were re-sighted while live were mostly males (n=33). Those that were found nesting (n=17) were an average of 2.7 miles from their natal nests, while females (n=9) averaged 16.67 miles

from their natal nests. Several individuals were re-sighted multiple times throughout the nesting

- Ecuador - 07/P (2024)
- Brazil - 788-43865 (2002)
- Delaware: 0928-14922 (2015)
- Florida: 1088-11489 (2018)
- Maryland: 0928-00110 (2007)

*Three were found injured:*

- Trinidad: 04/P (2024)
- North Carolina: 1218-01135 (2019)
- Millville, NJ: 1088-14842 (2020)

season, including 11/H, 38/K, 43/H, 44/D, 47/M, 49/M, 54/D, 65/D, 91/M, and 93/H.

A few notable encounters are those of older ospreys, including two breeding adults that will be 20 years old if they return in 2026, and a 22 year old that was found dead in Brazil in 2024, which we believe is the oldest banded osprey ever documented. Lastly, an osprey banded in July was re-sighted in the Bronx, New York. He was observed with prey, which looked like a menhaden, on a dock in November. For the full list of band encounters, see table 2 on page 13.

We really appreciate it when photographers report banded birds that they encounter. Bands should be reported to the USGS via [reportband.gov](https://reportband.gov). Red banded ospreys can also be reported on our website using the [Report a Red Banded Osprey Sighting Form](#). Finders will receive a limited edition Project RedBand decal with artwork created by Philadelphia based artist, [Evan Lovett and his organization Walls of the Wildlife](#).



## ***FUTURE PLANS***

In 2026, our goal is to collect more accurate nest outcomes throughout the state. We are planning to conduct additional surveys of osprey nests to record incubation and the number of eggs (in May) and record young produced and fledged (in June-July). This will allow us to more accurately determine outcomes in the most densely populated colonies on the coast. We are also initiating a statewide nest monitoring effort by volunteers to better document nest activity. We hope to model this work after the very successful work done by [Connecticut Audubon Society with Osprey Nation](#). That project pairs a nest with a volunteer who conducts multiple surveys throughout the season. Our goal is to better document nest success to provide more data on how food stress is impacting coastal ospreys in New Jersey. Lastly, we also plan to investigate the link between male experience (using male age) and brood reduction in coastal colonies with banded individuals. One hypothesis is that older, more experienced nesting males are better at finding sufficient food, and that may relate to lower brood reduction.

The low reproductive success observed in ospreys across New Jersey is a cause for concern, and similar results have been reported in several other coastal states. While multiple factors may be influencing these trends, increasing evidence suggests that reduced availability of key forage fish, like Atlantic menhaden, may be contributing to food stress during the breeding season. As a top-tier predator, ospreys serve as an important ecological indicator, providing valuable insight into whether forage fish populations are sufficient to support the broader coastal food web. When prey availability is

limited for ospreys, it may signal wider challenges for the coastal ecosystem, with potential implications not only for other marine species but also for coastal economies that depend on healthy, functioning marine systems.

**Project Staff:** Ben Wurst, Kathy Clark, Larissa Smith, Marlee Canale

**Volunteer Osprey Banders:** Fred Akers - Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, Zac Bohm - Natural Lands, Jane and Peter Galetto - Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries, Trish Miller - Conservation Science Global, David and Kelly Natkie, Damon Noe - The Nature Conservancy, Melanie Schroer - Stockton University, Bill Stuempfig, Matt Tribulski, Hans and Hanna Toft, John King and Wayne Russell.

**Special thanks to:** Bill Clarke and the Osprey Foundation for his continued support of our efforts to monitor and manage New Jersey's ospreys.



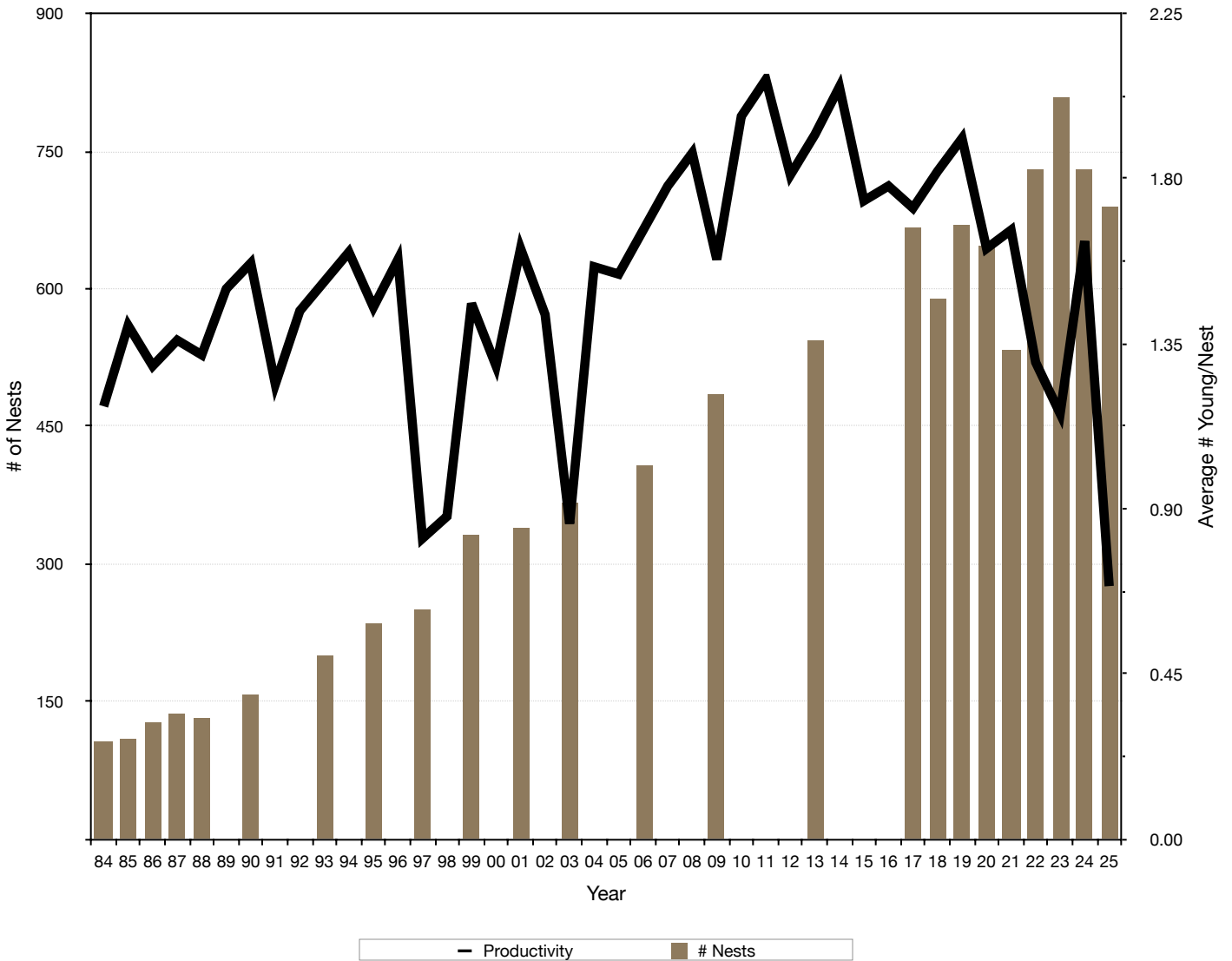
*An adult male osprey perched on a snag on Barnegat Bay, surrounded by fishermen and recreational boaters. July 2025.*

**Thanks to:** Zoological Society of New Jersey; Dr. Andrew Wurst - Barnegat Animal Clinic; Jim Verhagen – NestStory; Don and Karen Bonica - Toms River Avian Care; Dr. Erica Miller; Dr. Bryan Watts - Center for Conservation Biology / Osprey-Watch.org; Hugh Carola - Hackensack Riverkeeper; Borough of Seaside Heights - Public Works; Woodhaven Lumber & Millwork - Manahawkin; Joe Fallon - FMERA; Tim McGuire - McCormick Taylor; Scott T. Northey - The Chemours Company; Cattus Island Park - Ocean County Parks; Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River and its Tributaries; Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association, Island Beach State Park; USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Services; Friends of IBSP; Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research; The Raptor Trust; The Wetlands Institute; PSE&G; Atlantic City Electric; NJ-NY Baykeeper; Garden Club of LBI and all other donors and volunteers who assist with and support the project.

Table 1. Osprey productivity in 2025 in all major nesting areas. Productivity was determined by ground surveys May-July. Productivity rates in 2021-2024 provided for comparison.

NESTING AREA	# NESTS	WN- OUTCOME N	# YOUNG	# BANDED	PRODUCTION 2025	PREVIOUS YEARS			
						2024	2023	2022	2021
Delaware River Basin & North/ Central Jersey	27	25	37	0	1.48	1.71	1.74	2.08	1.53
Hackensack/ Hudson Rivers	22	18	26	0	1.44	1.86	1.33	1.69	1.70
Raritan River & Bay	55	54	44	0	0.81	1.81	1.06	1.83	
Monmouth County	70	50	49	0	0.98	1.76	1.15	1.93	0.88
Barnegat Bay	131	84	31	8	0.37	1.45	1.28	1.47	1.53
Sedge Islands	40	37	5	3	0.14	1.72	1.55	0.82	1.50
Great Bay to Atlantic City	91	74	56	4	0.76	1.43	0.59	1.25	1.70
Great Egg Harbor/ Ocean City	52	26	23	0	0.88	1.66	1.02	1.35	1.60
Sea Isle City	39	13	23	0	1.77	1.88	1.28	0.77	1.47
Avalon & Stone Harbor	66	42	8	1	0.19	1.52	0.90	0.55	1.60
Wildwood & Cape May	28	27	22	0	0.81	1.94	2.00	1.11	1.84
Delaware Bay & Maurice River	68	57	28	17	0.49	1.46	1.54	1.81	2.10
TOTAL of Study Areas	689	507	352	33	0.69	1.63	1.16	1.30	1.66
Barnegat Bay	171	121	36	11	0.30	1.53	1.34	1.32	1.51
D. River/N. Jersey	49	43	63	0	1.47	1.74	1.62	1.95	1.59
Atlantic Coast	572	407	261	16	0.64	1.64	1.08	1.16	1.60
Delaware Bay	68	57	28	17	0.49	1.46	1.54	1.81	2.10
<b>Total Statewide</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0.69</b>				

Chart 1: Number of osprey nests and average productivity in New Jersey, 1984-2025.



**Thank you to everyone who donates to Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ, contributes to the**

**Endangered and Nongame Species Program through the Check-Off for Wildlife on their NJ State Income Tax, and by purchasing Conserve Wildlife License Plates!**

**Funding also provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, with matching contributions from New Jersey Osprey Project volunteers.**

Table 2. Banded osprey recoveries and re-sightings from New Jersey in 2024.

FEDERAL BAND	AUX BAND	ORIGIN NEST ID	DATE BANDED	DATE OF RE-SIGHTING	YEARS PREVIOUSLY RE-SIGHTED	DISTANCE FROM NATAL NEST (MILES)	PRESENT CONDITION	STATUS / LOCATION	SEX	AGE	ENCOUNTERED BY
1088-06194	00/C	135-A-029	7/7/2014	5/23/2025	2021, 2023	4.3	Live	Nesting adult. Sedge Island, NJ	M	7	Ben Wurst
1218-02956	02/N	135-A-025	6/27/2023	8/11/2025	-	-	Live	Ulster Park, NY	UNK	2	Jim Yates
1218-00878	04/M	122-B-021	6/30/2020	5/20/2025	-	3.18	Live	Nesting adult. Stafford Twp, NJ	F	6	Ben Wurst
1218-05786	04/P	135-A-022	7/9/2024	2/13/2025	-	-	Injured	Found injured. Trinidad	M	<1	David Huggins
1218-05789	07/P	135-A-028	7/13/2024	1/8/2025	-	-	Dead	Found dead. Ecuador	UNK	<1	Ruth Muñiz Lopez, Jesenia Castillo
1088-08850	08/D	135-A-031	7/1/2016	7/8/2025	2020, 2021, 2024	2.69	Live	Nesting adult. Surf City, NJ	M	8	Ben Wurst
1088-14589	11/H	123-A-014	7/9/2017	6/13/2025, 7/11/25	2022	0.64	Live	Nesting adult. Sedge Island, NJ	M	8	Ben Wurst
1218-02965	11/N	122-A-009	6/29/2026	9/25/2025	-	-	Live	In flight. Sandy Hook, NJ	F	2	Ken Ostrom
1218-00892	14/M	135-A-033	7/3/2020	7/8/2025	-	5.44	Live	Nesting adult. Loveladies, NJ	M	5	Ben Wurst
1218-05957	19/P	135-A-022	7/12/2025	11/26/2025	-	-	Live	Feeding on dock. Bronx, NY	M	H Y	Hailey Clancy
1218-02976	22/N	123-A-035	6/29/2023	5/3/2025	-	-	Live	Observed at Osprey Cam. Barnegat Light, NJ	F	2	Ken Ostrom
1088-06434	23/C	111-A-025	7/9/2014	7/3/2025	2019, 2023	-	Live	Nesting adult. Ocean Gate, NJ	M	11	Ben Wurst
1218-02979	25/N	123-A-023	6/30/2023	5/9/2025	-	-	Live	Observed on perch w/ prey. Island Beach State Park, NJ	M	2	Tamara Ugaro

1088-14608	30/H	123-A-031	7/9/2017	7/2/2025	2022, 2024	1.33	Live	Nesting adult. Sedge Island, NJ	M	8	Ben Wurst
1088-08889	34/D	123-A-003	7/12/2016	6/13/2025	2022-24	2.33	Live	Nesting adult. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	8	Ben Wurst
1218-02989	35/N	123-A-027	7/7/2025	9/26/2025	-	-	Live	In flight w/ prey. Cape May, NJ	M	2	Chris Saladin
1218-00816	<b>38/K</b>	135-A-027	6/27/2019	6/13/2025 8/19/2025	-	5.1	Live	Nesting adult. Barnegat Light, NJ	F	6	Ben Wurst
1088-06451	39/C	123-A-013	7/12/2014	7/2/2025	2019, 2022	0.92	Live	Nesting adult. Sedge Island, NJ	M	11	Ben Wurst
1218-02748	41/M	123-A-028	7/15/2020	3/27/2025	2023		Live	Observed in flight. Sandy Hook, NJ	F	5	Ken Ostrom
1218-02749	42/M	123-A-028	7/15/2020	4/9/2025	2020	-	Live	Observed at Osprey Cam. Barnegat Light, NJ		5	Maryann Miller
1088-14621	<b>43/H</b>	123-A-044	7/9/2017	6/13/2025 , 7/2/2025	2022-2023	0.2	Live	Nesting adult. Sedge Island, NJ	F	8	Ben Wurst
1088-08899	<b>44/D</b>	135-A-025	7/18/2016	5/20/2025 , 7/8/2025	2021, 2023-present	1.1	Live	Nesting adult. Stafford Twp, NJ	M	6	Ben Wurst
1088-14622	44/H	123-A-044	7/9/2017	7/6/2025	-	-	Live	In flight. Ocean Grove, NJ	F	8	Eric Funkenstein
1218-02801	44/M	123-A-014	7/16/2020	9/7/2025	-	-	Dead	Found dead. Electrocutio n. Ortley Beach, NJ	UNK	5	Gerald Schaal
1218-03000	46/N	123-A-005	7/7/2023	6/13/2025	-	-	Live	In flight. Barnegat Light, NJ	F	2	Ben Wurst
1218-02807	<b>47/M</b>	123-A-048	7/25/2020	5/19/2025	2024	-	Live	In flight. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	5	Jim Verhagen
1218-02807	<b>47/M</b>	123-A-048	7/25/2020	8/19/2025	2024	-	Live	Perched. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	5	Ben Wurst
1218-00825	48/K	135-A-025	7/1/2019	6/7/2025	2024	1.89	Live	Nesting adult. Stafford Twp, NJ	M	5	Ben Wurst

1218-02810	49/M	122-B-014	8/1/2020	4/9/2025	2023-present	-	Live	Observed at Osprey Cam. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	5	Maryann Miller
1218-02810	49/M	122-B-014	8/1/2020	5/2/2025	2023-present	1.68	Live	Nesting adult. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	5	Ben Wurst
1218-02810	49/M	122-B-014	8/1/2020	6/2/2025	2023-present	-	Live	In flight w/ prey. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	5	Scott McConnell
1218-02810	49/M	122-B-014	8/1/2020	8/12/2025	2023-present	-	Live	Barnegat Light, NJ	M	5	Ken Ostrom
1218-00829	52/K	111-A-032	7/2/2019	3/30/2025	2022		Live	Perched in tree. Howell Twp, NJ	F	6	Joe Demko
1088-11608	54/D	123-A-041	7/19/2016	5/23/2025	2020, 2023	0.72	Live	Nesting adult. Sedge Island, NJ	M	9	Ben Wurst
1088-11608	54/D	122-B-014	8/1/2020	6/2/2025	2020, 2023	-	Live	In flight w/ prey. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	5	Scott McConnell
1218-05724	55/N	123-A-031	7/7/2023	5/2/2025	-	-	Live	Observed at Osprey Cam. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	2	Ben Wurst
1218-02847	57/M	122-B-021	7/9/2021	7/23/2025	2023	-	Live	Perched in tree. Sandy Hook, NJ	F	4	Lindsay McNamara
1088-11616	62/D	147-B-037	6/26/2017	3/25/2025	2022	40	Live	Nesting adult. Spring Lake, NJ	F	8	Sheila Marie
1088-06487	63/C	135-A-025	6/25/2015	4/4/2025	2020-present	15.3	Live	Nesting adult. Bass River, NJ	F	6	Ben Wurst
1088-11619	65/D	147-B-036	6/26/2017	5/20/2025, 7/8/2025	2020, 2023-Present	11.22	Live	Nesting adult. Loveladies, NJ	F	8	Ben Wurst
1218-00845	66/K	135-A-020	7/8/2019	7/8/2025	2021, 2024	8.18	Live	Nesting adult. Little Egg Harbor, NJ	M	6	Ben Wurst
1218-02631	71/K	135-A-028	7/8/2019	5/23/2025	-	4.28	Live	Nesting adult. Sedge Island, NJ	F	6	Ben Wurst

1088-11630	74/D	135-A-015	6/27/2017	4/15/2025	2020-2023	-	Live	In flight w/ prey. Harvey Cedars, NJ	M	8	Scott McConnell
1088-14671	77/H	123-A-031	6/27/2018	6/13/2025	2024	1.58	Live	Nesting adult. Sedge Island, NJ	M	7	Ben Wurst
1218-02933	91/M	122-B-014	7/13/2021	4/30/2025, 5/5/2025	2023	-	Live	Observed at Osprey Cam. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	4	Maryann Miller
1218-02933	91/M	122-B-014	7/13/2021	6/2/2025	2023	-	Live	In flight w/ prey. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	4	Scott McConnell
1088-14863	93/H	122-B-021	7/9/2018	5/19/2025	2018, 2022	-	Live	In flight. Barnegat Light, NJ	UNK	7	Jim Verhagen
1088-14863	93/H	122-B-021	7/9/2018	5/30/2025	2018, 2022	-	Live	In flight w/ prey. Loveladies, NJ	M	7	Scott McConnell
1088-14863	93/H	122-B-021	7/9/2018	6/8/2025	2018, 2022	-	Live	Resting on beach. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	2	Matt Reitingier
1218-00855	94/K	123-A-028	7/12/2019	7/3/2025	-	-	Live	Perched on daymarker. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	6	Ben Wurst
1218-00859	98/K	123-A-032	7/12/2019	4/22/2025	2022	-	Live	In flight. Barnegat Light, NJ	UNK	6	Andy Lewis
788-43865		166-B-014	6/28/2002	11/1/2024	-	-	Dead	Found dead. Brazil	UNK	22	Enrique Salazar
0788-49086		074-A-008	6/21/2009	3/17/2025	2021	7.62	Live	Nesting adult. Oceanport, NJ	M	16	Ken Ostrom
0928-14922		151-A-002	7/13/2015	3/19/2025	-	-	Dead	Found dead. New Castle, DE	UNK	10	Matthew Danz
788-48915		164-A-009	6/25/2006	3/29/2025	2023-present	23.6	Live	Nesting adult. Port Mahon, DE	F	19	Kim Sheaffer
788-49033		123-A-013	7/12/2006	3/31/2025	2018-present	2.6	Live	Nesting adult. Barnegat Light, NJ	M	19	Maryann Miller
1218-01135		175-A-003	7/15/2019	4/2/2025	-	-	Injured	Found injured. Waxhaw, NC	UNK	6	Keenan Freitas

1088-14842	161-A-010	7/7/2020	4/6/2025	-	-	Injured	Fractured wing. Millville, NJ	UNK	4	Vicky Schmidt
1088-11489	175-B-004	7/12/2018	4/13/2025	-	-	Dead	Found dead. Miami, FL	UNK	7	David Quintana
1088-11443	166-B-041	6/27/2018	4/23/2025	-	-	Dead	Somers Point, NJ	UNK	7	Bill Reinert
0928-00110	175-A-005	7/5/2007	6/13/2025	-	-	Dead	Found dead. Bel Air, MD	UNK	8	Kennet Gemmill
1088-06101	175-A-007	7/2/2014	7/10/2025	-	-	Dead	Found dead. Extremely emaciated. Medford, NJ	UNK	11	Heather Evans
1088-06361	166-B-025	6/27/2014	7/11/2025	-	47.12	Live	Nesting adult. Sedge Island, NJ	F	11	Ben Wurst
0928-14792	074-A-036	6/27/2019	7/21/2025	-	2.8	Live	Nesting adult. Sandy Hook, NJ	M	6	Ken Ostrom
1218-00795	175-A-041	7/8/2018	8/5/2025	-	-	Live	Landed on Osprey Cam nest. Barnegat Light, NJ	F	9	Maryann
1218-05798	146-B-002	6/26/2025	8/11/2025	-	-	Dead	Bass River, NJ	UNK	H Y	Melanie Schroer
1218-05799	146-B-002	6/26/2025	8/11/2025	-	-	Dead	Bass River, NJ	UNK	H Y	Melanie Schroer